

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

Anthropology 393

Summer 2027

Professor: Dr. Katherine Ahlrichs

Class Location: North Point State Park

Email: kahlrichs@towson.edu

Telephone: 410-704-2851

Class Time: MTWRF 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Office: LA 3358

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Course Goals: Students learn advanced techniques in archaeological research by performing as part of a research team. Archaeological survey, mapping, excavation, and laboratory techniques are emphasized. Students perform all functions as research assistants, including manual labor, recording, and data synthesis. Student activities are an integral aspect of the research design and are not conducted as secondary parts of the archaeological research. Student participation is not an academic exercise--it is the engine that drives the entire research project. Work is conducted on legitimate archaeological sites under the direction of a Principal Investigator. All work is performed in accordance with Secretary of the Interior Standards and all federal, state, and local regulatory restrictions.

Teaching Methods: Students conduct hands-on, participatory research in the field with the instructor and teaching assistants an average of 30 hours per week for 5 weeks (3 credits). In addition, reading assignments from a field manual are given. Students are taught the basics of shovel test survey techniques, but emphasis is on excavation techniques. Students learn initial artifact laboratory techniques such as cleaning, sorting, and recording of artifacts. Finally, we place a strong emphasis on provenience and context observation and recording.

Expected Outcomes: Most importantly, students will have hands-on experience in understanding the significance of appropriate field methods to answer substantive research questions. Student observational skills, analytical skills, and communication skills will all be improved through this experience. In addition, students will acquire a skill set of methods and techniques that will allow them to be successful in future archaeological projects that require more independent endeavors (e.g., archaeological technician in CRM projects).

Course Fee: A course fee of \$70 is charged for this course. This fee pays for equipment that students will keep after the class (trowel, tape measure, clipboard, and field notebook), as well as purchase and upkeep of group equipment (shovels, screens, root clippers, wire brushes, water sprayers, dust pans, whisk brooms, line levels, compasses, and 5 gallon buckets) and supplies (paper bags, contractor bags, duct tape, file folders, first aid kits, flagging tape, landscape nails, markers, notecards, pencils, pin flags, carpenter string, and plastic tarp).

READINGS:

The course textbook is a field manual given to each student at the beginning of the project. Weekly readings will be assigned from this text and will be necessary to succeed in the class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES:

Students are evaluated by three criteria, each worth one third of the final grade:

1. ability to perform research skills, including attendance, willingness to perform necessary tasks as assigned, and care and precision in completion of tasks
2. completeness of formal written documentation such as survey and inventory forms, and;
3. coherence and completeness of personal written documentation (daily journal).

Point Distribution:

	Points	Percentage
Participation	50	33.3%
Documentation	50	33.3%
Journal	50	33.3%
Total	150	100%

Grade Scale:

Percentage	Grade
94-100%	A
90-94%	A-
87-90%	B+
84-87%	B
80-84%	B-

Percentage	Grade
77-80%	C+
70-77%	C
67-70%	D+
64-67%	D
0-64%	F

Academic Integrity Policy

Per Towson University's Academic Integrity Policy, faculty members will reasonably assess that student work submitted for academic credit is authentic as well as consistent with established academic standards. Therefore, academic evaluation includes a judgment that the student's work is free from academic dishonesty of any type. Students in this course are expected to comply with Towson University's Student Academic Integrity Policy, available in full here: <https://www.towson.edu/about/administration/policies/03-01-00-student-academic-integrity-policy.html>.

Class Attendance/Absence Policy

Attendance Expectations - Students are expected to attend all classes. Regular attendance helps students understand course material and meet expectations. Students may have up to three absences without an excuse. Additional absences will require an excuse in order to receive credit for attendance. Communication about absences, even at the last minute before they happen is highly encouraged. Students in this course are expected to comply with Towson University's Class Attendance/Absence Policy, available in full here: <https://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies/class-attendance-absence-policy/>.

Excusable Absences:

- Health absences due to illness or injury when the student is unable to attend class. For repeated illness or long-term injury which prevents course completion, students may be advised to seek a medical withdrawal for that course. For illness-related absences, students are encouraged to contact the Student Outreach and Support office for additional assistance and resources.
- Wellness: Students may take one excused general wellness day to be excused from one class session per course. Students may not use a wellness day during the final exam period, in clinical placements, internships, fieldwork or in placements at other external sites.
- Religious observance where the nature of the observance prevents the student from attending class.
- Participation in University activities at the request of University authorities (e.g., intercollegiate athletics, conference/s, dance company, etc.).
- Compelling, verifiable circumstances beyond the control of the student.

Students should inform the instructor about absences as early as possible. Documentation may be required for certain types of absences (e.g., participation in University activities, as noted above), but generally, medical documentation for short term illnesses is not needed.

Make-Up Work - If a student misses class, they are responsible for any missed work.

Support Services

Students registered with Accessibility and Disability Services may be approved for an accommodation that provides some modifications to an attendance policy. The student's individualized letter of accommodation will specify the modifications.

