INTRODUCTION

The prehistoric village of Yangguanzahi (YGZ) dates to the Middle to Late Yangshao period (3200-3,000 BCE). It is one of the largest settlements of its kind. The site is located in the Jing River Valley, approximately 25 kilometers north of the ancient city of Xi’an in northwest China. Since 2004, in preparation for a major construction project, the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology began to conduct large-scale excavations and exploratory surveys – by means of test trenches and auguring with the Luoyang spade – in various parts of the site. More than 18,000 square meters have been excavated to date. These activities revealed a moat, a row of cave dwellings, subterranean houses, child urn-burials in the residential areas, and extensive pottery kilns. The quantity and quality of finds were impressive enough for the Chinese authorities to halt commercial development and declare the area a protected archaeological site. In 2010, as part of the ongoing excavation, a joint UCLA/Shaanxi Provincial Archaeological Academy/Xibei University project began to operate at the site. This project is shifting the
focus from the large-scale exposure of architecture to a more careful and systematic analysis of local stratigraphy and a stronger emphasis on anthropological interpretations. The most recent (2016) discovery is a settlement zone and activity platform, possibly for fetching water, next to the reservoir.

In its initial five seasons (2010-2014), the YGZ project excavated the northeastern portion near the moat, exposing multiple layers of domestic architecture. Like the other excavated sections of the YGZ site, no clear pattern of planning or coherent arrangement of habitation spaces is evident, as compare to other, known Neolithic villages in the region. Many features were found either adjacent or at very short distance from the moat. In 2016, the field project excavated several house foundations and hearths, as well as a potential pottery kilns and a child urn burial, adjacent to a large artificial reservoir in the south central part of the site.

Although full understanding of YGZ still eludes us, a clearer picture has begun to emerge. Based on research into the formation processes of the moat and one of the refuse pits excavated by the IFR field school, preliminary site formation models have been formulated. Results from the analysis of micromorphological samples suggests that the function of the moat has changed from “potentially defensive or symbolic in nature” (M. Fox 2016) to a garbage dumping place. Both environmental (mostly by water) and anthropogenic actions were responsible for such change, however, reasons behind the changes in human behavior throughout the occupation history of the site are still unclear.

The testing results and newly available $^{14}$C dates indicate the existence of a long-lasting farming community at YGZ. The community subsisted on millet cultivation, husbandry of pigs, wild animal hunting, fishing, and wild plant gathering. YGZ people also invested heavily in ceramic manufactures, demonstrated not only by the enormous amount of pottery sherds discovered at the site, but the remaining kilns found in all seven excavated sectors at YGZ. Unlike earlier Neolithic villages where ceramic manufacturing was separated from the village in adjacent locations, the ceramic kilns found in YGZ are next to or built within residential areas. Imported ceramics such as white paste rings, either plain or painted with red colored patterns, attests to the fact that long distance contacts with other regions was commonplace.

In the coming 2017 season, the project will continue working in the south central portion of the site near the reservoir. We may also have the chance to undertake a brief systematic survey of a previously unexplored part of the site or possibly of the nearby site Huiduipo, and will also focus on post-excavation techniques such as flotation and potentially osteological analysis. Our goals for the 2017 season are to: 1) clarify the nature of the activity surface next to the reservoir, which will also clarify the nature and function of the reservoir; 2) gather systematic survey data on an area of the site that is not obscured by modern construction to identify future areas for excavation.

The YGZ project provides not only training in field excavation, but also a full exposure to Chinese archaeology through lectures and visits to museums and archaeological sites of various periods. In addition, it provides opportunities for students to interact on a daily basis with Chinese students and to work closely with highly experienced Chinese archaeologists.

### ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

**Credit Units**: Attending students will be awarded 12 quarter credit units (equivalent to 8 semester units) through our academic partner, UCLA Extension. UCLA is a top ranked research university and its archaeology program is ranked amongst the best in the country. All IFR field schools instructors and curricula are approved both by the corresponding academic department and the Academic Senate at UCLA. This field school provides a minimum of 192 direct instructional hours.

