

**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
TRENT UNIVERSITY**

**ANTH-3000Y: FIELD METHODS AND TECHNIQUES IN ANTHROPOLOGY – BELIZE
2023 SUMMER
(20 MAY – 24 JUNE 2023)**

DRAFT

Belize, Central America

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Campus: Durham GTA Thornton Campus 55 Thornton Road	Office Location: Anthropology House 787 King Street West	Office Hours: In Belize – any time except Sundays 6 am – 11 am Weekdays 5:00-6:00 pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through their participation in on-going research at the ancient Maya city of Ka'kabish, students will gain an understanding of the practical and theoretical aspects of site mapping, excavation, artefact processing. The course involves five (5) weeks of archaeological work during which time students will spend several days a week on site learning excavation and mapping techniques. They will also spend time in the laboratory learning artefact laboratory techniques through the processing of the recovered artefacts. Additionally, time may be spent conducting field surveys in the surrounding settlement zone as time, weather, and environmental conditions. The number of days spent on each activity will vary depending on the amount of material excavated and weather constraints, however, students should expect to spend most of the time excavating. The course also will introduce students to ancient Maya culture.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The excavation is the ancient Maya city of Ka'kabish in North Central Belize, Central America. This site was occupied from the Middle Formative period (ca. 900-400 BC) through to the Terminal Classic period (ca. AD 750-900 BC). The surrounding settlement zones show evidence of continued occupation through to the end of the Post-Classic period (ca. AD 1540). The site is covered by dense rainforest. Consequently, students should be prepared for an environment that is hot, humid, and with numerous insects. They are advised to wear light-weight clothing, with pants and long-sleeve shirts or t-shirts being recommended. It is not advised to wear shorts or sleeveless/tank-tops on site. The ground is uneven and rocky and students are advised to bring good, light-weight hiking boots (day-hikers are fine) that provide ankle support. CSA rating or steel-toes are not necessary and advised against.

Learning Outcomes:

I have developed the course to address several learning outcomes. By the end of the course a successful student should have:

1. developed knowledge and critical understanding of the key concepts, methodologies, current advances, theoretical approaches and assumptions in a discipline overall, as well as in a specialized area of a discipline;
2. the ability to gather, review, evaluate and interpret information relevant to one or more of the major fields in a discipline;
3. developed critical thinking and analytical skills that can be used both inside and outside the discipline; and
4. developed the ability to apply learning from one or more areas outside the discipline and understand the value of “cross-knowledge” approached to expanding their education.
5. devise and sustain arguments or solve problems using these methods; and
6. describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research.

At the end of this course successful students should have developed qualities and transferable skills necessary for further study, employment, community involvement and other activities requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making. Throughout the course students will be taught, and encouraged to practice, behaviour consistent with academic integrity and social responsibility.

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: Permission of the instructor.

ADDITIONAL COSTS: \$3400 USD *payable upon arrival in Belize*

This fee covers all room and board expenses in Indian Church for the full five-week period as well as in-country travel associated with the project (i.e., airport transfers, weekend transportation to town, and transportation to/from the site).

This fee does not cover tuition or airfare. Students are also responsible for their own costs incurred while away from Indian Church (i.e., lunch in town, internet charges, etc.), the purchase of additional snacks, beverages, laundry services, souvenirs, entrance fees to various sites, etc. Should a student drop the course after commencement of the field season, cost may not be refundable.

Students wishing to obtain a credit for the course must register with the Trent University Registrar’s Office and pay the related tuition fee.

Trent Summer School Tuition Fees

Fees are determined by the year a student first registered at Trent.

To determine tuition fees please consult the Financial Services Summer Fees web page at

<https://www.trentu.ca/financialservices/tuitionfees/online.php>

Instructions and forms for enrolling can be found on the Trent website.

