

**(Syllabus to be used for All Students Outside WPU also taking part in Field School. Whether or not student expects credits, skills and expectations still apply)**

**William Paterson University  
Department of Anthropology  
Anthropology Field Study: Anth 4950.01**

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**Course Information**

Semester: Summer 2015  
Location: Orkney, UK

**Professor Information**

Dr. Ruth Maher  
email: [MAHERR2@wpunj.edu](mailto:MAHERR2@wpunj.edu)  
Office: Science Bldg, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, rm 5013

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**DESCRIPTION**

This course will introduce students to the wonderful world of field archaeology on the Isle of Rousay, Orkney, UK. During the field school, students will gain a first-hand, working knowledge of archaeological survey and excavation methods at the eroding coastal site of Swandro on the Farm of Westness. Students will also be taken on a few excursions to learn about the nearby archaeological sites as well as some of the rather well-known sites on other Isles. The sites date back to the Neolithic period with some having long-term occupations from the Neolithic through the Norse period. During the course of the field school, students will apply classroom knowledge to archaeological material, practice various methods of excavation and survey, and personally see the effects of sea level rise due to global climate changes.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course seeks to help you understand:

- multi-disciplinary approaches to research and the various scientific analyses and their contributions to the more complete image of the project;
- the significance archaeological research has to key topics concerning human interactions with the landscape and environment (environmental degradation and sustainability, food production, etc.);
- how archaeologists collect and record data;
- types of analyses in archaeological research which enables archaeologists to discern patterns in the data;
- how to formulate and present a logical interpretation of the patterns;
- how archaeologists investigate and reconstruct aspects of past lifeways and the structure of ancient societies; and
- the ethical (and to some extent legal) issues surrounding the documentation, preservation, interpretation, and "ownership" of archaeological remains.

**READINGS (MOST AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD FROM LIBRARY DATABASE):**

**Required:**

Dockrill, S. J. and J. M. Bond (2009). Sustainability and Resilience in Prehistoric North Atlantic Britain: The Importance of a Mixed Paleoeconomic System. *Journal of the North Atlantic* 2:33-50.

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Card, N., Downes, J., Gibson, J., & Ovenden, S. (2007). Bringing a landscape to life? Researching and managing 'The Heart of Neolithic Orkney' World Heritage Site. *World Archaeology*, 39(3), 417-435. Doi:10.1080/00438240701464889

Phillips, T. (2003). Seascapes and landscapes in Orkney and northern Scotland. *World Archaeology*, 35(3), 371-384.

**Suggested:**

Bond, J. M. (1998). Beyond the fringe? Recognising change and adaptation in Pictish and Norse Orkney. In *Life on the Edge: Human Settlement and Marginality*, edited by C. Mills, and G. Coles, pp. 81-90. Vol. 100. Oxbow Monograph.

Guttmann-Bond, E. (2010). Sustainability out of the past: how archaeology can save the planet. *World Archaeology*, 42(3), 355-366. Doi:10.1080/00438243.2010.497377

Reardon, S. (2011). Archaeologists Race Against Sea Change in Orkney. *Science*, 334(6059), 1054-1055.

Reilly, S. (2003). Processing the dead in neolithic orkney. *Oxford Journal Of Archaeology*, 22(2), 133-154. Doi:10.1111/1468-0092.t01-1-00002

Wickham-Jones, C. (2010). The Management of Submerged Terrestrial Archaeology: An Assessment of Current Awareness of the Seabed Resource Around Scotland. *Conservation & Management Of Archaeological Sites*, 12(3), 209-236. Doi:10.1179/175355210X12827502750606

**READINGS**

Required readings should be read prior to going into the field in order to facilitate discourse and comprehension of the region, its history and the archaeology of the area.

**GRADING CRITERIA**

Your grade for the course will be based on:

1. Attendance and Participation [30%]
2. Teamwork and Initiative [30%]
3. Skills & Tool Use [20%]
4. Field Journal (Critical Thinking & Understanding) [20%]

**EVALUATION**

You will be evaluated by all of the supervisors in the field. Your first evaluation will take place just after the first week and will include your conduct, outlook, ability to work as part of a team, eagerness to learn and improve, and your general skill-level at the onset of fieldwork will be noted. Your journals will be collected and we will evaluate their substance and your ability to interpret the archaeology and understand how various archaeological methods and skills aid in that interpretation. The second evaluation will take place at the end of the field school and all of the above will once again be readdressed. We will be looking for growth and improvement. Remember, this is a field school for first-year archaeological skills and it is the first field school experience for most of you. We are here to teach you proper excavation and field methods, you are not expected to be experts in

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archaeology, however, we hope to see a marked improvement from the first days to the end of the season. We will attempt to cycle students through excavation and survey and some may even have the opportunity to learn planning and recording. The most important skill for all to learn is excavation skills, interpretation and teamwork.

