



THE PINARBAŞI PROJECT, TURKEY
INVESTIGATING THE BEGINNINGS OF SEDENTISM IN THE NEAR EAST

Course ID: ARCH 350K
June 17–July 14, 2024

Academic Credits: 8 Semester Credit Units

FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTOR(S)

Prof. Douglas Baird, Department of Archaeology, University of Liverpool, UK (dbaird@liverpool.ac.uk)



OVERVIEW

Turkey has evidence of one of the earliest transitions from hunting and gathering to sedentism in the world. Understanding the periods immediately preceding and encompassing the first steps in this transition, the Epipalaeolithic is key, but the Epipalaeolithic of central Turkey is poorly understood. The Pınarbaşı project is investigating the only known Epipalaeolithic site on the Anatolian plateau. During previous excavations, our team uncovered exciting burials with elaborate grave goods, indicating the commitments to place that may precede sedentary behaviours. In addition we have documented the earliest shifts to sedentism in the early Neolithic with the first houses in central Anatolia. Other periods

represented at the site and subject to excavation include an Early Bronze Age settlement c. 3000 BC and Medieval cemetery, which will also be an element of the excavation. Working alongside experts in the analysis of evidence from Epipalaeolithic and early Neolithic communities and professional excavators, students will learn a range of archaeological research techniques and methods and about the wider context of Anatolian archaeology.

The course will take place at the Epipalaeolithic and early Neolithic site of Pınarbaşı (c. 14000-8000 BCE), the only Epipalaeolithic site on the central Anatolian plateau and the predecessor of the famous Neolithic sites of Boncuklu and Çatalhöyük. The site is located on the edge of the Konya Plain in central Turkey, 65 km east of the major city of Konya, a famous Medieval centre where the ‘whirling dervish’ sect was founded by the Medieval philosopher Celaleddin Rumi. We will stay in Karaman, an important Medieval city located 50 km to the south of Pınarbaşı. There are many medieval buildings of the Seljuk period to visit in Konya and Karaman, both booming cities. The field school also includes visits to other sites and museums in central Turkey including Çatalhöyük and the dramatic Neolithic site of Aşıklı, where there is evidence of repeated rebuilding of houses and an experimental village. Aşıklı is located about 3 hours east of Konya in Cappadocia, also famous for its underground cities and painted medieval churches. We will also visit a number of remote Byzantine and Hittite sites around the Konya plain.

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 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 350 hours of experiential education. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institution 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 more transcript may be sent to the student’s home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: <http://bit.ly/2hvrkl>.

PREREQUISITES

No prior experience in archaeology is required. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study on-site how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus, requires a measure of acceptance that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will get sweaty, tired and have to work in the outdoors. The food is Turkish style and western meals are not often available; if you are not comfortable with unfamiliar cuisine, this program may not be the best choice for you. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires real, hard work – in the sun, on your feet, and with your trowel.

NOTICE OF INHERENT RISK

Traveling and conducting field research can involve risk. The IFR engages in intensive review of each field school location and programming prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the IFR reviews each program annually to make sure it still complies with all our standards and policies, including those pertaining to student safety. Participants should also take every reasonable step to reduce risk while on IFR programs, including following the safety advice and guidelines of your program director, being alert to your surroundings and conditions, letting someone know where you will be at all times, and assessing your personal security.

The IFR does not provide trip or travel cancellation insurance. We strongly encourage participants to consider purchasing this insurance, as unexpected events may prevent your participation or cause the program to be canceled. Insurance is a relatively small cost to protect your educational investment in an IFR program. When comparing trip cancellation insurance policies, make sure the policy covers the cost of both airfare and tuition.

We do our best to follow a schedule of activities, methods training, and programming as outlined in this syllabus. However, this schedule can be easily disrupted by unforeseen circumstances, including weather, revisions by local permitting agencies, or conditions onsite. While this schedule represents the intentions of the program, adaptability is an intrinsic part of all field research, and necessary alterations to the schedule may happen at any time.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the program director and staff.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC FIELD CONDITIONS

This program operates in a hot Mediterranean summer environment. During the day, temperatures in the shade fluctuate between 70°-90°F. However, under the sun they may reach 80°-90°F. Humidity is relatively low and some mosquitoes and/or flies may be close to the excavation area and dig house. In order to be respectful of local customs and protected from sunburn and/or insects, students will not be allowed to work in shorts or tank tops at the site. Good footwear, working clothes, and sun protective gear (hat, sunglasses and sunscreen) are required.