**Transcripts**: Transcripts are available through UCLA UnEX and instructions for ordering transcripts
may be found at http://bit.ly/2bD0Z3E. Grades will be posted and transcript available usually within six weeks after the end of this field school. All IFR field schools are designated XL classes – courses that are equivalent to undergraduate courses offered by the UCLA regular session. All XL courses are transferable for unit and subject credit toward the Bachelor’s Degree at all campuses of the UC and CSU systems. Classes numbered 100 to 199 are considered upper division (junior/senior). For more information, go to http://bit.ly/2bjAqmy.

**UCLA students:** Students can take classes through UCLA Extension to complete requirements. However certain considerations must be taken into account. For more information, go to http://bit.ly/2bjWeHK.

**Credit Units Transfer:** Most universities accept UCLA credit units – there are very few exceptions. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss the transferability of the credit units with school officials BEFORE attending the field school.

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**ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION**

Students will learn the basic artifact types found at the YGZ site. These include pottery sherds, lithics, and ceramic tools. Students will also learn to excavate and identify human and animal bones. Student will learn how archaeologists use artifacts to reconstruct the layout of an ancient site, in order to learn about activities and ways of life in antiquity.

**SOILS AND STRATIGRAPHY**

An archaeological site cannot be interpreted without an understanding of how the layers of soil at the site became deposited over time, both by natural and human processes. Students will learn how archaeologists identify different soil types and then use this information to help reconstruct a chronology of the archaeological strata, as well as to clarify the relationships between different parts of the site and excavated artifacts.

**ASSEMBLAGE ANALYSIS**

Once the excavation of a site has begun, archaeologists must have a clear understanding of the spatial relationships of various parts of the site. Vertical and horizontal stratigraphy provide critical contexts for understanding the function and use of artifacts, as well as determining the occupation history of the site including how its major and minor features relate to each other. Students will gain an understanding of this interpretive process as the excavation proceeds. They will thereby learn how spatial analysis creates a framework for excavation planning and post-extraction analyses.

**SURVEY TECHNIQUES**

Students will be introduced to a survey technique that is unique to Chinese archaeology: the Luoyang spade. Students will work together with YGZ field technicians and learn how to identify soil samples from natural and cultural deposits.

**FLOTATION**

Archaeological flotation involves using water to process soil or archaeological matrix to recover tiny artifacts. At the YGZ site, students will use simple techniques in flotation to extract plant seeds for later analysis.

This field school is a collaboration between the Institute for Field Research, UCLA, the Shaanxi Archaeological Academy and Xibei University in Xi’an, China. The course will begin on June 18 and will meet daily until July 15. Students will be able to depart for onward travel or return home on July 15.
Students will spend the first week in Xi’an for four days of lectures and instructional museum tours. The classroom lectures will focus on questions of archaeological method and theory on the one hand and the particularities of Chinese archaeology on the other hand. The students will be introduced to some of the most important archaeological finds in the Wei River Valley, as well as to various anthropological themes related to the Yangshao culture and the Yangguanzhai site. Important topics covered in the class include the history of Chinese archaeology, the origins of agriculture and animal domestication, sedentary villages, ritual, and craft specialization.

Following this initial week of preliminary instruction, three weeks will be spent in the field performing survey, excavation, and lab work at the Yangguanzhai Station near the Yangguanzhai site.

**DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Archaeological work involves physical work in the outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home or college town. This program operates during the summer. During the day, temperatures in the shade may reach 90°F and humidity is high. Our excavation units will be covered by tarps but we are still working in the outdoors. Good shoes and work clothes are mandatory. Appropriate attire includes loose clothing that protects skin, close-toed shoes, and no dangling jewelry. Sunglasses with UV protection are recommended. Mosquito repellent and sun block lotion are also needed.

If you have medical concerns, please discuss them with your doctor. All other concerns may be discussed with project directors – as appropriate.

**GRADING MATRIX**

Grading will be based on two different components: Fieldwork and PowerPoint presentations. The following is the grade breakdown:

**Fieldwork (60%)**: Students are required to participate in excavation activities at the site every working day and to keep field records, which will be checked regularly

**One presentation, in oral and written format (2 x 20%)**: Students are required to prepare a PowerPoint presentation that uses materials from lectures, readings and fieldwork. Students will work in team on their presentation (each 2-to-3-person team comprises students from China and the United States). The presentation will be given orally and also will be submitted in a written format. Grades will be assigned for each team member based on the grade assigned to the team and individual performance.