COURSE DATES: Saturday 20 May 2023 – Saturday 24 June 2023

COURSE FORMAT:

The course will be broken down into two key components, field excavation and mapping work and laboratory processing and analysis work. Saturdays will be a free day and students are free to stay in Indian Church, tour Lamanai, or join the “supply run” trucks into Orange Walk where it is possible to access e-mail, shop, and dine in

other local restaurants. (Note: students will be responsible for their own expenses incurred outside of Indian Church Village) Trips to other sites will be schedule on Sunday as possible.

Type	Day	Time	Location
Field Work	Monday – Friday	7:30 am – 4:30 pm	Ka’Kabish-Lamanai, Belize
FREE TIME	Saturdays	Leisure	Optional joining trip to Orange Walk on supply run
Trips to other sites	Sunday	11:00 am – 4:00 pm	TBD as available

Excavation Work:

The field work will run Monday to Friday, with teams leaving Indian Church Village (ICV) for the site at 7:30 am and returning around 4:30 pm. The laboratory session will run concurrently with the field work, taking place on a weekday to be determined. During the field season students will be introduced to the basic concepts of archaeological excavation, recording, and mapping. In addition to documenting their excavations on site forms (provided), students are also expected to keep a journal of their activities and observations.

The site is covered by dense rainforest. Consequently, students should be prepared for an environment that is hot, humid, and with numerous insects. They are advised to wear light-weight clothing, with pants and long-sleeve shirts or t-shirts being recommended. It is not advised to wear shorts or sleeveless/tank-tops on site. The ground is uneven and rocky and students are advised to bring good, light-weight hiking boots (day-hikers are fine) that provide ankle support. CSA rating or steel-toes are not necessary and advised against.

Laboratory Work:

Activities in the lab will include assisting with processing and identifying recovered artefacts. Students will be taught how to label and catalogue a wide variety of artefact types. Laboratory work is normally conducted at the Lamanai Archaeological Park, although some work may be done in the village. The laboratory processing and analysis work will be conducted under the supervision of the Project-Codirector Dr. Kerry Sagebiel, Northern Illinois University. Students may wear lighter clothing (t-shirts and shorts) during this work, however, decent footwear (sneakers, solid Teva-like sandals) are recommended as the ground is still uneven and you will be handling heavy bags and boxes of artefacts.

Living Arrangements:

During the course students will live in the local village of Indian Church (ICV), Belize. Accommodations consist of shared rooms with private baths at the local guest house. Meals are taken at the local women’s collective restaurant. Evenings and Saturdays are free time with trips to other sites being arranged for the weekend to expand the students’ knowledge of Maya archaeology and ancient history as weather and vehicle issues permit.

A three day break will be arranged from Friday to Sunday on the third weekend (*check with Dr. Haines prior to field season for exact dates*). During this time students will be free to stay in Indian Church or travel to the cayes, Chetumal, San Ignacio, or other local destinations. Students who wish to stay in Indian Church will have their meals and room covered. Those who wish to travel will be taken to Orange Walk, the International Airport, the Belize City municipal airport, or the Belize City island water taxi office, depending on their choice of locations. Expenses incurred while away from Indian Church are the responsibility of the student and travel arrangements are the responsibility of the student. It is recommended that students wishing travel pick up a copy of the Lonely Planet’s or Rough Guide’s volume on Belize.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Type of Assignment	Total Weighting	Final Due Date
Practical Skill – Field Work <i>(Includes attendance in field, making meaningful contributions to work, demonstration of understanding and application of excavation and survey methods, and group-work skills).</i>	45 %	On-going
Practical Skill – Laboratory Work <i>(Includes attendance, making meaningful contributions to work, demonstration of understanding and application of laboratory skills, and ability to function in a group to complete artefact processing).</i>	20 %	On-going
Field Journal <i>(review of journal on 1 June for 10% (½ of overall mark)</i>	20 %	On-going
Professionalism <i>(Includes co-operation, non-field related chores, and actions directly related to the Code of Conduct).</i>	15 %	On-going
Total	100%	

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

Practical Skills (Excavation 45% + Laboratory 20% = 65%):

The purpose of this course is to teach you proper field and laboratory techniques. Consequently, part of your grade will be based on your performance in the field and laboratory and the level of competency demonstrated in mastering the techniques as observed by the instructor and teaching assistance over the course of the class. Course attendance and the final processed state of your excavated assemblages will be considered in your grade.

