

2019 Archaeological Survey & Mapping in Belize
University of New Hampshire
Field School Session: January 2-20, 2019

Preliminary Information
(Updated September 2018)



Field School 2015



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For The Most Recent Information Visit:

<http://cola.unh.edu/study-abroad/program/belize-mapping>

Application Deadline: September 30, 2018

For an application, go to: <http://cola.unh.edu/study-abroad/program/belize-mapping/apply>



To Apply

If you want to participate on the Belize Archaeological Field School, you must first complete an online application through the [UNH Via study abroad portal](#) prior to the application deadline.

First-time users will be instructed to set up a profile. Once prompted to search for the program you're interested in, you should search for "Belize" and find the "UNH Belize J-Term Program". Select the program to access the online application and follow the instructions. If you have already set up a UNH Via profile, you can access the program page and start your application directly at: <https://unh-global.via-trm.com/client/programs/2375>.

There are no pre-requisites or additional requirements to join the program aside from the standard [UNH eligibility requirements](#). However, **it is important for all prospective participants to be fully aware of the conditions of the field school and expectations of the participants:**

- 1) The project requires all participants to live and cooperate in close quarters with others and involves hard physical labor in a hot, tropical environment, often hiking into remote parts of the jungle.
- 2) Roads are not always going to be paved and in good condition and some riverside sites are only accessible via canoe.
- 3) Survey entails hiking through the jungle while wearing snake guards and a backpack (carrying up to a gallon of water).
- 4) Excavation (also expected of all students) entails lifting up to 25 pounds, swinging a pick, and using a shovel, in addition to more detailed work using a trowel, dental pick, and paint brush.

The closing date for applications is September 30. All applications for the program go through a review process. Acceptance to a study abroad program is based on this review, fulfillment of GPA and academic requirements, and approval by the COLA Center for Study Abroad. All approved applicants are required to pay a deposit of \$500 that must be received by October 22. Accepted students will be provided instructions on how to pay this deposit online.

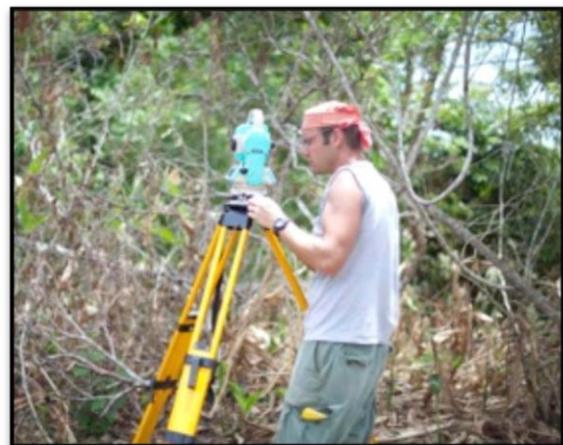


Background on the Field Program

The UNH-managed Archaeological Survey & Mapping in Belize (ANTH 674) is a 4-credit intensive course that involves hands-on training in field reconnaissance, survey and mapping of archaeological sites, and the use of ArcGIS software in the production of site maps. Students also will rotate teams and get some exposure to field excavation techniques and lab work. The field course is primarily aimed at preparing

students how to accomplish all aspects of field survey and mapping and focuses on the recording of ancient Maya archaeological sites in the lower Belize River Watershed. This program in Belize is offered through the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and managed through the [COLA Center for Study Abroad](#) and is supported by the [Department of Anthropology](#) and the [UNH Global Education Center](#) at UNH and will be of interest to a wide range of students, including those studying archaeology, geography, forestry and environmental studies, architecture and urban planning, and geology, among other fields.

The Archaeological Survey & Mapping in Belize course is not a typical study abroad—the program offers college students a rare opportunity to be participants in an active archaeological investigation of ancient Maya sites. The results of the fieldwork contribute directly to Dr. Harrison-Buck’s ongoing Belize River East (BREA) research project (see below). In addition to the Director, the BREA project includes a group of highly experienced staff members, including graduate and PhDs trained in Maya archaeology, survey, mapping, and ArcGIS software. Because we keep the field school small (max. 10-12 students), the program offers an incredible staff to student ratio, with intensive, one-on-one instruction in archaeological field and laboratory methods from staff who all have years of field



experience and can share their various areas of expertise in archaeology.