**PREREQUISITES**

There are no prerequisites for participation. This course will focus on hands-on, experiential learning. Students will study on site how to conduct archaeological research. Excavation involves physical work and exposure to the elements as well as a certain amount of improvisation, and it requires a willingness to adapt to new situations and an ability to react to unforeseen developments in a creative and flexible manner. An archaeological field school like ours is therefore rather different from the typical university learning experience. Furthermore, excavations are a team effort requiring cooperation and willingness to discuss and compromise.

You will encounter unfamiliar situations and people who think very differently from yourself, which can be a challenge but also a great adventure. You will get sweaty and tired and have to work outdoors, so please be sure that you are physically able to do so.
Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires real, often hard work – in the sun, on your feet and with your trowel.

ACCOMMODATIONS

During the first week of the field school, students will live in a student dormitory at Xibei University in the city of Xi’an. While in the field, students will reside at the Wufulinmen Hotel near the site.

Food is provided Monday to Saturday (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). Students are responsible for their own meals on Sundays. All meals will be communal events and will provide plenty of nutritious but basic food in the tradition of local cuisine. The daily diet in north China is heavily based on rice, noodles, and vegetables. Specialized diets (vegan, kosher, etc.) are difficult to maintain in this location. Vegetarians may find options fairly limited, and should be prepared to be flexible when eating the local food, or should bring supplemental food (e.g. protein bars) if they think it will be necessary.

TRAVEL & MEETING POINT

Students will be met at the Xi’an airport or train station, or may travel themselves directly to the Cuiyuan Hotel, located on the campus of Xibei University (city of X’ian) on June 18. Students may travel to Xi’an by train or may fly into the Xi’an-Xianyang international airport (XIY). Please note that train tickets often sell out in summer and should be purchased well in advance through a website such as English.Ctrip.com or through a local travel agent. From Beijing to Xi’an, high speed trains leave every 1 to 2 hours throughout the day. If you are unable to purchase the ticket you desire, you can always take a slower train. There are also many domestic flights to Xi’an from other points of entry into China such as Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Beijing, and some international flights go directly to Xi’an.

The program coordinators will meet the students at the airport on June 18 one time between 11 AM and 2 PM; and at the North Train Station between 2:15 PM and 4 PM. Those who miss the meeting time can take the public transportation or a taxi to the Cuiyuan Hotel (the meeting time is subject to change once we know students’ travel schedules).

The address of the Cuiyuan Hotel is: No. 229 Taibai Beilu, Northwest University, Xi’an (西北大学翠园宾馆，太白北路 229 号)

From the airport, take the shuttle bus to Nanshaomen ( 7 天酒店西安小雁塔南稍门机场大巴店, 25 RMB), then take a taxi to the Cuiyuan Hotel, (翠园宾馆, 14 to 16 RMB), or you can take a taxi at the airport directly to the hotel (106-116 RMB).

From Xi’an North Station (high speed railway station): take Subway Line 2, to Yongningmen (永宁门), take Exit C, walk about 170 meters, to the Nanmen stop of Bus 701; the fourth stop is Xi’nan Chengjiao (西南城角), get off, cross the street (please take the crosswalk!!), and you will arrive at the north gate of Xibei University (Xi’bei Daxue). Pass through the north gate and walk straight south on campus to the Cuiyuan Hotel (about 10 min).

From Xi’an West Station (station for non-high speed trains): walk 400 meters to the West station stop of Bus 900 or Bus 21, the fifth stop is the Xibei Daxue stop. Get off, walk to the west gate of the campus. Pass through the west gate, walk east on campus to the Cuiyuan Hotel (about 10 min).

VISA APPLICATION

Non-Chinese participants are required to secure a tourist visa to China prior to arrival. You can download your visa application here:

http://losangeles.chinaconsulate.org/eng/visa/forms/P020110615059220818410.pdf
All students should apply for a Tourist visa (L visa) for **60 days, unless you plan to stay in China longer.** On Section 2 of the form, please fill in the fields using the following options:

2.1: mark: Tourism
2.2: mark: One entry valid for 3 months, unless you want to come back to China multiple times this year.
2.4: write down the days you plan to stay in China: at least 40 days--our program is 36 days.
2.5:

   1. No. 229 Taibai Beilu, Cuiyuan Hotel, Northwest University, Xi’an, Shaanxi Province, tel: 029-8841-5914
   2. Wufulinmen Hotel, Weiyang Road, Jinwei Industrial Park, Xi’an, Shaanxi Province, tel: 137-7207-0955
2.6 myself
2.8 International Exchange Program, Northwest University, No. 229 Taibai beilu, Xi’an, Shaanxi
2.9 Please mark the following individuals:
   - Li Chang’an, International Exchange Program, Northwest U. No. 229 Taibai beilu, Xi’an, Shaanxi, 133-1918-0992
   - Sun Zhouyong, Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, No. 33 Leyou lu, Xi’an, Shaanxi, 135-7289-6679
   - Ye Wa, Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, No. 33 Leyou lu, Xi’an, Shaanxi, 187-1730-6309

**EQUIPMENT LIST**

- Passport
- Entry visa to China
- Close-toed shoes
- Sunscreen
- Mosquito repellent
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- powdered Gatorade
- Immodium
- Medications or prescriptions that you need
- Preferred feminine hygiene products
- A few pairs of work pants and shirts

Alert your credit card company and ATM bank that you will be abroad so they don't think your cards have been stolen and cancel your access.

If you want to use your phone, alert your carrier that you will be abroad and ask about rates, or plan to obtain a local SIM card.

Electrical adapters to the Chinese electrical system (have a look here to see what you need for China as compared to what you may already own: [http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/electricity-voltage-by-country.html](http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/electricity-voltage-by-country.html))

**SCHEDULE**

All reading materials will be provided as PDF files to students through a shared Dropbox folder.

Week 1 (June 19-23)

**June 18, 2017 (Sunday)**

6:00 PM: Participants meet at Cuiyuan Hotel, Xibei University for dinner and program briefing.

**June 19, 2017 (Monday)**
The first week of classroom lectures focuses on three topics: the history of Chinese archaeology; a brief review of Shaanxi archaeology with emphasis on Wei River Neolithic archaeology and the YGZ site; theory and method of archaeology. Students need to pay attention to the keywords of each lecture.

Breakfast 7:00 AM Student dining hall, Xibei University

Lecture I 8:30AM — 10:00AM
Professor Lothar von Falkenhausen (Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA): Brief History of Chinese Archaeology
Keywords: Jinshixue tradition, modern archaeology in China, methodology, research questions, recent topics in Chinese archaeology
Discussion: 10:00-10:30
Break: 10:30-10:45

Lecture II 10:45 AM-11:45AM
Professor Zhang Hongyan (Department of Archaeology, Xibei University): Introduction to Chinese archaeology
Keywords: Geographical overview, chronology, cultures, features, key sites in Shaanxi (Paleolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Qin to Tang dynasties)
Discussion: 11:45AM-12:00PM
Lunch break (12:00-2:30PM)

Lecture III 2:30 PM-4:30PM
Professor Zhang Hongyan (Department of Archaeology, Xibei University): Neolithic Cultures of the Wei River Valley
Key words: Laoguantai culture (8000-7000 BP), Yangshao culture (7000-5000 BP), Longshan culture (5000-4000 BP)

Required Readings


Supplemental Readings


June 20, 2017 (Tuesday)

Breakfast 7:00 AM Student dining hall, Xibei University
Lecture IV 8:30AM — 9:30AM

Archaeology Method and Theory
Keywords: excavation, stratigraphy, survey, experimental archaeology

Lecture V 10:15AM-11:15AM
Professor Wang Weilin (SPIOA): The Yangguanzhai Project, its important discoveries, and the research results obtained so far
Key words: Miaodigou phase, Banpo IV phase, archaeological features, pottery production
Discussion: 11:15-11:45 AM

Lunch break (12:00-2:30PM)

Tour 2:30-5:00 PM
Professor Zhang Hongyan: Laboratory and Xibei University Museum visiting

Handouts: illustrations of pottery of the early, middle, and late Yangshao culture

Required Readings


**Supplemental Readings**


Lu, Houyuan, Jianping Zhang, Kam-biu Liu, Naiqin Wu, Yumei Li, Kunshu Zhou, Maolin Ye, Tianyu Zhang, Haijiang Zhang, Xiaoyan Yang, LichengShen, Deke Xu, and Quan Li (2009). Earliest domestication of common millet (*Panicummiliaceum*) in East Asia extended to 10,000 years ago. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106(18): 7367-7372.