We live in a friendly but conservative small city community. We must respect local customs so clothes that do not reveal any flesh are appropriate for these reasons as well as to protect you from the sun. In contrast to hot daytime temperatures it can be cool in the evening and morning. Food is Turkish style, delicious and healthy, but you must be prepared for unfamiliar foods.

In order to attend an archaeological excavation in Turkey you will need a research visa. These are arranged through a permit application by Professor Baird. Before you travel to Turkey you will need to pick up your research visa from a suitable consulate in the USA or elsewhere. This may involve a trip to the consulate or mailing your passport with a secure prepaid return delivery envelope; these arrangements may vary by consulate and you will have to be in touch with your local Turkish consulate to check their arrangements. Be aware that this process will take time and some effort on your part, as well as the additional cost of the research visa.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to enable students to better understand how archaeology is practiced in the field. To achieve this objective, this course has three primary goals:

- (1) to provide students a practical working knowledge of **archaeological field methods**, including survey, excavation, laboratory analysis, artifact cataloging, and conservation;
- (2) to introduce students to the **intellectual challenges presented by archaeological research**, including research design, the interpretation of data, and the continual readjustment of hypotheses and field strategies with regard to information recovered in the field;
- (3) to introduce students to the Neolithic and later archaeology of Anatolia.

The primary directive of this program is to enable students to better understand how archaeology is practiced in the field. Students will also learn how archaeologists study the the beginnings of sedentism in an area where it first began.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students completing this course will have significantly developed excavation and recording skills and thus be able to operate more independently and take on more responsibility on future archaeological fieldwork; they will have achieved a better understanding of the whole archaeological process including interpretation, which will be a good preparation for graduate work, should they pursue; they will have developed significant transferable skills—collaboration and teamwork, initiative, working to demanding deadlines, and adaptability in the face of challenging conditions—all prized by a wide range of employers and key to success on future field projects of whatever nature.

ASSESSMENT

Undergraduate Student grading:

- **33% of Grade:** One essay on Anatolian Epipalaeolithic-Neolithic archaeology
- **67% of Grade:** Fieldwork participation, assessed in relation to competence in
 - Excavation tool use and observation of stratigraphic phenomena
 - Accurate and precise planning
 - Comprehensive, accurate, precise and insightful compilation of context and feature records
 - Contribution to retrieval processes such as flotation and residue sorting
 - Effective on site survey
 - Contribution to team activity

COURSE SCHEDULE

All IFR field school begins with safety orientation. This orientation addresses local and program protocols concerning student behavior, appropriate attire, local practices and sensibilities that may be unfamiliar, potential fauna and flora hazards, IFR harassment and discrimination policies, and the student Code of Conduct.

EXCURSIONS

Three types of excursions are planned within the course: (1) an extended visit to the nearby site of Çatalhöyük; (2) a day trip to Cappadocia visiting Neolithic sites and the famous Byzantine rock cut churches; and, (3) visits to local Byzantine and Hittite sites.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Lectures and Site Visits

Lecture: The Epipalaeolithic of the Near East

Lecture: The origins of agriculture

Lecture: The Neolithic of Turkey

Pınarbaşı lecture

Boncuklu lecture

Çatalhöyük lecture

NB, depending on numbers of students these may become evening lectures instead.

Trip to Çatalhöyük and Hittite sites

Weeks 1-4: Excavations at Pınarbaşı. Daily program: 7-9.30 am, 10 am -1 pm, 3.30-6 pm. Students will rotate between excavation, sampling, laboratory work and planning on site and in the labs.

First long Weekend : Trip to Cappadocia, visiting Neolithic sites under excavation and Byzantine underground cities.

Week 5: finish field work

REQUIRED READINGS

PDF files of all mandatory readings will be provided to enrolled students. Students are encouraged to download and/or print readings prior to traveling. Course participants are expected to be prepared to engage the discussions led by facilitators, all of whom will be looking for compelling evidence that students have read and thought about the assigned readings prior to the scheduled day on which they are first discussed.

Sagona, A and Zimansky, P 2009 *Ancient Turkey*. Routledge (relevant to week 1 and site excursions)

Baird D. 2011 The Late Epipalaeolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic of the Anatolian Plateau, 13000-4000 BC calibrated. In D Potts ed. *Blackwell's Companion to Near Eastern Archaeology* (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

Baird D, Fairbairn A, Martin L and Middleton C. 2011 The Boncuklu Project; the origins of sedentism, cultivation and herding in central Anatolia, in Ozdoğan and Başgelen eds *The Neolithic of Turkey; new excavations, new discoveries*. Arkeoloji ve Sanat.

