

**Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site
Educators Archaeological Field School
Course Syllabus**

East Tennessee State University
College of Education, Curriculum & Instruction
Course Title: Learning TN History by Digging up the Past: Excavation & Analysis
Course #: CUA1 4957 & CUA1 5957
Credit Hours: 3
Instructors: Penny McLaughlin, Ed.D.
 Executive Director, Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site
 Daniel Brock, Site Archaeologist
Dates: June 2nd – July 3rd, 2008
Times: Monday – Friday
 9:00am – 3:00pm

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce archaeological method and theory to Tennessee educators. Through participation in archaeological excavation and lab processing teachers are exposed to the process of archaeology in the expectation of applying this knowledge to education in the classroom.

Topics covered during the course include Tennessee history, excavation techniques, recording methods, mapping, geophysical techniques, as well as artifact processing and cataloging. The significance of the Tipton-Haynes site in association with its archaeological material remains will also be discussed.

The overall goal of this course is to give teachers the opportunity to experience archaeology first-hand. This in turn is used to develop an understanding of archaeological concepts and how to relate this information to a classroom setting to educate Tennessee students through archaeologically relevant lesson plans.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend every class during the summer semester. More than one unexcused absence will result in the deduction of one point for each subsequent absence from the final grade. The only acceptable excuse for absence is illness, which must be documented by a letter from a doctor.

Students will assist the site archaeologist and archaeology assistant in the excavation of the Tipton-Haynes site. They will also complete required documentation of these

excavations. Artifacts will be processed under the supervision of the site archaeologist. This also includes the completion of any necessary paperwork associated with cataloging. Being that Tipton-Haynes is opened to the public, students will also be expected to interact with and educate visitors to the site while working. Students will also perform other tasks as required (setting up, moving equipment, etc.).

Physical requirements maintain that you must be in good physical health in order to accomplish tasks associated with fieldwork. This includes heavy lifting of equipment, physical work associated with soil excavation, and working in an outdoor environment during the summer months.

Another requirement is the completion of field notes for the duration of the course. Students will record daily information regarding their excavation units, artifacts discovered, sketch drawings, questions, insights, and possible interpretations, problems encountered, and any information they feel contributes to our understanding of their activities on site. Please record all of your observations no matter how trivial they might seem. These field notes will be turned in at the end of the course and become a permanent part of the field records for the year.

Readings will also be assigned and discussed weekly. These will be pertinent to the understanding of site, local, and regional archaeology/history. We will meet once a week to discuss the assigned readings which will be presented to the student upon arrival.

Lectures and discussion will also take place daily regarding site activities and finds but will mainly center on the application of these concepts to critical thinking and science-based approaches to problem solving in the classroom.

Work Schedule

The course will be held over a five-week period from June 2nd-July 3rd, 2008. The scheduled days are Monday through Friday from 9am until 4pm.

The first week of the course will focus on an introduction to the site and archaeological methods and techniques. Preparation for excavation, mapping and recording techniques, and geophysical methods will be reviewed.

The following weeks will consist of excavation followed by lectures in the late afternoon. Lab work will be dependent upon weather and the amount of recovered materials. Fridays we will also break early for discussion of readings and a review of the weeks findings.

Grading Scale

-Attendance	– (Mandatory)	A – (91-100)
-Field/Lab Participation	– (60%)	B – (81-90)
-Lecture/Discussion	– (20%)	C – (71-80)
-Field Notes	– (10%)	D – (61-70)
-Readings	– (10%)	F – (60 or below)

Miscellaneous

All the necessary field equipment is available on site, but you may want to bring your own personal small tools, camera, and writing equipment. You should also bring your own personal field items (hat, sunglasses, bandannas, sunscreen, bug repellent, work gloves, etc.). All of these items are very important as you will be working in an outdoor environment with heat and insects.

Plan to dress for comfort and hard work in hot weather. Shorts or long cotton pants and T-shirts work best, especially when digging. Since we will be working in view of many visitors to the site, we ask that you dress neatly and cleanly and please observe the following: wear modest clothing with appropriate coverage and no T-shirts printed with obnoxious messages. You will sometimes be using a shovel, so it is best to bring shoes with a good sturdy sole. Heavier athletic shoes or comfortable work boots are all good choices.

Lunches will be provided by the student and eaten on site. We will break for a half-hour to 45 minutes a day for lunch.

Class Courtesy

Students will refrain from answering cell phones during class except in the case of an emergency. Also please remember that this is a functioning state historic site and museum; therefore, be courteous to visitors and employees of the site.