MOHEGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL, CONNECTICUT (US)

Course ID: ARCH 300H
June 20 – July 27, 2018

FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTOR:
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Students of the 2017 field school excavating an eighteenth-century Mohegan homestead.

INTRODUCTION

The Mohegan field school studies colonial-era sites on the Mohegan Reservation in an innovative collaborative setting. The Mohegan Archaeology Field School (MAFS) operates as an equal partnership between the Mohegan Tribe and academic archaeologists. This means that the project is designed to respect the sensitivities, interests, and needs of the Mohegan Tribe while conducting rigorous archaeological research. The field school brings together students and staff of diverse backgrounds to learn about colonial history, Mohegan history and heritage, the history of North American archaeology, and—not least important—the often-troubled relationship between archaeologists and indigenous communities. The study of reservation households sheds new light on the rhythms and materiality of everyday life during tumultuous times in Mohegan history while providing valuable perspectives on the long-term outcomes of colonial repression, survivance, interaction, and exchange.

Since 2010, the main focus of MAFS has been colonial-era sites and everyday life on the reservation. From the 2014 through 2017 field seasons, we concentrated on survey and excavation in and around a late-eighteenth century Mohegan homestead (pictured above). In 2014, we completed much of the survey work and began excavations to learn more about the main structure’s architecture, the variety of material culture made and used in and around the structure, and subsistence practices of the time. We
uncovered numerous features (e.g., rows of postholes and several large refuse deposits) and artifacts (e.g., beads, sewing artifacts, items of personal adornment, ceramics, architectural debris, and some stone artifacts). Along with the material culture, students discovered unprecedented volumes of charred botanicals—including an excess of maize and bean. The field school returned to the site in 2015 and 2017 to continue excavations. We discovered more features—including a full cellar that is over a meter deep—and collected additional material culture, botanical remains, and soil samples. Also in 2017, the MAFS received funding from the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research; this new grant supports videography of the field school through the 2020 field season. We plan to use the video footage captured during the field school to help spread the work about our unique project, but also to help us to systematically study our collaborative process (as an ethnographer would).

In 2018, the MAFS will run its 22nd season. The 2018 field school will begin survey and excavation in a completely new (i.e., not previously excavated) area of the reservation; this new area contains what appears to be a house site (visible in remnants of a dry-laid stone foundation sitting above the ground). As outlined below, we will spend the first week and a half of the field school on a pedestrian and shovel test pit survey. For the remainder of the field school, we will begin excavation in and around the new foundation site. The excavations will help us to define the size and nature of this unexplored reservation context.

### ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

**Credit Units:** Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institutions prior to attending this field school.

**Transcripts:** An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One additional transcript may be sent to the student's home institution at no additional cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: [http://bit.ly/2hvurkl](http://bit.ly/2hvurkl).

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this field school are to: a) teach the basics of archaeological method and theory with special emphasis on survey and excavation techniques in historical archaeology; b) explore the diversity of Mohegan culture in the past and the present; c) investigate eighteenth- and nineteenth-century CE everyday life on the Mohegan Reservation; and d) to critically engage with various “postcolonial” models of archaeological research, including collaborative indigenous methodologies. We achieve these objectives through two different but related avenues. First, we endeavor to expose students to the practicalities of archaeological fieldwork, with special emphasis on pedestrian survey, shovel test pit survey, excavation, field recording of various types, and basic laboratory techniques. Second, we connect these practical field experiences with wider debates in archaeology and anthropology concerning indigenous archaeology, collaborative archaeology, postcolonial theory, and more. Since all fieldwork activities take place with Mohegan archaeologists and tribal members, students gain new perspectives on the archaeological process and what it means to the Tribe along with valuable information on Mohegan cultural practices and identities in the past and the present.
The field school takes place on the Mohegan Reservation in Uncasville, Connecticut. Students spend approximately 1.5 weeks on survey techniques around a new site and approximately 3.5 weeks excavating a previously surveyed site. In 2018, we will be starting excavation on what appears to be an eighteenth or nineteenth-century Mohegan homestead (not previously excavated).

Students will participate in the following research and learning activities:

**Pedestrian Survey:** Students will learn how to use a compass, walk transects in the woodlands of New England, work as a part of a larger team, identify possible archaeological features, and systematically record them.

**Shovel Test Pit Survey:** As part of 2-person teams, students will learn sampling strategy while digging and recording shovel test pits that will help identify excavation sites for future years of the field school.

**Excavation:** As part of 2-person teams, students will learn trowel excavation in and around historic house sites on the reservation. Most of these house sites have been surveyed in previous years of the field school.