The Field Journal (20%)

This is a daily account of your activities. This may be written in narrative form and detail your activities, observations, interpretations, and any ancillary information that is relevant to the work conducted (i.e., weather conditions, how you were feeling that day [illness or headaches]) or other issues that might have impaired your observation level or impacted on the work. ***You will be responsible for supplying yourself with an A90 scientific notebook to use for your journal.*** These are available through the bookstore. These journals become the property of the project and are kept on file at the end of the course. Please ensure that you get a book with *metric* graph paper, as this will make your lives much easier when it comes to mapping.

Professionalism (15%)

Archaeological work is an inter-disciplinary, co-operative effort. Therefore it is essential that you learn to work effectively with team members and strive to create and maintain a professional and collegial environment at ***all times***. While I do not expect students to like every other member of the team I do expect them to learn to tolerate each other. Incidences of bullying, inappropriate behaviour, rudeness, disrespect towards your fellow students, graduate supervisors, staff members, and/or members of the community will not be tolerated and will impact your mark. Students are expected to abide by the rules laid forth in the Code of Conduct.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Haines, H.R., and C. Tremain

2017 Ka'kabish Field Manual.

Provided electronically to students.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Burke, Heather, Claire Smith, and Larry J. Zimmerman

2009 *The Archaeologist's Field Handbook: North American Edition*. AltaMira Press, Lanham, MD.
Available through www.amazon.ca or www.abebooks.com

Coe, Michael D., and Stephen Houston

2015 *The Maya, 9th edition*. Thames and Hudson Press, London. (Available through amazon.ca)

Vorhees, Mara and Joshua Samuel Brown

2011 *Lonely Planet Guide to Belize, 4th edition*.

Field Reports Available from Ka'Kabish website at www.kakabish.org

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

- Pencil case with pen, pencil, eraser, and pencil sharpener
- Protractor
- Metal compass (the kind used for drawing a circle)
- Ruler (6-inch clear)
 - *Note: you may find it easier to buy the above items in a math kit*
- Physics Notebook with metric graph paper
- Calculator (basic sums)
- Line Level (with ability to attach to string—may be known as hanging line level)
- Metal Metric Measuring Tape (3m [it is important you can measure in cm and m, not inches])
- 5 ½" Pointing Trowel (*also called a masonry trowel – Marshalltown are the best*)
- Well-fitted durable work gloves

OFFICE HOURS:

There are no formal office hours but there are “non-office hours” (i.e., times when I ask not to be disturbed unless in case of emergency). These “non-office hours” are Monday to Friday between our return to Indian Church and dinner and Sunday mornings before 11 am.

FIVE PROJECT RULES:

I ask that students obey five simple rules to maintain project safety, integrity, and civility.

1. Dress appropriately;
2. Do not show up on site on in the lab drunk or too hung-over to work;
3. Do not engage in the purchase or distribution of illegal substances (including but not limited to marijuana, other drugs, and antiquities);
4. Do not engage in intimate relationships with members of the community; and,
5. Do strive to create and maintain a professional and collegial environment at all times.

DEPARTMENT AND COURSE POLICIES

ANTHROPOLOGY GUIDELINES:

Workshop/lab assignments will not be accepted in the anthropology office. All assignments will be collected and handed back in class or may be dropped off or picked up in the faculty offices during their office hours. The Anthropology Department will not accept assignments by fax or e-mail and is not responsible for missing assignments if they are dropped off in the Department office.

FAITH DATES/EXAMINATION PERIODS:

Students who wish to observe their cultural religious holidays during the scheduled examination periods should notify the Registrar's Office in writing. The Registrar's Office will, wherever possible, incorporate these exceptions into the scheduling of examinations. Where it is not possible to do so, the student should notify the instructor in order to make alternative arrangements.