**COURSE ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is required and will be considered in calculating your final grade. You are expected to be ready, on-time and able to work every day. We want you to have a wonderful experience while in Orkney, but please remember that this is unlike a course taught in a class room as we have limited time to collect the data before it is lost (forever) and we need you in top form both physically and mentally to rescue this site.

**TEAMWORK AND INITIATIVE**

Archaeology is a team sport. We work, play, sleep and live together – 24/7. Keeping the atmosphere as professional as possible is always a good idea. Its good to make friends, but try not to become divided, remember you must work together and cooperate with each other in order to get the job done properly and quickly. At the beginning of the day, don't hesitate to pick up equipment and set up on site so it's ready when we are ready to begin. At clean-up times (breaks and end of day) if you finish before a team member, don't hesitate to help out. Take breaks only during designated break times and remember we are all coming into this field school with varying skills and levels of skills and abilities. The goal is to help all of you improve on ALL of those skills AND give you a few other skills along the way!

**SKILLS AND TOOL USE**

Safety is the first goal. Please make sure to follow the rules for tool use, maintenance and storage. Equipment is expensive and difficult to replace in remote areas so care must be taken. Some of the tools you will be using include: pick-ax, trenching tool, mattock, shovel and trowel. Keep them low to the ground and never joke with the tools (e.g. swinging them at another person, use them as bats or stab at others). Also, make sure if you are not using the tools they are placed in their safety positions. We will train you on proper tool use and trowel use. You will be provided with a list of safety gear you should use at certain times during excavation and we have First Aid Certified Individuals on site and should be notified if any accidents occur while in the field. It is our hope that you will learn and understand the skills necessary during archaeological excavation and that your skills will improve with practice during the field school.

**FIELD JOURNAL (CRITICAL THINKING & UNDERSTANDING)**

We will providing journals and your assignment will be to write a daily field notes as well as taking notes during special lectures and incorporating knowledge learned during those lectures into your field notes. As the field school progresses, you will be able to connect various methods and techniques and begin to relate & interpret the archaeological strata. Finally, you should be able to understand what we are doing, what we are retrieving and how it will all contribute to the matters of global climate change, rising sea-levels and archaeological sustainability.

**What to bring**

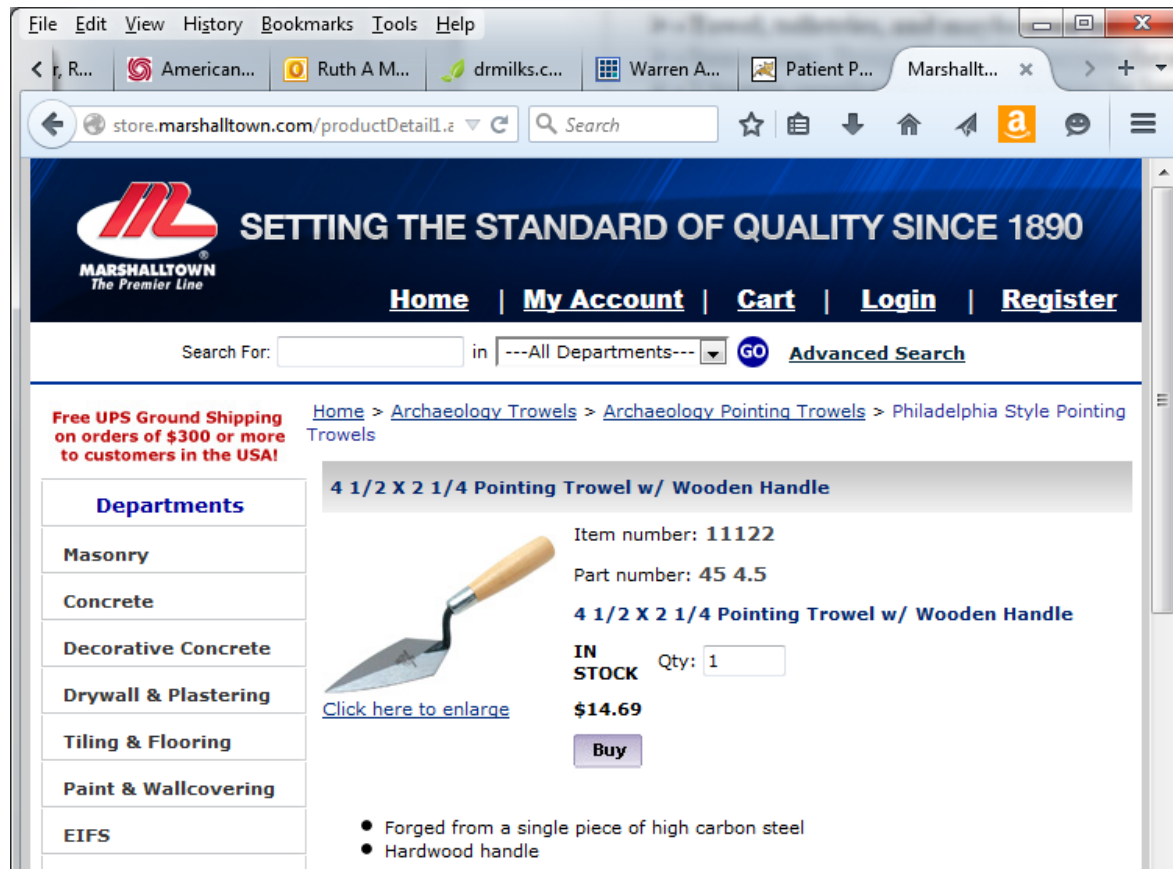
- **Passport:** It is a good practice to make a photocopy of the first page (with your picture) and carry this separately in case you lose the original.