Course Repeat Policy

Per Towson University's Course Repeat Policy, when a course is repeated, students will receive credit for the course only once. The higher of the two grades earned will be calculated in the GPA. The lower grade will remain on the record with a repeat excluded message. Students may not make a third or subsequent attempt of a course without prior approval of the Academic Standards Committee.

Withdrawal Policy

Towson University's Withdrawal Policy acknowledges that students may need to withdraw from some or all courses for medical or personal reasons. Students may withdraw themselves prior to the University's withdrawal deadline via their Towson Online Student Dashboard. This will result in the grade of W. Withdrawal requests after the withdrawal deadline require documentation of medical, mental health or personal hardship be submitted to Student Outreach & Support. TU's goal is to help students understand the impact of withdrawals, assist them in addressing their needs, and enable them to return to classes following withdrawal.

Students with Disabilities Policy

Per Towson University's Policy for Providing Reasonable Accommodations to Individuals with Disabilities, students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Accessibility and Disability Services. Students who suspect that they have a disability but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact ADS for advice on how to obtain appropriate evaluation. A memo from ADS authorizing your accommodation is needed before any accommodation can be provided.

Title IX Policy

Per Towson University's Policy on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct, TU is committed to ensuring a safe, productive learning environment on our campus that does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or intimate partner violence as outlined in the policy. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of the university administration, faculty, or staff, but keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator. If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the TU Counseling Center.

Reporting Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents

Per Towson University's Policy and Procedures for the Reporting of Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents, TU prohibits all students, staff, and faculty from committing or engaging in any hate crimes as defined under state and federal law, or any acts of bias, hate, or prejudice exhibited in conduct that is in violation of another University policy on campus, on University property, at University sponsored events, or when engaged in University activities and business on or off campus.

The University must receive notice to respond effectively to alleged Hate Crimes or Bias Incidents in the University Community. Please report or file a complaint of a Hate Crime or Bias by:

Reporting to Towson University Police:

Towson University's Police Department ("TUPD") will determine if incidents are criminal in nature. In cases of hate crimes, individuals can be punished with fines and/or imprisonment. Felony offenses demonstrated to be motivated by bias are subject to enhanced penalties. TUPD's contact information is:

University Police
Public Safety Building
290 Towsontown Blvd W. (Map)
Emergency Response Hours: 24/7
Administrative Hours: Mon -Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Emergency Phone: 410-704-4444
Non- Emergency Phone: 410-704-2134
Administrative Phone: 410-704-2505
Fax: 410-704-2976
Email: police@towson.edu

Towson University's Police Department will determine if incidents are criminal in nature. In cases of hate crimes, individuals can be punished with fines and/or imprisonment. Felony offenses demonstrated to be motivated by bias are subject to enhanced penalties.

Contacting the Office of Inclusion and Institutional Equity

Office of Inclusion & Institutional Equity
Administrative Building, Suite, 2210
Phone: 410-704-0203
Email: oiie@towson.edu

The Office of Inclusion and Institutional Equity strives to foster a culture of integrity that values shared responsibility as a critical element of an inclusive, equitable, and diverse community.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

ANTH 393, SUMMER 2027 DETAILED SCHEDULE				
Module	Date	Topic	Readings	Activities
1	5/24	Introduction to the Course*	Introduction	
2	5/25	Pre-Field Work*	Ch. 1	Literature Review, MEDUSA, Field Prep
3	5/26	History of the Project Area*	Ch. 2	Lecture, Independent Research
4	5/27	Basic Field Skills	Ch. 3	Pacing, Pace and Compass Mapping
5	5/28	Site Set Up		Site Staging and Set Up
6	6/1	Phase I Survey	Ch. 4	Shovel Testing, Soil Coring, Photography, Recordation
6	6/2	Phase I Survey		Shovel Testing, Soil Coring, Photography, Recordation
6	6/3	Phase I Survey		Shovel Testing, Soil Coring, Photography, Recordation
7	6/4	Phase II Evaluation	Ch. 5	Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
7	6/7	Phase II Evaluation	Ch. 6	Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
7	6/8	Phase II Evaluation	Ch. 7	Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
7	6/9	Phase II Evaluation		Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
7	6/10	Phase II Evaluation		Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
7	6/11	Phase II Evaluation		Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
7	6/14	Phase II Evaluation		Unit Placement, Unit Set Up, Unit Excavation
8	6/15	Phase III Mitigation	Ch. 8	Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
8	6/16	Phase III Mitigation	Ch. 9	Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
8	6/17	Phase III Mitigation		Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
8	6/18	Phase III Mitigation		Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
8	6/21	Phase III Mitigation		Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
8	6/22	Phase III Mitigation		Research Design, Unit Excavation, Feature Excavation
9	6/23	Standing Structures/Ruins	Ch. 10	Mapping, Photography
10	6/24	Backfilling		Backfilling
10	6/25	Post-Field Processes		Equipment load out, cleaning, and inventory
11	6/28	Initial Lab Work	Ch. 11	Post-field paperwork and artifact processing
11	6/29	Initial Lab Work		Post-field paperwork and artifact processing

* Class will be held in LA 3330 on these days. The remaining days will be in the field.