Huari Ancash Bio-Archaeological Project

Field School

Syllabus, Summer 2025

Course: Methods and techniques in Field Archaeological

Director

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Supervisor

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Lic. Oscar Loyola – Physical anthropology and Forensic

Dates Summer 2025

Season 01 June 8-29

Season 02 June 29 – July 19.

Credits

04 credits through our academic partner **Universidad Nacional Santiago Antunez de Mayolo. Peru.**

Certificated of completion

120 hours of Field and lab work issue by the Huari-Ancash Bioarchaeological project.

Field 60 h

Lab. 60 h

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Bio-Archaeology is the study of the human past through the analysis of material and human remains and their contexts. The scope of archaeology is vast, covering our earliest human ancestors and continuing to the present day. Modern archaeology is also an important source of national, cultural and ethnic identity and for those reasons is relevant to understanding the world we live in today. To conclude, the goal of this course provide with field experience to participants in the diverse stage of Bio-Archaeological Research and also introduce students to the objectives, theories, methods, and analytical techniques that underpin modern archaeology. By using our research as case studies to illustrate key themes in archaeological research. This course will also provide the basis for more advanced classes.

LOCATION

The Field school will take place in Peru, region Ancash, province of Huari, District of Huari. Located about 400 km northeast from Lima, Peru's capital. Survey and excavation will be focused in the Huaritambo valley.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Read and use topographic maps, compasses and global positioning systems (GPS)
- Identify human made and natural features on the terrain.
- Survey for archaeological sites, including recording and mapping
    - Surface Collection
    - Site location and registration
    - Test Pits
- Understand the basics of archaeological excavation
    - Stratigraphy identification
    - Set up excavation grids
    - Profile drawings
- Understand the basics of human osteology and forensic
    - Bones identification
    - Taphonomy
    - Minimal Number of Individuals

- Cultural material analysis
    - Classification
    - Labeling/Cleaning
    - Ceramic drawings
- Understand the significance of preservation of cultural sites
- Work effectively in groups
- Have a working knowledge of Andean prehistory
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Additionally, this course is designed to offer students an introduction to key archaeological methods, concepts and theories, through a series of lectures.

- Discuss key archaeological concepts.
- Describe the major dating techniques in archaeology.
- Explain site formation processes.
- Outline some of the major issues for understanding humanity's ancient past.
- Articulate the importance of understanding the human past to comprehend contemporary issues.

TEXTBOOK

Principles of Archaeology
T. Douglas Price and Kelly J. Knudson (2018)
Thames and Hudson. Second Edition.
ISBN 978-0-500-29336-2

Tim White and Pieter Folkens (2005)
The Human Bone Manual. Academic Press (we have several copies in our lab).

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1. Lectures

Lectures will be throughout all the field school, particularly during the first days. Lectures also will be in the evenings; the house has a room with a projector.

Introduction **to Archaeology and Archaeological Questions**
Textbook Chapter 1 and 4

The Archaeological Record and Field Work
Textbook Chapter 5 and 6

Discussion about excavation techniques to be used during the project
Large grid setup
Drawing Profiles
Photo recording

Funeral Tradition in North Highlands of Peru

Regional variation in funeral patterns from 200 BC until 1500 A.D.

Cultural Practices on Human remains

Cranial Modification and Trepanation in Ancient Peru

Principles of Forensic Anthropology

The Theory and the Field

Human Osteology

Bone identification

2. Field Work Description

- Survey for locating Funeral Caves in Huaritambo Valley
- Excavation in the complex of Tombs in Ampas

- Survey Huaripampa, tombs complex

3. **Lab work**
    - Bones identification from material excavated
    - Material cleaning (bones, ceramic, lithics)
    - Identifying Taphonomy in the bones
    - Photos and Inventory of material recovered

Schedule day by day

It can change due to weather conditions, health issues, or another unexpected reason, like finding things more interesting in one place and dedicating more time. This is real research, with the excitement and disappointment that archaeology gives.

Also, we will make groups under one supervisor to cover different activities at different sites or labs at the same time. The survey will consider the fitment of students for hard hiking. Remember, you will be in the Andes at a high altitude between 11,500 to 14,800 ft of altitude.

Mostly in the first week I introduce lectures (while you adapt to the altitude) then archaeological survey. Excavation is the second weeks, we camp on the site while the excavations. There is no electricity at Ampas, so there are no lectures. The following week we combine, lab, osteology workshop, survey, and information processing..

Day 1. Meeting in Lima (12m) and traveling to Huari at 6pm.

Day 2. Arrive Huari at 6 AM. Introduction Meeting, explaining house rules and project layout (morning). First lecture. Lectures at 3 pm

Day 3. Lectures 9-112m; 3-5pm; Metting for explain the survey 8.PM

Day 4. Survey to Reparin (800 -200 a.C.)

Day 5. Survey to Yana Alma (1000-1400 d.C)

Day 6. Survey Soledad de Tambo and royal Inca Road)1476 – 1532 d.C.)

Day 7. Rest and preparation logistic for Ampas excavation

Day 8. Depart from Huari to Ampas.
Day 9 – 15. Excavations in Ampas
Day 16. Return and day off .
Day 17 - 18. Lab in Forensic and Physical Anthropology
Day 19. Lab in Ceramic and Photogrammetry
Day 20. Lab in Ceramic and Photogrammetry
Day 21. Visit to Chavin de Huantar and Museo Arqueologico de Chavin.
Day 22. Returning to Lima.

During the lab work, we dive in two groups, so one group od an activity in the morning and another activity in the afternoon.
The supervisor in Physical Anthropology is also participating in the excavation, therefore when bones are found, students will be called and give an explanation on how to proceed in the field.