

Saint Mary's College Summer Field School in Historical Archaeology

In 1812, the Russian-American Company established their southernmost outpost on a marine terrace some 60 miles north of today's San Francisco. From 1816 until 1827, Russian, Aleut, Creole, and Native Californian



workers hunted sea otter, established an agricultural enterprise, a brickyard, a tannery, a forge, a cooperage, and launched the first six sailing vessels ever built on California's west coast. In developing their outpost, the Russians also built a Russian-style windmill, the location of which is vaguely depicted on a map produced in 1817.

In anticipation of the 2012 bicentennial of the colony's founding, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), in conjunction with the Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA), have begun formulating a plan to reconstruct the Russian windmill on its original site. As part of the on-going Fort Ross



Archaeological Project, this field class will conduct remote sensing surveys to enhance those conducted during earlier investigations, and will undertake controlled archaeological excavations to determine the source of the anomalies identified in the remote sensing surveys. The field school is a research-based learning experience that exposes students to a variety of activities including archival research, remote sensing surveys, data interpretation, archaeological excavation, mapping, data recovery, and artifact cataloging.

The field school will be conducted from May 30 – June 8, 2008. Classroom work related to California history and the history of the Russian-American Company will comprise the first portion of the field school. In the remainder of the course, students will conduct remote sensing surveys and archaeological excavation, mapping, artifact cataloging, and artifact curation.

Students will receive a full-course upper division anthropology credit. The field school meets the fieldwork requirement for anthropology majors or minors with an archaeology focus, or may be counted as an upper division anthropology elective. Doctor James M. Allan of the Anthropology Department is the program director. Dr. Allan has extensive experience in archival research, remote sensing, and archaeological field methods.

Course enrollment will be limited to 8 students and will initially be open only to anthropology majors with an Archaeology concentration.

There are no academic prerequisites, but preference will be given to students who have completed Introduction to Archaeology (Anthro 5), or its equivalent at other institutions.

The field school will be conducted at Fort Ross State Historic Park over the ten day period from May 30 – June 8, 2008. There will be no days off during this period and students will be expected to attend every day-long session. Students will be required to keep a field journal containing details of each day's research activities, instruction, and procedures. Journals will be submitted for evaluation at the end of the field school. In addition, students will attend periodic lectures in the evenings that will be given by guests from the Department of Parks and Recreation, U.C. Berkeley, the Kashaya Pomo, and other authorities on the Russian, Native Alaskan, and Native Californians who comprised the Ross community.

Tuition

Tuition for the field school is \$2,305, which is all-inclusive and is based on a minimum enrollment of six students. If less than six students enroll in the course, a course fee will be added to cover expenses.

Living Accommodations

Fort Ross State Historic Park has made the “Archy Camp” available for use during the field school. The camp has a fully-equipped kitchen, and two bathrooms with showers. Students and faculty will sleep in tents on the camp grounds, which are not open to the public. Students will be responsible for providing their own tents and sleeping accommodations.

Meals

All meals are included in the tuition fee. Each student will prepare his or her own breakfast and lunch. Dinners will be prepared by teams of two students who will be assigned in accordance with a daily rota.

Transportation

Limited space will be available in the College’s van that will be used during the field school. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this transportation or to car pool with other members of the field school, as parking at Archy Camp is limited.

Application Procedures

Please submit the enclosed application form to:

Professor James Allan
Saint Mary’s College of California
Department of Anthropology
PO Box 4613
Moraga, CA 94575

For additional information, please e-mail
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Fort Ross State Historic Park

May 30 – June 8, 2008