The course consists of nightly lectures on a variety of topics related to survey and mapping and ancient Maya settlement archaeology. Evening labs will include hands-on practicums, such as artifact analyses with one-on-one training from Program staff, all professionally trained archaeologists. During evening labs, students also will receive training in post-processing data and creating maps in ArcGIS. The goals of the course are to: **a)** provide students with an overview of ancient Maya settlement archaeology and **b)** offer students a thorough understanding and hands-on working knowledge of how archaeological sites are recorded through various survey and mapping techniques, as well as the final map production using ArcGIS software. The program also includes an excursion with several archaeological sites tours of nearby Maya ruins, including the large centers of Altun Ha and Lamanai, as well as optional trips during a free long weekend.



About BREA

Dr. Eleanor Harrison-Buck has been doing archaeology in Belize for over 25 years and initiated the Belize River East Archaeology (BREA) project in 2011. She is responsible for all aspects of the UNH field course, including lectures, in-field instruction and supervision, and direction of all field and laboratory work. Two experienced Teaching Assistants at the graduate or post-doctoral level will assist in the field course, helping to train students in survey and mapping of archaeological sites in the BREA

study area. Permission to survey and excavate sites in the BREA study area has been granted to the PI by the [Belize Institute of Archaeology](#).



The Belize River East Archaeology (BREA) project represents the first comprehensive archaeological survey and excavation to be carried out in the eastern or lower half of the Belize River watershed (See map below). The Belize River is a large and navigable waterway with its headwaters in Belize and Guatemala. The river flows 180 miles (290 km) across central Belize to where it drains into the Caribbean Sea and the entire watershed is around 11,000 km². The mid-to-lower reaches of the Belize River Watershed east of Roaring Creek comprise the BREA study area.

Measuring roughly 6000 km², the BREA study area includes the main trunk of the Belize River and several of its major tributaries, including Saturday Creek, Beaver Dam Creek, Labouring Creek, Spanish Creek, Black Creek, as well as the lagoon systems around the Crooked Tree area (see Map figure for extent of BREA study area in gray). Our overall goal is to develop a more comprehensive settlement history for the lower half of the Belize River Watershed and get a better sense of the settlement density in this area

For the latest information on the BREA project and to learn more about the sites we have investigated previously, please visit: <http://www.breaproject.org>



2019 Field Research Plans

Preliminary plans for the 2019 field season will involve work at several different locations in the BREA study area, not more than 30-40 minute drive or boat ride from our base camp at Tillet's Lodge. One site where we will focus our efforts in mapping is the Maya site of Ek' Tok, a sizeable site located on the shore of a lagoon just west of the Crooked Tree island and just north of Chau Hiix, the largest Maya center in the area. If time permits, we may also investigate other nearby sites in the area, including Kunahmul just outside of the Maya site center of Altun Ha and possibly an historic site in Crooked Tree village. Several of our surveyors also will continue to conduct reconnaissance in the surrounding area, where we have found an abundance



of ancient Maya settlement. This is a chance to discover previously unrecorded ruins hidden in the forest!

Estimated Cost

The cost of the program is estimated:

- Study Abroad Program Fee: \$2280
- Plus 4 credit hours of tuition: \$1,836 (in-state); \$2,204 (out-of-state)
- Mandatory UNH fees (administration, technology, registration, and insurance fees): \$216
- Airfare, estimated : \$650-\$750

The Study Abroad Program Fee includes:

- All student transportation in Belize once the project begins until it ends
- Two-trip to visit several restored archaeological sites (all meals and lodging included)
- Lodging at Tillett's Lodge (students will share a room with other students)
- Three meals/day (7 days/week while at the lodge)

Passport and Visa Information: US citizens do not need a visa to travel to Belize for stays shorter than 6 months. However, you do need a passport. If you don't have one or if your current one expires before July 2019, you should apply for one immediately. The process is not difficult. Visit the US Department of State website for more information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/apply-renew-passport.html>.