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- **Travel & health insurance:** It is essential to have travel and health insurance coverage while you are abroad – WPU requires proof with your application.
- **Money:** Your food and accommodation will be provided during the excavation. You will pack lunches during the day-excursions. However, on your days off (if you choose to do any traveling, you will need sufficient cash in Scottish or British Pounds. (this includes the ferry and buses if you choose to make the trip into town on your days off. Please remember, the last ferry back to Rousay is around 5pm. There are no cash machines on the island of Rousay, so plan accordingly.
- **Personal medication:** Bring an adequate supply of any prescription and OTC medication you are taking. Many US over-the-counter drugs are not available, including decongestants and most cold remedies, so it is a good idea to bring an emergency supply (yes, you WILL get a cold in the field during the summer).
- **Suitable clothes:** Come prepared for all weather conditions, and to wear multiple layers.
- **Waterproofs:** Full body coverage, including both tops and bottoms. Goretex is not recommended; heavy-duty rubberized waterproofs of the kind worn by fishermen and construction workers are better. (typically \$14 for the set at Home Depot)
- **Windbreaker:** Windproof over-jacket, preferably loose enough to layer beneath.
- **Insulation:** A fleece jacket/vest, a heavy sweater, wool shirts, and thermal socks and underwear are all useful.
- **Hats:** Both a wool hat and a billed/brimmed hat (baseball cap is ok, big brimmed hat is better) are useful, the former for particularly cold days, the latter for sunny or rainy days.
- **Bandana:** Some sort of wrap for your neck is a good idea to keep the sun from burning those odd areas
- **Boots:** Sturdy, waterproof boots. (rugged hiking or construction style)
- **Work clothing:** Long trousers (2 pairs), long-sleeved shirts, T-shirts, and work gloves. Think old and sturdy.
- **Recreational clothing:** Lighter clothing to wear indoors and on your days off. Work boots should not be worn inside, so you may want to bring slippers or Birkenstocks for indoor wear.
- **Sleeping bag:** You will be using this inside (unless you plan to do any camping on your own after/before the dig.
- **Backpack/Daypack:** You will need a bag to carry extra clothes and your lunch to the field every day – you might want to get a waterproof cover for it too!
- **Water bottle and box/bags for your lunches:** You will pack your own lunch every morning, and will need something to carry it in. We will provide coffee and tea on site, but if you want anything special you may want to bring your own thermos. You can bring a sandwich holder if you'd rather not use baggies. You can buy water in town or at the bus station and use the same bottle every day if you don't want to bring a re-usable water bottle.
- **Journal, writing & reading materials:** You should come prepared to write a personal journal (compulsory assignment), and to take notes during any lectures The field journals will not be returned to you. You may also want to bring recreational reading material.
- **Eye mask and earplugs:** You will be sharing a room with other students, and may find that these accessories help you sleep.
- **Towel, toiletries, and maybe even rubbersoled footwear for the shower**
- **Sunscreen:** Bring plenty of sunscreen the sun is strong even when the air is cold!

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- **Vitamin supplements:** The diet may be lower in fruit and vegetables than you are accustomed. The restaurant will cater nutritious meals, but we nevertheless recommend that you bring your own vitamin supplements. If you have any special dietary requirements, you must let us know ahead of time.



- **Personal trowel:** Here's the website online for Marshalltown. Specs: Philadelphia 4.5 inch pointing trowel, wooden handle, flexible blade. Home Depot or other online trowels may be bought...do not get anything larger than a 4.5" blade though.
- **Camera:** If you bring a camera, remember to bring a waterproof/dust-proof bag for it (a ziplock will work too).

**What NOT to bring under any circumstances**

- Firearms
- Knives larger than a Swiss army knife
- Recreational drugs of any kind

**! Warning:** There is a zero tolerance policy towards drugs and weapons, and any student in possession of one of these items will be immediately removed from the field school without refund!

**Behavior:** Excessive drinking and other irresponsible behavior can endanger yourself and the people around you. You are expected to behave safely and responsibly at all times and expected to arrive fit for work every morning.