



ARCH 351: Archaeological Field Workshop II

Course Syllabus

Summer Session 2026

Instructors: Prof. Giampiero Bevagna, MA, Prof. Pedar Foss, PhD, Prof. Rebecca Schindler, PhD, in cooperation with the IntraGeo team of professional archaeologists

Credits: 3

Contact Hours: 45+

Prerequisites: None

Workshop Hours: Please see week-by-week schedule below

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Type: Field Workshop

Lab Fee: 275.00 USD

This is a mandatory course for returning students of the TRASIMENO ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL.

Course Description

The Trasimeno Archaeology Field School is a long-term project based on a holistic approach to research that integrates geographical and chronological spectra of data about human activity in the past, from regional to local scale, and from prehistory to the early modern period. In addition, the project is dedicated to understanding the dynamic human-environmental and intercultural relationships that shaped (and continue to shape) this sensitive area.

Students returning to the Trasimeno Archaeology Field School (alumni/ae) or pre-approved experienced undergraduates will have had a solid foundation of archaeological training and experience prior to this course. In this course, they will be responsible for helping manage the operations of the project, including supervising and recording excavation areas (“trenches”), organizing group work by first-time students, assisting with equipment and supplies, and carrying out whatever regular archaeological tasks need doing as the project progresses.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measures Course requirements that will be used to assess students' achievement for each learning outcome
Understand how to carry out (and teach to new students) basic archaeological survey functions, such as GPS and GIS, to document the location of archaeological finds.	Field participation; summary conversation
Supervise new students in the excavation of an archaeological site using the stratigraphic method.	Field participation; summary conversation
Organize and instruct new students in the recording procedures (photography, context sheets; section, plan, and feature drawing; site maps) for an archaeological excavation.	Field participation; notebook and documentation; summary conversation
Recover, identify, interpret, and help document artifacts and	Field participation; notebook and

features, contexts and stratigraphy from their excavation area.	documentation; summary conversation
Help the directors prepare basic reports (documentation of inventory and field results.	Field participation; notebook and documentation; summary conversation

Course Materials

Readings

• No readings are anticipated, but depending on discoveries in the field or storerooms, students may be asked to research certain materials, finds, or questions.

Prerequisites

ARCH/CLAS 350 taken through enrollment in the Umbra Institute's summer Archaeology Field School, or special permission, based on the previous archaeological experience of the applicant.

Assessment

- Fieldwork Participation & Leadership 50%
- Notebook and Documentation 30%
- Summary Conversation 20%

Grading

Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional Excellent
A-	90% - 92%	
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Course Requirements

The Archaeological Field Workshop II consists mostly of a practicum. Grades are based on active engagement, effort, attentiveness to context and details, care, thoughtfulness, attitude, and leadership and example for the new students. Students should adopt a serious, cooperative, and productive attitude to the instructor and to fellow students. Not respecting the schedule, not acting with a duty of care for other students, or behaving improperly may lead to a lowering of students' final grade.

• *Class and Fieldwork Participation (50%)*

In the field, students participate (picking, troweling, sweeping, cleaning walls and features, shoveling, sorting, wheelbarrow, recording procedures, washing, sorting, and recording finds, etc.) and supervise those activities in consultation with the instructors and professional staff. Students will be assigned to direct certain areas of the site and will be responsible for the excavation, maintenance, and artifacts from those areas.

A typical working day schedule; times refer to students on the site, ready to work:

- Full day: 6:30-13:30, with 15-min. breaks ca. 9:00 and 11:00
- Part day: 7:00-12:00, with a 15-min. break at 9:30

While new students will be attending class lectures, returning students in this course will be directly working with the site directors and staff on whatever task is necessary. Please bring snacks to the site for the morning break (or whenever you need a quick bite). Of course, bring plenty of water every day: at least two containers.

Participation is evaluated on the basis of engagement with, and supervision of, the fieldwork, including the physical labor required, contributions to discussions about the excavation and what we are finding, ensuring the documentation of the stratigraphy and processing of the finds, and collegiality. *If students have questions or concerns about their participation, for example regarding certain physical activities, please talk to the faculty so we can make suitable arrangements.*

- *Notebook and Documentation (30%)*

In addition to the physical activity of digging, students will be primarily responsible for documenting the archaeological record of their areas and conversing with the site directors and staff about site stratigraphy and digging decisions. Students will make sure that US (*Unità Stratigrafica*) sheets are complete for every stratum excavated (both sediment and feature). They will also keep the field notebooks of record for their area, to document the daily progress on the site. We also expect students actively to discuss with all concerned what we are digging, how it came to be deposited or constructed, its function, and its destruction. Finally, students may often find themselves giving brief explanations of the site to passersby who visit the site.