Insurance Information: All students are covered on a comprehensive international insurance and travel assistance plan. You can find more details on this coverage online through the UNH Global Education Center: <https://www.unh.edu/global/insurance-0>

Belize Health and Safety Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Information for Travelers to Belize: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/belize>
- US Department of State, Belize Country Information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Belize.html>



Receiving Credit for the Field Program

Students attending the University of New Hampshire are required to enroll in ANTH 674, Archaeological Survey and Mapping in Belize, for the Jan Term session. Students at other universities can easily be admitted to the UNH program for the January Term and enroll in the course, but must fill out an application. The COLA Center for Study Abroad will register all program participants.

Course Objectives (ANTH 674)

This intensive, 4-credit-hour course offered during the Jan Term is designed to introduce students to the methods used to collect and analyze archaeological data in a hands-on field setting. Students will receive instruction in survey, mapping, and field excavations of archaeological sites. Our anticipated student to staff ratio on this course is roughly 3:1, ensuring that students receive a great deal of individual attention and training in archaeological field techniques.



Course Requirements & Grading

Grades are based on student participation and their performance in daily field activities and nightly labs with scheduled days off for travel or relaxation at the Tillett's Village Lodge (for daily schedule see below). Assisted by program staff, each student will be graded on their participation in the survey, mapping, and excavation of archaeological field sites in the study area. During the evenings, students will be required to attend lectures and practicums where they will learn about Maya archaeology, settlement mapping, and how to produce site maps using ArcGIS software. At the end of the course, students will be graded on a final field practicum. This mapping exercise will involve surveying a site, mapping it with a Total Station, and producing a digital map in ArcGIS. Throughout the course, students will keep a survey notebook that they also must submit at the end of the course as part of their final grade.

Grading breakdown for ANTH 674 is as follows:

Field & Lab Participation: 25%

Survey Notebook: 25%

Final Mapping Exercise: 50%



Description of the Location

The field school will be based out of [Tillett's Lodge](#) in Crooked Tree (shown below), located less than an hour north of the Belize International Airport. The village is located in a beautiful spot along the Western Lagoon—the largest inland wetland in all of Belize. This 16,400 acre wetland system is part of a protected wildlife sanctuary that hosts up to 400 different species of birds, including the largest bird in the Americas, the endangered Jabiru, which uses the nearby area as its nesting ground. Crooked Tree is a small, rural Creole village, consisting of dirt roads, a handful of restaurants, and simple thatch and cement houses. The village is surrounded by wetlands, jungle, and areas of cleared pasture where cattle are regularly seen roaming. Students will share rooms at Tillet's Lodge (3-4 students a room). The lodge (shown below) will provide three meals a day to all field school students and staff, including a daily breakfast, pack lunch for field excursions, and a sit-down dinner in their thatch palapa dining room.



Tentative Program Schedule

Thursday, November 15 at 1p.m. Mandatory Pre-departure Orientation Meeting for University of New Hampshire Students, Huddleston Hall, Archaeology Lab (Rm. G16)

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| <p>Typical Field Day 5:30am Coffee & Breakfast served 6:00am Depart for the field 11:30am-12pm Break for lunch 2:45pm Leave the field 3:30pm Back in camp Free time (1 hour artifact washing 2-3 afternoons/week) 5:45-6:30pm Dinner 6:45-8:00pm Lab</p> | <p>January 2 You are responsible for your own travel to and from Belize. You must be at the airport in Belize City on January 2. Group assembles at Goldson International Airport (Belize City). Once everyone has arrived, we will travel by van to Tillett's Village Lodge (~45 minute ride). January 3 Orientation day with tour of BREA study area. January 4 Regular field and lab schedule (see Typical Field Day schedule above). January 5-6 Program-sponsored field trip to Maya sites of Lamanai & Altun Ha. January 7-11 Regular field and lab schedule. January 12-14 Long weekend students free to travel. January 15-18 Regular field and lab schedule. January 19 Last day in camp (Final Mapping Exercise, pack, etc); Evening Farewell Party. January 20 We'll load everyone's belongings and take students back to the Belize International Airport for departure to US.</p> |
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