ANTH 396: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TRAINING (Spring 2020)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Application Deadline January 31, 2020

In Spring 2020, under the direction of Dr. Hugh McKenzie, the Department of Anthropology at Grant MacEwan University will be offering a 6-credit Archaeological Field School (ANTH 396) in Siberia, Russia. This Field School will be hosted by the Baikal Archaeology Project (BAP), which is an international collaborative research initiative investigating Middle Holocene hunter-gatherer lifeways in the Lake Baikal Region of Siberia (8300–3500 years ago) and Karelia in European Russia (8700–8000 years ago). This package contains general information about the Field School and how to apply.

Course: ANTH 396 – Archaeological Field Training (6 credits)

Prerequisites: A minimum grade of C- in ANTH 206 (Introduction to Archaeology) and consent of the Department. Alternative prerequisites in lieu will be considered at the discretion of the selection committee.

Location & Dates: May 30-July 2 (these dates may change slightly, but if so, not by much)

- May 30: Depart Edmonton
- June 1-3: Irkutsk, Russia (2 nights)
- June 3-June 29: Verkholensk/Kachug, Russia (27 nights)
- June 30-July 2: Irkutsk, Russia (2 nights)
- July 2: Depart Irkutsk
Deadlines and Other Important Dates

- **Application Deadline:** 4:30 pm, January 31, 2020
- **Successful Candidates notified** Feb 8, 2020
- **$500 Non-refundable Deposit Due** Feb 15, 2020
- **Tuition Deadline** TBA
- **Arrive at Irkutsk, Russia** June 1, 2020
- **Depart from Irkutsk** July 3, 2020

Nature of the Excavation Site & the Role of Field School Students

Verkholensk is a large cemetery located on a terrace overlooking the Upper Lena River as it flows through the small Siberian settlement Verkholensk. Previous excavations conducted in 1949–1951 revealed approximately 40 Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age graves. During this season’s work we aim to expand our understanding of this cemetery through new excavations. It is expected (although can’t be entirely guaranteed) that students will have the opportunity to excavate and analyze human skeletal and dental remains along with a range of cultural materials including ceramic, lithic, and faunal materials.

General Format of Field School

*(the following details are provisional and subject to change - a final, detailed course outline will be circulated to successful applicants)*

**ANTH 396: Archaeological Field Methods** is designed to build student competencies in all practical aspects of archaeological field techniques, including surveying, excavation, documentation, photography, conservation and analysis. More specifically, the course objectives are for students to:

- Recognize traces of archaeological sites in the field, including artifacts, ecofacts and features
- Map archaeological sites using a variety of instruments
- Establish a metric grid and provenience system for excavation
- Systematically excavate and recover archaeological materials in context, including skeletal remains
- Record excavated contexts through daily written field journals, photography and drawings
- Process and catalogue recovered materials through an archaeological laboratory
- Prepare recovered materials for further analysis and curation
- Summarize fieldwork findings in a short technical report

Assessment of student competencies will be both formative and evaluative and will include both informal and formal methods. In particular:
Pre-Departure Orientation & Examination (conducted in Edmonton)
Prior to departing for Russia, students will be required to participate in a short but intensive orientation to the prehistory and history of the area, geography, flora and fauna, mapping, survey, field recording systems, and artifact analysis. These pre-departure activities will ensure that all students have sufficient background to be successful in the field. Students will also be prepared for their international study experience through an introduction to the local cultural values, practices, and institutions as well as a mandatory session on precautionary, risk reducing practices to follow while overseas. Details on MacEwan’s Travel Authorization Procedures can be found at MacEwan Travel:
https://www.macewan.ca/wcm/SafeatMacEwan/TravelSafety/index.htm

Archaeological Fieldwork (conducted at Verkholensk)
Students will spend approximately four weeks (June 3-June 29) working at the site of Verkholensk, with their time divided between survey, excavation and lab work. There will be occasional lectures designed to inform students of the project’s goals, sampling strategies and technical methods. However, the bulk of the students’ time in Russia will be spent engaged in the hand-on practice of data collection. Students will be responsible for excavating and, most importantly, recording their observations in drawings, photographs and written notes (see below). Both formal and informal instruction in field methods will be provided on an ongoing basis.

Weekly Site Tours. Roughly once a week we will take a tour of the project area and the students, themselves, will present what is being found in their work area and how they interpret it. During these discussions, students will critically evaluate field methods and their application to the problems in their own area of the site, as well as discuss their progress on a short field report they are responsible for preparing (see below). These tours/discussions provide students an opportunity to think about what they are doing on a daily basis, receive formative feedback from the instructional faculty and other students, and to see better how their small section of the archaeological site integrates with the site as a whole.

Student Field Book and Records. Each student will keep a daily field work journal. We will provide some formative assessment of these journals mid-way through the excavation and evaluate (i.e., grade) their quality at the end of the field work season.