**Identification and Classification:** Students will learn to identify and classify typical New England artifacts from this period, including ceramics, smoking pipes, glass artifacts, beads, buttons, iron artifacts of various sorts, shell, animal bone, and botanical remains.

**Recording:** Students participate in various forms of recording, ranging from keeping field notebooks to drawing plan and profile maps to helping operate the project total station and data collector.

**Laboratory Work:** Scheduled laboratory tasks include cleaning, further identification using comparative collections and databases, and basic analyses like mean ceramic dating and pipe stem dating.

Field school activities begin on Thursday, June 20, and the program meets every weekday through Friday July 27th. Students may depart the program July 27 at night or in the morning of July 28. Since we take time off for Independence Day (July 3rd and 4th), we have a modified work schedule during the second week. The typical workday runs from 8:30-4:30 (see schedule below).

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**DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Archaeological fieldwork involves physical work in the outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home, dorms, or college town. This program operates at a typical New England woodland environment. During the day, temperatures under the shadow fluctuate between 70-90 degrees Fahrenheit. In direct sunlight, however, temperatures may reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit or more. Humidity is relatively high and mosquitoes and/or deer ticks (known to sometimes carry Lyme disease) may be close to the excavation area. In order to be protected from sunburn and/or insects you will not be allowed to work in shorts or tank tops at the site.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director – as appropriate.

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**PREREQUISITES**

There are no prerequisites for participation in this field school. The field school is designed to offer hands-on, experiential learning, allowing students to learn the basics of archaeological method and theory on site. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements, thus requiring a measure of acceptance that the study field-school experience will not be the typical university learning environment. Since students are required to work outdoors for most of the program, they are likely to become sweaty, dirty, and tired on a daily basis. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient
excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires real, hard work in the sun, on their feet, and with their trowels.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of this field school, students should be able to:

- Identify, discuss, and demonstrate the central components of archaeological fieldwork, particularly survey, excavation, recording, and classification techniques
- Critically discuss Mohegan history and the history of archaeology on Mohegan lands
- Identify and interpret basic classes of archaeological material culture from the colonial period
- Demonstrate the development of written communication skills and independent management of learning
- Discuss and critically evaluate methods of archaeological analysis
- Discuss and critically evaluate other archaeological studies of colonialism
- Discuss and critically evaluate other forms of collaborative archaeology

**GRADING MATRIX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Attendance and Participation: Attend each day of scheduled work and participate enthusiastically in fieldwork, reading discussions, lectures, or other field school activities. Always be respectful of fellow students, project staff, and visitors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Practical Field Tests (3): Perform basic skills taught to you and practiced each day in the field. During past seasons students have been evaluated on their ability to: classify the texture and color of New England soils, set out and string and excavation unit, dig and document a shovel test pit, plan map an excavation unit, profile map an excavation unit, identify basic types of material culture from the region and time period.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Field Quizzes (3): Complete short quizzes (multiple choice and/or short answer format) that cover field methods recently covered in the field school. These will include questions on the basic logic behind various field methods and techniques.</td>
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<td>15%</td>
<td>Field Notebook: Keep a field notebook (provided to you) that you will submit for evaluation at the end of the field season. Of note, I offer feedback on your note-taking skills at the end of week 1. This allows you the opportunity to improve your skills based on the feedback.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Field School Portfolio: This 2,000-word document consists of 5 entries based on our weekly assigned readings and seminar discussions. Please provide a critical discussion of each of the 5 core sets of readings, comparing themes discussed with your experience as a field student and also bringing them into dialogue with other arguments from academic publications (see reading list).</td>
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**TRAVEL & MEETING POINT**

Students are responsible for arranging travel to Connecticut College on Wednesday, June 20th, 2018 (270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, Connecticut 06320). There is ample parking on campus, so you are free to bring a vehicle. The nearest airport is T.F. Green International Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island (PVD), located 45 miles away. From the airport, we recommend taking a taxi to the Amtrak Train Station in Providence, Rhode Island. The train connects directly to New London Station. Connecticut College is a 5-minute taxi ride away.

Students are required to pick up their room assignments, keys, and introductory materials/instructions on Wednesday June 20th 2018 between 2-4pm on the Connecticut College campus. The field school director will provide students with specific instructions on where to meet on campus by May 2018. If
this meeting time does not work, please arrange with the project director an alternative time to check in on June 20th.

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email project director immediately. A local emergency cell phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

No visa requirement for US citizens. Citizens of other countries are asked to check the American Embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirement.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students will live in the comfortable, but modest, student dormitories at Connecticut College. Students will have their own private rooms (with bed, mattress, and dresser) along with access to a communal bathroom. Rooms are NOT air conditioned, so please bring (or plan to purchase) a window fan to keep your room cool. Students will have access to wireless internet while on campus.

