

UCLA Pimu Catalina Island Archaeology Field School

Syllabus

July 15 - August 19, 2009

Summer 2009

Dr. Wendy G. Teeter and
Desiree R. Martinez

This course has two goals; 1) to introduce students to field methods in archaeology, and 2) to provide a practical working knowledge of survey and excavation techniques, lab, and field cataloging methods that will enable students to better understand how to practice archaeology. Students will learn about the laws and processes that apply to archaeology and cultural resource management in the public sector such as the California Environmental Quality Act.

The course will take place on Catalina Island, just off the coast of Los Angeles, in southern California. This field school is a collaborative project between the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA and the Catalina Island Conservancy and members of the Gabrielino/Tongva Nation. The course begins on June 23 and will meet every weekday until July 25. Students will stay at the Volunteer Camp in platform tents with an outdoor kitchen facility and showers on Catalina Island. The first week will be devoted to lectures, a museum tour, and laboratory instruction. The last four weeks will be spent in the field doing a mixture of survey and excavation throughout the Island.

Undergraduate grading will be based on one exam (33%) and fieldwork participation (67%). Graduate student grading will be based on one exam (33%), fieldwork participation (33%), and one other special research project..

Course Readings: Readings listed below.

Course Requirements: Meet every scheduled day.

Prerequisites: None.

Materials: Course packs and textbook will be available at the start of class for an additional cost TBA (~\$75)

Program:

Class Lectures: During the first week, students will participate in various sessions which give them an overview of the techniques and issues that will be used throughout the course.

Excavations: Students will participate in guided excavations at selected historic and prehistoric sites.

Survey: Students will conduct surveys using differential GPS systems over select areas of Catalina Island.

Recordation: Students will participate in filling out specific field records, map finds, site survey forms, and will keep a field journal (to be turned in at the end of season).

Laboratory: Scheduled lab tasks will include washing, sorting, flotation and curation of finds. Formal lab will be between 1-5 days a week for at least an hour depending on data recovery.

Other Course Staff:

Tad Britt, Instructor

Tom Adams, Lab Manager

Course Reading Schedule:

Week 1: July 15 - 22, 2009 Archaeology Methods and Field Techniques

Wednesday (7/15):

Afternoon: Introduction, Camp Orientation, Health and Safety (DeeDee Conner, Volunteer Coordinator, Catalina Island Conservancy)

Evening Lecture: Pimu Catalina Island Archaeology Project

Readings: Howard 1997 (Martinez & Teeter)

Thursday (7/16): Students will be broken into three smaller groups for instruction

Morning:

Track A: Map Reading (Tad Britt)

Track B: Material Culture and Flint Knapping (Desiree Martinez)

Track C: Cultural Resource Management and modern land use (Wendy Teeter)

Afternoon:

Track A: Orientating Yourself (Britt)

Track B: Laboratory Methods (Martinez & Adams)

Track C: Curation and Museums (Teeter)

Evening Lecture: Southern California Archaeology & Culture (Martinez & Alvitre)

Readings: McCrawley 1996:75-87; Arnold et al. 2004; Bean and Smith 1978:538-563

Friday (7/17): Morning:

Track A: Material Culture and Flint Knapping (Desiree Martinez)

Track B: Cultural Resource Management and modern land use (Wendy Teeter)

Track C: Map Reading (Tad Britt)

Afternoon:

Track A: Laboratory Methods (Martinez & Adams)

Track B: Curation and Museums (Teeter)

Track C: Orientating Yourself (Britt)

Evening Lecture: Catalina Island Environmental Conservation (Dr. Carlos de la Rosa, Chief Conservation & Education Officer, Catalina Island Conservancy)

Readings: Keely 2002, Schoenherr et al 1999:147-195, Catalina Conservancy FAQs

Saturday (7/18) optional: Island Tour w/picnic at Little Harbors

Monday (7/20): Morning:

Track A: Cultural Resource Management and modern land use (Wendy Teeter)

Track B: Map Reading (Tad Britt)

Track C: Material Culture and Flint Knapping (Desiree Martinez)

Afternoon:

Track A: Curation and Museums (Teeter)

Track B: Orientating Yourself (Britt)

Track C: Laboratory Methods (Martinez & Adams)

Evening Lecture: Animal Use in the Past (Dr. Judy Porcasi, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Zooarchaeology Lab)

Readings: Porcasi and Fujita 2000

Tuesday (7/21): Morning: 7-8am Test

8:30am Survey Techniques and Recording Sites

Afternoon: Excavation Techniques, Field Notes, Photography

Week 2: July 22 - 29, 2009 (Field Research Begins)

Wednesday (7/22): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Thursday (7/23): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Friday (7/24): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Saturday (7/25) optional: Tongva Culture Public Program (Nature Center): Barbara Drake & Lorene Sisquoc – Cultural Ecology Uses / Craig Torres – Material Uses of Shell – Craig Torres

Monday (7/27): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Tuesday (7/28): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig
Evening: Laboratory Artifact Processing

Week 3: July 29 – August 4, 2009

Wednesday (7/29): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Thursday (7/30): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Friday (7/31): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Saturday (8/1) optional: Geomorphology & Stone Tool Production

8:00 – 10 am Clay Singer, Singer & Associates

10:00 Introduction to Geomorphology, TBD (Including picnic and discussion by boat)

Monday (8/3): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Tuesday (8/4): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Evening: Laboratory Artifact Processing

Week 4: August 5 -11, 2009

Wednesday (8/5): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Thursday (8/6): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Evening Lecture: The Importance of Basketry (Cindi Alvitre, Director, Ti'at Society)

Friday (8/7): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Evening: Laboratory Artifact Processing

Saturday (8/8) optional: History of Archaeology on Catalina Island's West End, Robert Wlodarski (Including history tour and discussion from Two Harbors to the West End)

Monday (8/10): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Tuesday (8/11): Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Evening: Laboratory Artifact Processing

Week 5: August 12 - 18, 2009

Wednesday (8/12)

Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Evening Lecture: Modern Land Use and CRM

Readings: TBA

Thursday (8/13)

Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig

Evening Lecture: Eagle's Nest in Historical Context with Findings

Friday (8/14)

Morning & Afternoon: Survey/Dig
Evening (Guest) Lecture: Contemporary Native American Culture, Cindi Alvitre

Saturday (8/15) optional: Wildlife Conservation: Peter Sharpe, Biologist, Institute of Wildlife Studies, Visit with Pimu and Tachi

Monday (8/17) Morning & Afternoon: Lab/Site Records Wrap up

Tuesday (8/18) Closing Camp

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