Baird D. 2011 Pınarbaşı; from Epipalaeolithic camp-site to sedentarising village in central Anatolia, in Ozdoğan and Başgelen eds *The Neolithic of Turkey; new excavations, new discoveries*. Arkeoloji ve Sanat. (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

D. Baird – A. Fairbairn – E. Jenkins – L. Martin – C. Middleton – J. Pearson – E. Asouti – Y. Edwards – C. Kabukcu – G. Mustafaoğlu – N. Russell – O. Bar-Yosef – G. Jacobsen – X. Wu – A. Baker – S. Elliott, Agricultural origins on the Anatolian plateau, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 115 (14) E3077-E3086 (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

Baird D. *et al.* 2013. Juniper smoke, skulls and wolves tails. *Levant*

Collis J. 1996 *Digging Up the Past – an introduction to archaeological excavation*. (Available as a Kindle edition) (relevant to weeks 2-5)

During, B. 2011 *The prehistory of Asia Minor*. Cambridge University Press (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

Hodder, I. 2007 *The Leopard's Tale*. Thames and Hudson (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

RECOMMENDED READINGS

You can find out much more about the project on our website:

The British Institute at Ankara produces an annual publication detailing the results from its projects. Until 2011 this was called *Anatolian Archaeology*. Now it is called *Heritage Turkey*. The Boncuklu project has an article in each year since 2006.

Baird D 2002 'Early holocene settlement in central Anatolia: problems and prospects as seen from the Konya Plain' in F Gerard and L Thissen eds. *The Neolithic of central Anatolia*, 139-159.

Baird D 2006 The history of settlement and social landscapes in the Early Holocene in the Çatalhöyük area in Hodder I ed. *Çatalhöyük perspectives. Çatalhöyük Project Volume 6*, 55-74. McDonald Institute/British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara Monographs

Baird, D 2007 The Boncuklu Project; the origins of sedentism, cultivation and herding in central Anatolia. *Anatolian Archaeology Vol 13*,14-17

Baird D 2008 The Boncuklu project; investigating the origins of sedentism, cultivation and herding in central Anatolia. *Anatolian Archaeology Vol 14*, 11-13

Baird D 2009 The Boncuklu project; investigating the origins of sedentism, cultivation and herding in central Anatolia. *Anatolian Archaeology Vol 15*, 9-11

Baird D 2010 The Boncuklu Project: investigating the beginnings of agriculture, sedentism and herding in central Anatolia. *Anatolian Archaeology vol 16* 11-13

Baird D 2010 'Was Çatalhöyük a centre; the implications of a late Aceramic Neolithic assemblage from the neighbourhood of Çatalhöyük' in Bolger and Maguire eds in *The Development of Pre-state Communities in the Ancient Near East*. Oxbow books

Baird D, Carruthers D, Fairbairn A, and Pearson 2011 Ritual in the Landscape; evidence from Pınarbaşı in the 7th millennium BC cal Konya Plain. *Antiquity* 85, 1-16.

Hodder I and Meskell, L 'A "Curious and sometimes trifle macabre artistry"' *Current Anthropology* 52/2, 251-2

Lichter C 2007 ed. *Die ältesten Monumente der Menschheit*, 123. Badische Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe. (Some sections in English and good images of Neolithic sites)

TRAVEL, ROOM & BOARD, & SAFETY LOGISTICS

Students will spend c. 28 days in a dig house close to the site. We will drive a short distance to the site each day. The first days there will involve lectures. We will make site visits around central Turkey, including to Cappadocia and other local sites, on weekends. The main 3.5 weeks will be spent in the field conducting survey and excavation at Pınarbaşı, interspersed with laboratory training.

All meals will be communal events and will provide plenty of nutritious but basic food in the tradition of local cuisine cooked by local people. The daily diet in Turkey is heavily based on pasta, rice, legumes bread other vegetables, with some meat. Vegetarians/Vegans are catered for.

Detailed safety guidelines will be provided relating to on-site and lab work and to accommodation situation. All safety guidelines and instructions must be complied with. Protocols on appropriate behaviour and interaction with the local community and government officials are also provided and must be followed. First aiders are present on the project and site.

