Washtenaw Community College Comprehensive Report

ANT 250 Archaeological Field Methods
Effective Term: Spring/Summer 2023

Course Cover

College: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Division: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Department: Social Sciences
Discipline: Anthropology
Course Number: 250
Org Number: 11710
Full Course Title: Archaeological Field Methods
Transcript Title: Archaeological Field Methods
Is Consultation with other department(s) required: No
Publish in the Following: College Catalog
Reason for Submission: New Course
Change Information:
Rationale: This course is a permanent addition to the WCC Course catalog based on the Special Topics course ANT164, which ran successfully during Spring-Summer and Fall of 2022. This course prepares students both for immediate employment in cultural resource management (CRM) and for upper division coursework in Anthropology and Archaeology.
Proposed Start Semester: Spring/Summer 2023
Course Description: In this course, students will engage in research, analysis and curation of artifacts, and practice methods utilized by archaeologists to sample and excavate a site in Washtenaw County. This course will emphasize methods for fieldwork as well as non-field activities, such as historical research, artifact cleaning and analysis, post-field report writing, and community engagement. This course provides a hands-on introduction to field archaeology and prepares students for work in cultural resource management (CRM), while also fostering stewardship for local archaeological sites, which are important non-renewable cultural resources.

Course Credit Hours

Variable hours: No
Credits: 3
Lecture Hours: Instructor: 30 **Student:** 30
Lab: Instructor: 30 **Student:** 30
Clinical: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0

Total Contact Hours: Instructor: 60 **Student:** 60
Repeatable for Credit: NO
Grading Methods: Letter Grades
Audit
Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?: NO (same sections)

College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

College-Level Math

No Level Required

Requisites

General Education

Request Course Transfer
Proposed For:
Eastern Michigan University
Ferris State University
Grand Valley State University
Michigan State University
University of Michigan
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University
Other :
Central Michigan University

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate the ability to properly conduct different field methods (e.g. shovel test pits, test unit excavation, and excavation units) with minimal supervision.
   Assessment 1
   Assessment Tool: Outcome-related practicum exam
   Assessment Date: Spring/Summer 2026
   Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
   Course section(s)/other population: All sections
   Number students to be assessed: All students
   How the assessment will be scored: Rubric
   Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 75% of students will score 75% or higher on the exam.
   Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

2. Contribute to the master field report, focusing on one aspect of data analysis and results (e.g., artifact analyses, soils and landscape analysis, technical writing, etc.).
   Assessment 1
   Assessment Tool: Outcome-related written assignment
   Assessment Date: Spring/Summer 2026
   Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
   Course section(s)/other population: All sections
   Number students to be assessed: All students
   How the assessment will be scored: Rubric
   Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 75% of students will score 75% or higher on the assignment.
   Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

3. Interact with volunteers (e.g. disseminating what students have learned to the volunteers, asking and/or answering questions, and collecting oral histories or stories), and produce a narrative of said interaction.
   Assessment 1
   Assessment Tool: Outcome-related narrative
   Assessment Date: Spring/Summer 2026
   Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
   Course section(s)/other population: All sections
   Number students to be assessed: All students
   How the assessment will be scored: Rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 75% of students will score 75% or higher on the rubric.

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

Course Objectives

1. Summarize the processes and major laws within cultural resource management (CRM).
2. Implement different methods of post-field processing, considering each material category's correct treatment.
3. Develop interpretations regarding the past human activities based on in-field observations and post-field data analyses.
4. Describe each section of (and contribute to) the different components within an archaeological field and lab report.
5. Apply what is known about the local environment, as well as field data, to contribute to in-field decision making.
6. Recognize the different time periods and associated material culture in the region of southeast Michigan and the surrounding Great Lakes region.
7. Recognize all steps of archaeological work, emphasizing non-field activities such as historical research and laboratory activities.
8. Recognize that history is shared, and that archaeological sites are sensitive, non-renewable cultural resources.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of public participation in archaeology by developing professional connections with volunteers in the lab and field.
10. Incorporate volunteer narratives into field reports, when appropriate and/or applicable.

New Resources for Course

Course Textbooks/Resources

Textbooks

Ed. Stewart. *Archaeology: Basic Field Methods*, 1st ed. Kendall-Hunt, 2002, ISBN: 0787281298.
Eds. Sutton and Arkush. • *Archaeological Laboratory Methods: An Introduction*, 1st ed. Kendall-Hunt, 2014, ISBN: 9781465243799.

Manuals
Periodicals
Software

Equipment/Facilities

Level III classroom
Other: Need access to a sink and faucet, storage for equipment and artifacts

Reviewer	Action	Date
Faculty Preparer:		
Christopher Barrett	*Faculty Preparer*	*Jan 19, 2023*
Department Chair/Area Director:		
Christopher Barrett	*Recommend Approval*	*Jan 19, 2023*
Dean:		
Scott Britten	*Recommend Approval*	*Jan 19, 2023*
Curriculum Committee Chair:		
Randy Van Wagnen	*Recommend Approval*	*Jan 26, 2023*
Assessment Committee Chair:		
Shawn Deron	*Recommend Approval*	*Jan 26, 2023*
Vice President for Instruction:		
Victor Vega	*Approve*	*Jan 28, 2023*