SUBMISSION OF WORK:

Work is to be submitted in person directly to me. I am not responsible for assignments left on the desk or podium prior to my arrival. Please note **I do not accept assignments by e-mail.**

LATE SUBMISSION OF WORK:

Students are expected to be present for all written tests and exams. If students are faced with an illness, injury, or other serious emergency that has a profound impact on the academic work in this course, it is their responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss whether it would be in their best interests to drop the course or to immediately arrange an alternative assignment or deadline to complete the course successfully.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all classes, including lectures and tutorials. Consistent late attendance, particularly if it disrupts student presentations, will result in deductions to your class participation mark.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION and POLICIES

Absenteeism, Missed Tests, and Examinations

Students are responsible for completing all course requirements, including attending classes and meeting assignment deadlines as specified on their syllabus. Adjustments and deferrals to dates for participation, assignment submissions, tests, mid-terms and final examinations are not automatic. It is the student's responsibility to email their instructor immediately if they are unable to fulfill academic requirements.

Courses delivered remotely may involve student participation in scheduled (synchronous) classes via web-based platforms, such as Zoom. Students unable to participate (i.e., by video and/or audio) should email their instructors to request alternative arrangements for participation in these scheduled (synchronous) classes.

Students are required to be available for all tests, midterms and exams that are listed in their course syllabus and scheduled by their instructor or the Office of the Registrar. Depending on their program, the instructor or the chair/director may decide on alternative arrangements for exams and tests. Normally a doctor's note or supporting documentation is not required; however, when a student's success in the course or program is in jeopardy as determined by the instructor or chair/director, documentation may be requested.

Specific SAS accommodations can be implemented for students registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS), but it is the responsibility of the student to make these arrangements in advance as per SAS guidelines, and to discuss accommodations of due dates with their instructors.

Students can notify the Office of the Registrar of their wish to observe cultural or religious holidays during scheduled examination periods by the deadline set in the Academic Calendar. Personal travel plans are not acceptable reasons for missing tests or exams.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from failure on an assignment to expulsion from the University.

A short and NOT complete list of things that are considered plagiarism include:

- Copying text or images from books, articles, another student, or the web without using quotation marks and/or providing a citation;
- Quoting a movie, song, podcast, or other audio/visual media product without using quotation marks and/or providing a citation;
- Copying written answers from another student – if two students have the identical text BOTH will be deemed to have committed plagiarism;
- Sharing written answers with another student – see above punishment.

Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's *Academic Integrity Policy*. You have a responsibility to educate yourself – **unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse**. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more: www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

Access to Instruction:

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and documentation from a regulated health care practitioner and feels that they may need accommodations to succeed in a course, the student should contact the Student Accessibility Services Office (SAS) at the respective campus as soon as possible.

Faith Dates/Examination Periods:

Students who wish to observe their cultural religious holidays during the scheduled examination periods should notify the Registrar's Office in writing by the last Friday of September. The Registrar's Office will, wherever possible, incorporate these exceptions into the scheduling of examinations. Where it is not possible to do so, the student should notify the instructor in order to make alternative arrangements.

Freedom from Discrimination:

Every member of Trent University – faculty, staff or student – has a right to freedom from discrimination in the University by another faculty, staff or student member because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability. (For details, please consult Trent's Policy on Discrimination and Harassment.)

Sharing and Distribution of Course Content:

Students in this class should be aware that classroom activities (lecture, seminars, labs, etc.) may be recorded for teaching and learning purposes. Any students with concerns about being recorded in a classroom context should speak with their professor.

If a student shares or distributes course content in any way that breaches copyright legislation, privacy legislation, and/or this policy, the student will be subject to disciplinary actions under the relevant Academic Integrity Policy, the Charter of Student Rights & Responsibilities, or the Policy on the Protection of Personal Information, at a minimum, and may be subject to legal consequences that are outside of the responsibility of the university.

Academic Deadline:

The final date to drop this course without academic penalty is **TBD**

Financial Deadline:

The final date to drop this course to receive a tuition refund is **TBD**