All meals are provided through the Connecticut College cafeteria, open 7am to 7pm. Students eat breakfast and dinner in the cafeteria, but are expected to pack a lunch for each day in the field. The cafeteria caters to most dietary restrictions, e.g., vegetarians, food allergy sufferers. Meals are served 7 days a week (even on non-work days) except for July 4th. On that day, all students will be responsible for arranging and purchasing their own meals.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Field attire: We will work in the field almost every day. (On extreme rain-days we will work in the Mohegan archaeological laboratories washing and sorting artifacts.) This means that you should come prepared to work outdoors each day, i.e. wearing clothes that you don’t mind getting dirty. I recommend wearing long pants, hiking boots, long socks, and hats to keep the sun off. You would do best to choose clothing that is also fairly breathable since it can get hot and humid in Connecticut during June and July. I also recommend bringing a sweatshirt and light rain jacket in case of unexpected weather (this is New England after all!). Since we will be working in the woods, poison ivy and Lyme disease (transmitted by deer ticks) are two very real dangers. With the proper clothing and preparation, we will do our best to avoid these problems. We will discuss these issues further once we all arrive, but you can read more about Lyme disease here: http://aldf.com/lyme-disease/. I strongly recommend that you bring an inexpensive pair of sunglasses, poison ivy wash (e.g., Tecnu), sunscreen, bug spray (I recommend Deep Woods Off with DEET), a reusable water bottle, and reusable lunch bags and Tupperware (everyone should bring their lunch and a healthy supply of water). You should also bring a field bag, i.e., something like a backpack to keep your field equipment, notes, and lunch in (this will get dirty).

Field tools

- Pointed archaeology trowel: I recommend a wooden Marshalltown like this: https://marshalltown.com/4-stiff-london-style-pointing-trowel-wood-handle
- Retractable metric measuring tape
- Hand clippers for root clipping
- Metal-edged ruler (metric)
- Clipboard (we recommend a hollow clipboard that holds your field forms, but any clipboard will do)
- If you have bad knees, we recommend purchasing a pad to kneel on or wearable kneepads

Household items
• All bedding including sheets, pillows, blankets (twin size beds will be provided)
• Towels
• Window fan

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (TH June 20 - WE June 27th)

Wednesday (6/20)

2-4 pm  Students pick up keys and move in to Connecticut College dormitories

Thursday (6/21)

9 am  Meet minibus in front of dormitories
9:30 am  Welcome ceremony at Fort Shantok with staff and Mohegan Council of Elders
10:30 am  Tour of Fort Shantok led by Mohegan Tribal Historic Preservation Office
12:00 pm  Lunch outside of Mohegan Archaeological Laboratories
1:00 pm  Field school introductions, safety protocols, expectations
2:00 pm  Laboratory work: classifying New England soils (texture and color)
3:00 pm  Tour 2015 and 2016 field sites, introduction to basic field tools
4:30 pm  Return to dormitories

Friday (6/22)

8:30 am  Meet minibus in front of dormitories
8:45 am  Convene at field site for introduction to survey techniques and survey equipment (lecture format with hands-on teaching/learning)
10:45 am  Begin pedestrian survey
12 pm  Lunch
12:30 pm  First seminar discussion: Research and Teaching Design of the Mohegan Field School
2 pm  Fieldwork (pedestrian survey)
4:30 pm  Return to dormitories

Monday (6/25)

8:30 am  Meet minibus in front of dormitories
8:45 am  Fieldwork (pedestrian survey)
12 pm  Lunch
12:45 pm  Fieldwork (pedestrian survey)
4:30 pm  Return to dormitories

Tuesday (6/26)
8:30 am  Meet minibus in front of dormitories
8:45 am  Convene at field site for further introduction to survey techniques and survey equipment (lecture format with hands-on teaching/learning)
9:45 am  Begin shovel test pit survey (in teams)
12 pm   Lunch
12:45 pm Laboratory activity (lecture by director followed by hands-on activity): Telling time in historical archaeology: introduction to historic ceramic types, mean ceramic dating, pipe stem dating; in teams, analyzing assemblages from previous years to calculate mean ceramic dates and pipe stem dates
4:30 pm  Return to dormitories

**Wednesday (6/27)**
8:30 am  Meet minibus in front of dormitories
8:45 am  Fieldwork (shovel test pit survey)
12 pm   Lunch
12:45 pm Fieldwork (shovel test pit survey)
2:30 pm  Field Trip: Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum
4:30 pm  Return to dormitories

