Field school in Paleoanthropology and Paleolithic Archaeology

Course details

Credits: 6
Dates: July 20 - August 20, 2014

The course is available to 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students, and graduate students. The course is offered through The University of Winnipeg. Applications from graduate and upper level undergraduate students from other universities are welcome. Among the applicants from outside The University of Winnipeg, priority is given to students with a career interest in Paleoanthropology, Paleolithic Archaeology and Paleontology.

Students will participate in the excavation of the Šalitrena (pronounced Shalitrena) cave and the survey of the surrounding area, processing of artifacts and soil samples, as well as all phases of the documentation and basic analyses of the recovered material. In addition to the field and lab work, there will be several formal lectures in different aspects of the project by specialists working on the project and distinguished visitors. Students will be supervised by a team member, each of whom will be responsible for providing instruction and support for no more than three students at any time during the field work.

Lectures and workshops in data recording, lithic technology, human osteology and quaternary paleontology will be held throughout the field season. Spontaneous discussions and expression of individual interests are particularly encouraged.

Excursions Two days in Belgrade upon arrival and visits to Mesolithic and Roman sites in Eastern Serbia, Vratna Cave Natural Park, Monastery complex of Manasija, and a free day in Valjevo are planned for the duration of the Field School.

Grading: Will be based on six reading assignments (30%) to be submitted before the field season begins; field performance (20%) and team work (20%) based on observations by the field supervisors and instructors, and a log book (30%). Each student will keep a log book of activities in the field with details of documentation. Registration and grading will be administered by The University of Winnipeg, which will issue a formal grade by the 15th of September. All required work must be completed by August 30th. Late submissions will result in reduction in mark at 5% of the mark per day for the first five days, after which submission of the material will no longer be possible.

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor. Enrollment is limited. To ensure a place on the team applicants should send their application before March 1st, 2013. While space might be available after that date, preference will be given to students applying before that time.

Undergraduate students should list any relevant courses such as one of the following University of Winnipeg courses or equivalent courses from other universities:

- ANTH 2220 (Archaeological Field School)
- ANTH 3306 /4306 (Human Osteology)
- ANTH 3308/4308 (Human Evolution)
• ANTH-3302/4302 (Primate Adaptation, Biology, and Evolution)
• ANTH-3206 (The Origins of Human Culture)
• ANTH-3207 (Zooarchaeology)
• ANTH-3204 (Issues in Prehistoric Archaeology)
• ANTH-3210 (Archaeological Laboratory Methods)
• ANTH-4303 (Problems in Human and Primate Evolution)
• ANTH-4305 (Problems in Biological Anthropology)
• ANTH-4307 (Advanced Human Osteology)

The course is offered through the University of Winnipeg based on an on-going field collaboration of the University of Winnipeg Professor Mirjana Roksandic (Paleoanthropologist) and the Senior Curator of Paleolithic and Mesolithic collections Bojana Mihailovic (National Museum, Belgrade) and Belgrade University Professor Dusan Mihailovic. Participation of Canadian and International students will be governed by the rules and regulations of The University of Winnipeg, Faculty of Science. The students will be responsible for following the set practices of the field project, and reporting to supervisors, instructor, and the PIs.

Location

Šalitrena cave, (near Valjevo) in Serbia.
Šalitrena pećina is a cave in Western Serbian near the village of Mionica, at the northeast tip of a Dinaric mountain range. On the banks of the river Ribnica, a tributary of the Sava river basin, the cave is located at 277 m above sea level. First excavated on a small scale in mid 1980s the cave has been subject to large scale excavations since 2004 under the direction of Bojana Mihailovic, Senior Curator of the Paleolithic and Mesolithic at the National Museum in Belgrade. The excavations over 30m2 of the area of the cave unearthed several layers of Upper Paleolithic characterized by Gravettian and Aurignacian techno complexes and have reached Mousterian layers in some parts of the cave. So far, the cave has produced more than 7000 flint artifacts, numerous animal bones, and several combustion structures.

This field school for upper level undergraduate and graduate students with previous experience in archaeology and/or human osteology will allow students to get their field experience in a unique and very important project, learn best excavation and documentation practices, participate in the study of paleontological and archaeological material and potentially become long-term members of the team.

The excavations follow the most up to date standards of Paleolithic excavations: in a unit of 0.25 x 0.25m, excavations will follow natural layers subdivided in no more than 5 cm artificial layers with recording in situ of all artifacts, animal bones, samples, colour changes and ecofacts larger than 3 cm. Each student will be responsible for excavation, documentation and basic processing of all recovered artifacts, animal and human bones as well as all the samples taken during the excavation in her/his particular area. Up to three students will be supervised by an experienced team member (ETM) and all will be supervised by the Senior Curator responsible for the project and the Professors (PIs). The ETMs will be responsible for providing immediate directions,
instruction in excavation techniques, and discussions of possible significance of the finds. PI will be responsible for the general direction of the excavation and analyses. Work will be organized in morning sessions for excavations and evening sessions for processing of the material, documentation and lectures.

**Tuition:** $874.21 + $25.00 application fee.
Food and lodging: $64.00 per day = $1600.00
Excursions: = $420
Field transportation: $200
On site supervision: $660
Airfare + travel insurance: $2020 (estimate based on a Winnipeg departure; subject to change/alternative arrangements can be made by students)

**Total cost for student without airfare $3779.21.** Total approximate cost for student with airfare (based on a Winnipeg departure) $5,799.21, subject to change depending on the departure airport and the cost of airfare at the time of booking the flight.

**Accommodations and food:** Students and the team will be lodged either in a local hotel (two students per room) which provides restaurant-style food, or in private accommodation (depending on the availability). Food restrictions and allergies should be made known at the time of registration in order to make needed arrangements.

**Medical facilities** are available in the vicinity in the city of Valjevo which has a full Clinical center. **All students must obtain travel health insurance prior to the start of the field school, and provide details of their plan to Dr. Roksandic.**

Enrollment is limited. To ensure a place on the team, applicants should send their application before **March 15th, 2014.** While space might be available after that date, preference will be given to students applying before that time.

**Apply On-line:**
Fill in the application form, save it and send to instructor and department chair, Mirjana Roksandic at m.roksandic@uwinnipeg.ca

[Application Form](#)