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**June 21, 2017 (Wednesday)**

**Breakfast** 7:00 AM Student dining hall, Xibei University

**Lecture VI** 8:30AM — 10:00 AM

*Professor Qian Yaopeng (Xibei University): Settlement Archaeology in China*

Keywords: Neolithic settlement in the Yellow River region, Settlement remains analysis, Settlement pattern analysis, Settlement relationships

**Break 10:00AM-10:15AM**

**Lecture VII** 10:15AM-11:45 AM

*Elizabeth Berger (UNC): Human Osteology*

Handout: Introduction to human osteology, selection from physical anthropology handbook

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**Required Readings**


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**Supplemental Readings**

Lunch break (12:00-1:00PM)

Afternoon: visit to the Banpo Museum. Led by Professor Qian Yaopeng (Xibei University), leave Xibei University at 1:00 PM

Leave the museum at 5:00 PM

June 22, 2017 (Thursday)

Breakfast  7:00 AM Student dining hall, Xibei University
Lecture VIII  8:30AM—10:00 AM
Yang Liping (Shaanxi Institute of Archaeology): Systematic overview on field methods as pertaining to Yangguanzhai
Handouts: On site recording check list and excavation forms

10:00AM-10:15 break

Lecture IX  10:15-11:45 AM
Dr. Ye Wa (UCLA): The Yangguanzhai Project 2010-2015
Formation process (cultural deposition and environmental formation process), archaeological record, craft production

Lunch break: 12:00PM-1:00 PM

Required Readings


Supplemental Readings


**June 23, 2017 (Friday)**

**Breakfast** 7:00 AM student dining hall, Xi’bei University
**Leave at 9:00 AM from Xibei University. Bring all your belongings.**

We shall visit the Museum of Terracotta Soldiers and Horses (tomb of the first Chinese emperor, Qin Shihuangdi, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site) in the morning, and will transfer to the Wufulinmen Hotel, a hotel near the Yangguanzhai site. Students will move into their rooms (2 students per room).

**12:30 PM:** Picnic at the Museum of the Terracotta Army.

**3:00 PM:** Leave for YGZ site, check-in at the Wufulinmen Hotel.

**7:00 PM:** Dinner, meet at the lobby of Wufulinmen Hotel.

**June 24, 2017 (Saturday)**

**8:00 AM:** Breakfast at the Wufulinmen Hotel.

**9:00 AM:** Visit the Yangguanzhai site and discuss this year’s excavation plan in the field.

**12:30 PM:** Lunch

**Afternoon:** Visit the Yangguanzhai Field Lab

**2:30 PM:** meet at the Yangguanzhai Field Lab

**Lecture:**

Yang Liping: Yangguanzhai recording system

**Handout:** field journal

**7:00 PM:** Dinner, meet at the lobby of the Wufulinmen Hotel.

**Sunday June 25, 2017 (Sunday)**

Free time, optional outing to supermarket

**PART TWO: Fieldwork (June 26- July 14, 2017)**

Intensive excavations and lab work at the Yangguanzhai site and the Yangguanzhai field research station. Students may return to Xi’an for organized field trips on the weekends, staying Saturday night at the Xibei University dorms at your own expense, and returning to the site on Sunday before 5 pm.

Project directors and scholars who visit the site will give lectures on the following topics (schedule will be announced at the site):

1) Archaeological Science
2) Mortuary Archaeology
Experimental Archaeology

Geoarchaeology

Detailed assignment of each week's tasks will be explained to student at the site.

Notice: The monsoon season starts mid-June in northern China; our lab work (washing pottery sherds, flotation, cataloging) is usually arranged on rainy days.

**Daily schedule (Monday through Saturday):**

6:40 AM: breakfast
7:00 AM: arrive at the site by bicycle and work till 11:30 AM
12:00-3:00 PM: lunch break
3:30 PM: bike to the site and work till 7:00 PM
7:30 PM: Dinner

**July 14, 2017 (Friday) Final Presentation**

Morning: group discussion; preparation of presentations
12:00 PM: Lunch
1:30 PM: Meet at the YGZ Lab
2:00 PM: Students present their research results and further questions at the end of the 2017 season, 20-25 min per group. Professors from collaborating institutions will comment on the presentations.
7:00 PM: Farewell Party at the Xincheng Restaurant.

**July 15, 2017 (Saturday)**

Students depart