STUDENT HEALTH

An IFR field school is designed to provide safe, positive, and constructive experiences for participating communities, students, and researchers. We are committed to protocols and practices that support the health and well-being of all involved in our field school projects, including the members of the community in which these projects take place.

We recommend that students adopt best-practices for arriving in a good state of health to protect themselves and their peers' readiness to set about the work of the field school. A thriving field camp environment is a constant exchange of energy, patience, effort, respect, and service. Arriving healthy is every student's first act of service — their first opportunity to behave in a way that respects the safety and wellness of one another.

IFR programs follow the health requirements and guidelines of local health authorities. You may also wish to consult recommendations from the US Centers for Disease Control at:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>

PRIOR TO TRAVEL

Natural disasters, political changes, weather conditions and various other factors may force the cancellation or alteration of a field school. IFR recommends students only purchase airline tickets that are fully refundable and consider travel insurance in case a program or travel plans must change for any reason. General information for this program is below, but keep in mind we will discuss any updated travel information and regulations during the required program orientation, which could affect travel plans.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

All personnel engaged in archaeological research in Turkey must be cleared by the authorities. Enrolled students will receive a special visa to attend the field school. All accepted students will be asked to complete official forms – those will be sent to students by Project Director – and all documents will be submitted as a group for approval to relevant Turkish authorities. Just before the program students will

collect research visas from relevant local consulates, this will involve making suitable arrangements with those consulates for visa collection under guidance from Prof. Baird.

Due to the delays in the approval process for work permits that happen fairly often, a delay in the start of the program may be necessary and therefore program dates may shift by a few days. Please consider this need for flexibility when making your travel arrangements. You may enter Turkey on a tourist visa before the program begins, but you will not be able to participate in the program without the appropriate visa.

TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)

Passport Validity

The Turkish government requires that your passport be valid for at least 6 months from the date you enter Turkey and that there is a full blank page for the entry and exit stamps.

Flights

The closest city to the site with an airport is Konya. There is an international airport at Konya although most flights route through Istanbul. Flying to Konya is easiest and Professor Baird will meet IFR students at that airport. Alternatively, one can fly to Istanbul and travel by high-speed train (4.5 hours) from Istanbul to Karaman, although these trains book up quickly. Professor Baird will also meet people at the train station in Karaman, if required. You will be driven from the collection point to the accommodation in the dig vehicle.

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

LOCAL PROTOCOLS, REGULATIONS, & EXPECTATIONS

Local Community. We are accommodated in a small Turkish village. We wish to maintain good relations with the local community and respect local sensibilities and traditions, which includes dressing appropriately (generally, non-revealing clothing that covers shoulders, chest, mid sections, and legs). Additional guidelines will be issued during the program orientation.

Normally, the excavation has visitors from local communities as well as Turkish and foreign tourists.

ACCOMMODATION

Our accommodation will be in a new dig house near the site. Students will share bedrooms. Laundry facilities are available. There are no specific security concerns.

The catering arrangements will involve prepared breakfast and dinner and a picnic lunch. Vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free diets are catered for. The food is varied and nutritious but it will be thoroughly Turkish, which might not appeal to all students. It is, of course, halal.

EQUIPMENT LIST

What to bring checklist. We supply bedding and facilities for clothes washing, as well as work equipment, but you should bring or obtain the following before you come to site (the items marked * can easily be obtained in Turkey; those marked ^ are not easily available, unavailable for larger/taller people or surprisingly expensive in Turkey and should be brought with you). Note that there are more specific notes on some of these items elsewhere in this guide.

- Towel*
- Toiletries* in a bag that can be hung in the showers while you wash
- Sheet or sleeping bag, if desired
- Flip-flops for use in shower, bathroom and around the dighouse
- A minimum of 2 changes of work clothing (light, strong and covering arms and legs)^
- Work shoes (desert boots or similar – no or very light tread)^
- Wide brimmed hat^
- Sunblock^
- 4 inch pointing trowel and plasterer's leaf – US -Marshalltown^ (Pack in checked luggage!)
- Water bottle*
- Torch and replacement batteries
- Small rucksack or bag to take gear to site
- Entertainment: books, cards, tablet/i-devices
- Stationery for personal use (notebook, pens etc)
- Personal medication (bring sufficient prescription medicines for the entire field school and a written prescription for any prescribed medication)
- Insect repellent
- Rehydration salts – e.g. UK Dioralyte.
- Diarrhoea relief tablets e.g. Immodium etc.
- Currency and/or cash cards plus a credit card
- Covid 19 masks if desired