Final Field Report. During their time in the field, pairs of students will write a short ‘technical’ report on either their survey, lab or excavation activities, outlining their methods and findings. This will provide students the opportunity to synthesize their findings and to make the connection between the hands-on recovery of archaeological remains, the lab analyses, and final written interpretations.
Specific Location & Travel
Verkholensk is a small Siberian settlement, established in 1641, located on the shores of the Upper Lena River. Accommodation during our work at this site will likely be in the nearby settlement of Kachug (approximately 40-minute drive). We will fly into the major city of Irkutsk, and then take a bus from Irkutsk to Kachug/Verkholensk.

Travel to Irkutsk will be the financial responsibility of the student, and you will be asked to make your own travel arrangements. There are a number of routes possible, including: flying east, via Moscow, or flying west, via Seoul, Beijing, etc. We can offer some advice if necessary. All participants will be expected to meet up with project members in Irkutsk on the morning of June 1, 2020. Once in Irkutsk, all further transportation will be arranged and paid for by our project.

The particulars of the trip are at the volunteer's discretion, and participant are welcome to stay in Russia after the end of fieldwork, but at their own expense.

Medical Considerations
Although this part of Russia is generally safe, before embarking on any international excavation such as ours, it is necessary to evaluate your overall health. Fieldwork is just that: work. You must be prepared to spend long hours excavating in uncomfortable positions (i.e., crouched). We also have a large amount of gear to move to and from the site daily, and this is also physically demanding. Given these considerations, you should ensure that you are healthy and in good physical shape if you plan to join us. Participants should obtain any necessary medical treatment (e.g. vaccinations) on their own prior to the trip. Inquiries should be made in advance because some treatments need to be administered early. Medical insurance for the period abroad must also be purchased, and all students will be required to sign a liability waiver and attend a MacEwan University Study Abroad session before they can travel to Russia.
Accommodations & Food
Accommodations in Irkutsk will be in a small hotel. In Kachug/Verkholensk we will either stay in a small hotel or in student dorms. In all cases, bedrooms will have 2-4 beds, so prospective students should be comfortable living in shared accommodations.

For the days in Irkutsk, students will be responsible for their own food. There is a large range of options available, and it is very easy to live on as little as $20/day. During our time at Verkholensk, lunch will be provided to everyone in the field, but students will be responsible for their own breakfast and dinner. There is a small restaurant available at the accommodations, and there are several small grocery stores within walking distance. $15/day is sufficient for food in Kachug/Verkholensk.

Participants should expect a Siberian cultural experience as the accommodations and food are typical of rural Siberia. The ability for restaurants to offer personalized meal accommodations is limited.
Estimated Costs (all figures approximate):
Although we have worked hard to provide you with accurate estimates of costs, the changing nature of flight prices, variable insurance needs, etc., means that the following figures should be considered approximate. Please conduct your own evaluation of the Estimated Travel Costs to see if you can find better deals on flights, insurance, etc. In addition, please note that funding is available to students at MacEwan, including the MacEwan International Education Abroad Award/Bursary. 
https://www.macewan.ca/wcm/SchoolsFaculties/ArtsScience/Programs/BachelorofArts/ScholarshipsAwardsBursaries/index.htm

Mandatory Fees paid to MacEwan University (approximate, but unlikely to change by much)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Term Fees (6 credits)</td>
<td>$1200 (see note below)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field School Delivery Fee</td>
<td>$1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Includes all accommodation in Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Includes all transportation after your arrival in Irkutsk</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Includes lunches in the field (Verkholensk)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Includes most excavation materials &amp; all instructional costs</td>
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Estimated Additional Costs (depending on your needs, wants, etc.)

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<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Roundtrip flights to Irkutsk (average cost)</td>
<td>$1700-2500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals in Irkutsk ($20/day x 5 days)</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast &amp; Dinner in Verkholensk ($15/day x 26 days)</td>
<td>$390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Insurance (check with Student Association of MacEwan U)</td>
<td>$85</td>
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<td>Passport + Passport Photo ($140 if needed)</td>
<td>$__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunizations (depends on needs/wants)</td>
<td>$__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archaeological trowel &amp; minor equipment</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriate clothing for working in a variable climate</td>
<td>$__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pocket spending money (depends on needs/wants)</td>
<td>$__________</td>
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TOTAL (Mandatory + Additional costs): Approximately $5000-$6000

Note: Tuition estimates are current as of December 1, 2019, but are subject to change. Although preference will be given to suitable students at Grant MacEwan University, we welcome applications from students at other institutions. With the exception of tuition & fees (see below) all of the field school delivery costs will be identical for local and non-local students. MacEwan’s Tuition and Fees Estimator can be found at the following link (note that some of the ‘mandatory fees’ listed are waived for off-campus programs, including our international fields school):
Non-MacEwan Students: If successful in the application process, students at other institutions will be required to register at Grant MacEwan University as a Visiting Student. To enroll as a Visiting Student, you must apply to Open Studies and submit a Letter of Permission form from your home institution. Depending on where your home institution is located (i.e., Domestic vs International), Tuition fees may vary. Please see the following link for detailed information on Visiting Students. https://www.macewan.ca/wcm/Registrar/EnrolmentServices/HowtoEnrol/VisitingStudents/index.htm

Non-Credit Volunteers
Due to the limited number of spots available, we will initially accept only students who enroll in the 6-credit field school; however, should we have fewer suitable field school applicants than spots, we might accept volunteers. If you are interested in putting your name forward as a potential volunteer, please fill out the application form (below), making sure to check “non-credit volunteer”.