**Week 2* (TH June 28th – FR July 6th)**

*Because of Independence Day we do not work July 3rd and 4th*

Continue regular research and teaching schedule

**Friday (6/29)**
12:30 pm  Second seminar discussion: Native American Historical Archaeology

**Tuesday (7/3) OFF**

**Wednesday (7/4) OFF**

**Thursday**
8:45 am  Laboratory activity (miniature lecture comparing survey and excavation followed by laboratory mapping activity)
11 am   Began excavation

12 pm   Lunchtime lecture: Beth Regan (Mohegan Council of Elders): Mohegan Culture and History

**Friday**
2 pm    Lecture: New England’s Ceremonial Stone Landscapes (Elaine Thomas, Deputy Mohegan Tribal Historic Preservation Officer)

**Week 3 (July 9th-13th)**
Continue regular research and teaching schedule

**Monday (7/9)**
1 pm  Field Trip: Mashantucket Pequot Museum

**Tuesday (7/10)**
12:30 pm  Third seminar discussion: Other Local Forms of Collaborative Archaeology

**Wednesday (7/11)**
2 pm  Artifact processing in laboratory

Week 4 (July 16th-20th)

Continue regular research and teaching schedule

**Tuesday (7/17)**
12:30 pm  Fourth seminar discussion: Addressing Critiques of Indigenous Archaeology

**Wednesday (7/18)**
12 pm  Lunchtime lecture: Sharon Maynard (Mohegan Council of Elders): Traditional Mohegan Crafts

**Thursday (7/19)**
2:30 pm  Field Trip: Eastern Pequot Reservation to visit the Eastern Pequot Archaeological Field School

Week 5 (July 23rd-27th)

Continue regular research and teaching schedule

**Monday (7/23)**
2:30 pm  Lecture: Practicing Postcolonial Archaeology (director)

**Tuesday (7/24)**
12:30 pm  Fifth seminar discussion: Mohegan Archaeology Today/Concepts of Survivance

**Friday (7/27)**
8:45 am  Closing the site for the year
12 pm  Lunch with all staff
1 pm  Laboratory work
3 pm  Closing lecture

**READINGS**

Students are required to read all of the following sources. All readings will be provided as PDF files and enrolled students will have access through the IFR website. [**]=Main focus of seminar discussion, [R]=Reference source (to be read once and then used as reference for artifact types, etc.

For Week 1: Project Background and General Analytical Techniques in Historical Archaeology

For Week 2: Native American Historical Archaeology

For Week 3: Critiques of Indigenous Archaeology

For Week 4: Decolonizing Archaeology in Practice

For Week 5: Decolonizing Archaeology in Theory

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Atalay, Sonya

Bragdon, Kathleen J.

Cipolla, Craig N.

Cipolla, Craig N., and Katherine H. Hayes, eds.

Cipolla, Craig N., Stephen W. Silliman, and David B. Landon

Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Chip, and T. J. Ferguson (editors)
2008  Collaboration in Archaeological Practice. AltaMira Press, Lanham, MD.

Cronin, William

Deagan, Kathleen

Deetz, James

DeForest, John W.

Den Ouden, Amy

Gosden, Chris

Hall, Martin, and Stephen W. Silliman (editors)
2006  Historical Archaeology. Blackwell, Malden.

Harris, Oliver J. T. and Craig N. Cipolla

Hodge, Christina J.

Hicks, Dan and Mary Beaudry (editors)

Johnson, Matthew

Leone, Mark P.
2010  Critical Historical Archaeology. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA.

Liebmann, Matthew J.

Liebmann, Matthew J., and Melissa S. Murphy (editors)

2011 Enduring Conquests: Rethinking the Archaeology of Resistance to Spanish Colonialism in the Americas. SAR Press, Santa Fe.

Lightfoot, Kent G.


Lightfoot, Kent G., Antoinette Martinez, and Ann M. Schiff


Loren, Diana DiPaolo

2008 In Contact: Bodies and Spaces in the Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Eastern Woodlands. AltaMira Press, Lanham, MD.

McBride, Kevin A.


Mrozowski, Stephen A., Holly Herbst, David Brown, and Katherine L. Priddy


Nicholas, George P., and Andrews, Thomas D.


Preucel, Robert W., and Cipolla, Craig N.


Rubertone, Patricia


Salwen, Burt


Silliman, Stephen W.


Silliman, Stephen W. (editor)


Smith, Linda T.


Stahl, Ann B.


Thomas, Nicholas


Vitelli, Giovanna


Voss, Barbara L.


Voss, Barbara L., and Eleanor Conlin Casella (editors)


Watkins, Joe