- *Summary Conversation (20%) – **scheduled for 8 July, 13:30 (we will take you out to lunch)***

At the end of the season we will have a final conversation about the students' learning experience. This will cover what occurred in the areas they worked, the questions that arose during the course of excavation, what was answered, what remains to be explored, and what were the benefits and challenges of taking responsibility for other students and for parts of the fieldwork.

The instructors reserve the right to adapt the course requirements due to changes in the field conditions and/or the number of students enrolled in the course.

Additional Course Information

The exact schedule of classroom lectures and fieldwork days may change, depending on fieldwork necessities such as weather, governmental decisions, etc. Students should be flexible; changes will happen.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance and field participation is **mandatory**. For medical or other serious emergencies please contact the faculty and Umbra staff as soon as possible; emergencies are considered excused absences. However, for this course there are no "free" absences. Each unexcused absence will lower the students' grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B). If students miss class, they are responsible for informing the professor, obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours.

Excessive unexcused absences (3 or more) may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action.

Furthermore, times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason.

Academic Integrity

All forms of **cheating** (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and **plagiarism** (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines. No anticipated forms of evaluation should be vulnerable to violations of academic dishonesty in this course.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate **respect** for the historical premises that the school and project occupy. Please note that **cell phones** must be turned off during lectures or explanations by site directors or staff.

ARCH 351: Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

(Please, also refer to the master calendar for all lectures and activities related to the Umbra Summer Archaeological Program)

NOTE: for some fieldtrips, a Director may ask veteran students to stay back to help with field or museum work.

Thur., May 28 16:00-17:30	<i>Academic Orientation in Castiglione del Lago with Umbra Staff</i> classroom ('aula')
Fri., May 29 16:00-18:00	Site Prep
Sat, May 30	Cortona Fieldtrip

WEEK 2

Mon, Jun 1 8:30-13:00 16:00-18:00	Site Prep: Assist the Directors Initial Site Visit by all students; Site Prep
Tues-Thurs, Jun 2-4 7:00-12:00 16:00-17:30/18:30	Part day of fieldwork Site Prep: Assist the Directors
Fri, Jun 5	Perugia Fieldtrip
Sat, Jun 6	Trasimeno/Isola Maggiore Bike/Ferry Trip

WEEK 3

Mon-Tues, Jun 8-9 6:30-13:30 16:30-18:30	Full day of fieldwork (9:00 & 11:00, 15-min breaks) Work in the magazzino in the afternoon (frequently, though not necessarily always)
Wed, Jun 10	Orvieto Fieldtrip
Thur-Fri, Jun 11-12 6:30-13:30 16:30-18:30	Full day of fieldwork (9:00 & 11:00, 15-min breaks) Work in the magazzino in the afternoon
Sat, Jun 13	Arezzo Fieldtrip

WEEK 4

Mon-Tues, Jun 15-16 6:30-13:30 16:30-18:30	Full day of fieldwork (9:00 & 11:00, 15-min breaks) Work in the magazzino
Wed., Jun 17 6:30-12:00 16:00-18:00	Part day of fieldwork Afternoon: help students study for mid-term exams; Team Topic choice
Thur, Jun 18 11:00 am	<u>Mid-term exam [ARCH 350]</u>
Fri.-Sun, Jun 19-21	<u>3-day weekend for personal exploration</u>

WEEK 5

Mon.-Fri, Jun 22-26 6:30-13:30 16:30-18:30	Full day of fieldwork (9:00 & 11:00, 15-min breaks) Work in the magazzino
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WEEK 6

Mon.-Tues, Jun 29-30 6:30-13:30 16:30-18:30	Full day of fieldwork (9:00 & 11:00, 15-min breaks) Optional work in the magazzino
Wed., Jul 1 6:30-12:00 16:30-18:30	Part day of fieldwork (6:30-12:00) Team Topics Presentations (@ Residence)
Thur-Fri, Jul 2-3 6:30-13:30 16:30-18:30	Full day of fieldwork (9:00 & 11:00, 15-min breaks) Optional work in the magazzino

WEEK 7

Mon., Jul 6 6:30-13:30 16:30-18:30	Full day of fieldwork and/or inventory work Optional work in the magazzino
Tues, Jul 7 8:30-13:30	Part day of inventory work Notebooks due (18:00) Press Conference
Wed., Jul. 8 8:30-13:30 evening	Part day of inventory work; lunchtime (13:30): Summary Conversation Afternoon: packing <i>Farewell Group Dinner & Festa</i>
Thur., Jul. 9	<i>Early morning bus departure for Rome (FCO) Airport</i>