

CNRS 535 (3) Practicum in Classical or Near Eastern Archaeology: Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CNRS 535 offers practical training in excavation techniques and interpretation, including basic survey techniques; drawing sections; possible training with GPS equipment, total stations, and levels; processing and study of pottery and other finds; keeping up a daily notebook; writing up a report of an area on the excavation where the student has worked; writing a post-excavation interpretative essay of not less than 5,000 words based on the results of the field experience.

Students will spend at least three weeks in the field on a formal excavation approved by the Department in Europe, the Mediterranean, Egypt or the Near East.

Ideally the student will have had some previous field experience either as a volunteer or as an undergraduate student in a field school. The student will keep a notebook which the senior member will regularly inspect. The student may have the opportunity of working with a pottery specialist in processing pottery. The student may also be able to work with other specialists if they form part of the team, e.g. in human and/or animal remains, archaeobotany or conservation. If geophysical prospection is part of the project, the student should have an opportunity for experience in that important area. The final essay could be on any appropriate aspect of the project; the purpose is to demonstrate that the student has the ability to study a specific body of material in a professional manner (e.g. a group of pottery finds; an excavated structure; results from geophysical survey) and to integrate it into a final report.

SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will learn:

- basic excavations skills, for example, the use of a brush, trowel, hand-pick, spade, and wheelbarrow
- to detect and articulate architectural features, artifacts and changes in soil layers within a pre-defined trench
- essential and advanced aspects of archaeological surveying and recording, including trench plan drawings, section drawings
- to collect, classify and record artifacts (i.e. pottery, metal, lithics)
- to collect, classify and record ecofacts (i.e. human and animal bones, botanical remains, soil samples)

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The final grade will be computed as follows: 80% for the submitted coursework and 20% for commitment to and participation in the excavation. A brief report about the student's level of commitment, submitted by the director of the excavation, is also required.

PREREQUISITE: graduate student status

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READINGS: to be determined by individual site directors

CREDIT FOR CNRS 535 GRANTED FOR EXCAVATIONS NOT DIRECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL, NEAR EASTERN AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Students who wish to participate in an excavation directed by a university other than UBC, and to receive direct transfer credit under the title of this course, must obtain the permission of CNERS *before* they depart for their site. The number of credits granted for this course will never be more or less than 3. The director of the site will be asked to assign the student's grade for participation on the project, based on his or her estimate of the student's meeting the learning outcomes listed above, and an adjudicator from CNERS will assign the grade for the report. CNERS will enter the final grade into the student's academic record.