For more information:
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CCC 7-367D
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Edmonton, AB CANADA  T5J 4S2
E-Mail: mckenzieh2@macewan.ca
Tel: 780 633 3435
ANTH 396: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TRAINING APPLICATION PROCESS

To be considered for acceptance you not only need to have the formal academic prerequisites (minimum grade of C- in ANTH 206) but you must also demonstrate your suitability for the demands and requirements of an international archaeological field school. Due to the nature of the excavation site, there are only a limited number of spots available.

Registration for the Course:
Students must submit a formal application by 4:30 PM on January 31, 2020. All successful applicants will be notified by February 8, 2020, and at that point they will be asked to commit to the course by paying a non-refundable deposit of $500. All other suitable applicants will be placed on a waiting list. Once we have a list of students committed to the course and have received their deposit cheques, this list of students’ names will be registered in the course by the Registrar’s Office.

Selection Process & Criteria
A committee consisting of the Instructor and one other Faculty member will select students. Priority will be given to Anthropology Majors and Minors in their second year or higher, but Majors in other disciplines who have completed the prerequisites are also welcome to apply. Although reference will also be given to suitable MacEwan University students, students at other institutions are welcome to apply as well.

Students should have the prerequisite of a minimum grade of C- in Anth 206. Alternative prerequisites will be considered at the discretion of the selection committee. Selection will be based on the overall quality of the application and the interview, the student’s experience and interest in the course, demonstrated team and interpersonal skills, and external references.

All students will be required to sign a liability waiver and participate in a MacEwan University Study Abroad information session before they can participate.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

☐ 1. Complete application form (attached below)
☐ 2. Provide a personal statement of 500 words or fewer indicating why you want to be a part of this course. In the statement please address the following: your goals and objectives in taking the course; your background and interest in archaeology; your experience working in groups, and how you anticipate dealing with cultural difference and living in very close quarters with numerous other people for four weeks.
☐ 3. Provide a brief resume (2 page maximum) highlighting any educational, work, training, volunteer experience, and language skills that you have that might be useful for this course.
☐ 4. References: please provide the names and contact information (phone number and email addresses) from three people (non-relatives) who know you well. Referees should be prepared to state how long they have known the applicant and in what capacity (student, employee, athlete, co-worker, etc.), and to discuss the applicant’s effectiveness as a team member and their strength and weaknesses working in a group setting. Finally, we will also ask about the applicant’s ability to engage in physically demanding labour.
☐ 5. Transcript: a copy of your unofficial transcripts.
ANTH 396: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS APPLICATION FORM
Due by 4:30 PM on January 31, 2020

Are you applying as (check one): an ANTH 396 Field School Student ____ or a non-credit Volunteer ____
Note: Because of the limited number of spots available, we will initially accept only students who enroll in the 6-credit field school; however, should we have fewer suitable field school applicants than spots, we may accept volunteers.

Name:__________________________________________________________
Surname First Name

Address:__________________________________________________________
Apt./Street Address

City Province Postal Code

Telephone Numbers: Home:_______________________ Cell:______________________

MacEwan E-Mail Address:________________________________________

University Policy E3101 Student Rights and Responsibilities makes it a student responsibility to read e-mail sent to your University generated e-mail account. University departments and programs in connection with this Application may choose to send official University correspondence through your MacEwan account, so it is important that you monitor your e-mails carefully and regularly.

Programme:________________________________________

Major (if applicable):________________________

Year of Programme:________________________

Student I.D. Number:________________________

By July 2017, will you have you completed the prerequisite (ANTH 206) for this course? Yes____ No____

Which other courses have you taken that would be relevant to this course?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Signature:___________________________ Date:___________________

PLEASE SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGES TO:
Dr. Hugh McKenzie
Department of Anthropology, Economics, & Political Science
CCC 7-367D, MacEwan University
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5S 4S2
Email: mckenzieh2@macewan.ca Phone: 780-633-3435

Date & Time Application Received (for official use only):__________________________

Personal Information Collection Notification - The personal information requested on this form is collected under the authority of Section 65(a) of the Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act and managed and protected under the authority of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. It will be used as part of the study abroad process and activities consistent with that purpose. It will be placed on file along with all related documentation in the academic program coordinating the study tour, and retained for a minimum of one year from the date of completion of the activity. Direct questions expressly related to the collection and use of this information to the Director International, Grant MacEwan University, 10700-104 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5J 4S2, Telephone 780-633-3683.