PRACTICUM IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH:  
MATERIAL CULTURE IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

HIST 497/697  
ANTH 499/699  
Dates: 5/28/2012 - 6/22/2012

Prof. Edward Schoolman  
eschoolman@unr.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

TOPICS AND SCOPE: This course is designed as an intensive archaeological fieldschool in Greece with an emphasis on historical archaeology and material culture of the Roman, late antique, and Byzantine periods. Students will be expected to engage in the excavation of the site in the morning, work with and process the materials in the afternoon, and attend workshops in the evening; there will also be two mandatory fieldtrips during the weekends to nearby sites.

The goals of this course are:

1. To gain familiarization with late Roman material culture through excavation, the examination of finds, and the reading of archaeological texts
2. To gain experience with the practical and theoretical issues of excavation
3. To gain exposure to a wide variety of archaeological specialties (drawing, drafting, analysis of ceramics, analysis of stratigraphy, GIS)

FORMAT OF THE COURSE: For four weeks, the course participants will stay in the village of Koroni on the Peloponnesus of Greece, about 20 miles from Kalamata. The course will meet Monday – Friday, with excavation from 8:00 – 1:00, processing of finds from 4:00-6:00, and workshops from 6:00-7:30; breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided while on-site.

COURSE MATERIALS: The books listed below are recommended and will be available in the field library. Reference materials, such as an artifact identification guide, will be in the Eleutherna Field School Manual and will be given to you on the first day. The cost of the field school includes the manual and all field supplies.

Kevin Greene, Archaeology. An Introduction (2010)  
Kevin Greene, The Archaeology of the Roman Economy (1986)  
Eleutherna (vols 1-3)

COURSE WORK

There are no papers or tests in this course, but cumulative fieldwork reports which must be submitted and certain expectations that must be fulfilled to receive a strong course grade.

First, of course, you must attend: you can only learn to dig by actually spending time in the field digging, and this is not happening if you are not on site.
Second, everyone will be expected to follow the assigned readings from the field guide and contribute actively to weekly discussions of those readings during workshops.

The final grade in the field school will be based upon a daily field log, competence in performing tasks in both excavation and processing of finds, participation in the workshops, and daily on-site performance evaluation by the field supervisors. On-the-job performance evaluation involves the assessment of work skills and professionalism (including ethical conduct, collegiality, motivation, responsibility, and commitment).

For those enrolled in the course for graduate credit, an analytical paper on some segment of the material culture of Koroni must be completed before the end of the course.

OTHER INFORMATION, RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. ON-SITE BEHAVIOR: Please respect the locals, your peers, and your supervisors. As we are representatives of both the excavation and the university, we must act and dress accordingly (no bare midriffs, but tank tops are permitted).

2. ACCOMMODATIONS: Students will be housed in relatively spartan accommodations in the modern village, where we will also process and store the finds and meet for workshops. There are rooms with bunk beds, and basic shared bathrooms (toilet, sink, and shower).

3. ATTENDANCE: Daily attendance in the field is required.

4. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: Many of you are new to professional archaeology and may be tempted to collect artifacts that are visible on the ground or are found by the project for personal purposes. Collecting of this type is a violation of professional ethics and Greek law. Violation of this rule is cause for dismissal from the class, and may result in your detainment by Greek authorities.
Workshop and Fieldtrip Schedule

Week 1
May 28: Archaeology of the Peloponnesus
May 29: How-to – Ceramics
May 30: Ecclesiastic Archaeology
May 31: How-to – Drawing Small Finds
June 1: Archaeology of Byzantine Churches

Fieldtrip 1
June 2-3: The Ancient Monuments of Messinia

Week 2
June 4: Christian Basilicas
June 5: How-to – Metal Conservation
June 6: Small finds and Ethnicity
June 7: How-to – Stratigraphy
June 8: The Venitians in Greece

Fieldtrip 2
June 9-10: The Byzantine and Venitian Monuments

Week 3
June 11: Landscape and Archaeology
June 12: How-to – Archaeological Photography
June 13: Ancient Messinia
June 14: Excavating burials and tombs
June 15: Site specific ceramics

Week 4
June 18: Carbon-dating and dendro-chronology
June 19: How-to – GIS
June 20: Greece after Byzantium
June 21: Studies in Koroni (Graduate Presentations)
June 22: Wrap-up