

Jamaica



Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Winter Intersession • Dec. 30, 2011-Jan. 15, 2012

Course Name:

Archaeological Fieldwork in Jamaica

Course Numbers: **ANT 451**

Credit hours: **3**

Location: **Bluefields, Jamaica**

Course Highlights

This course builds on and expands study away opportunities in Jamaica. Study will include archaeological excavation at a prehistoric Taino shell midden on the southwest coast of Jamaica, as well as the opportunity to experience the culture of rural Jamaica.

The purpose of this program is to train students in archaeological field methods and expose them to a foreign culture, while at the same time generating an archaeological collection that will provide data for graduate and undergraduate research projects.

In addition, students will gain an understanding of how archaeological research can aid in understanding current environmental and economic sustainability issues.

Estimated Cost: \$2,300

Includes: airfare, ground transportation, lodging, meals and Study Away student fee. Separated costs not available.

Excludes: MSU tuition for 3 hours of undergraduate credit; passport fees; misc. personal expenses

Nonrefundable deposit due with Program Application by Oct. 15, 2011: \$345 (will be billed to your student account)

Balance due by Dec. 2, 2011: \$1,955

Voucher Eligibility & Financial Aid

If you entered MSU as a freshman in 2009 or 2010, you may use the **Study Away \$500 voucher**. Students who receive financial aid through MSU may apply that aid to the program, if eligible. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

Information Meetings: TBA

Pre-travel Class Meeting: TBA

Depart Springfield for Jamaica: **Friday, Dec. 30, 2011**

Depart Jamaica for Springfield: **Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012**

Post-travel Meeting: TBA

Interested in going?

Contact Program Director David Byers: **DByers@missouristate.edu** or **836-5973** for more information



Missouri State
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An EO/AA Institution

Study Away!

Missouri State University Study Away Programs

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Course Overview

Archaeologists base their understanding of how people lived almost entirely on the material remains of human behavior. This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of archaeological field methods.

In this class, we will explore how archaeologists recover archaeological data through fieldwork at a shell mound in Bluefields, Jamaica.

This research will be nested within the broader context of a research question dealing with impact of fishing on local fish populations. Researchers have documented a decline in local fisheries in many parts of the world and local Jamaican fishermen rarely enjoy the same success that they did a few decades ago. While the causes for this trend may include a range of factors, from global climate change to overfishing by growing human populations, fisheries managers rarely have access to the centennial and millennial scale datasets needed to place modern data within a meaningful long-term explanatory context. The archaeological record can however, provide such data.

This project will focus on the excavation of a shell midden associated with the Bluefields Bay archaeological site complex, with the goal of excavating a deposit containing a long-term record of local marine food animals.

By the end of the class, students should have a basic understanding of how archaeologists excavate and curate materials from prehistoric sites, as well as be familiar with the issues, methods and theories central to understanding how marine foragers modify their environments.

Course Objectives

- 1. Training in archaeological field methods.** This class will introduce students to basic excavation methodologies.
- 2. Training in the archaeology of coastal foragers.** This class will introduce students to the archaeological record of the Taino, a group of Caribbean coastal foragers. Students will also become familiar with local prehistoric material culture, as well as the remains of ancient marine and terrestrial animals.
- 3. Exposing students to foreign cultures.** Students will stay in a rural community located on Bluefields Bay, southwestern Jamaica.



Course Schedule & Itinerary

Fri., Dec. 30, 2011 - Fly to Montego Bay, Jamaica; travel to Bluefields Bay, Jamaica

Sat. Dec. 31, 2011 & Sun., Jan. 1, 2012 - Orientation

Mon.-Fri., Jan. 2-6 - Fieldwork

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 7, 8 - Days Off

Mon.-Fri., Jan. 9-13 - Fieldwork

Sat., Jan. 14 - Day Off

Sun., Jan. 15 - Return to Springfield

Course Credit & Requirements

"Class sessions" will consist of ten 10-hour days of archaeological fieldwork, lab-based artifact processing and curation prep, as well as lectures on the archaeology of coastal foragers.

Credit Hours & Prerequisites:

Student who successfully complete this program will receive **3 hours** of undergraduate credit. This program is open to students of any academic major, pending approval by the Program Director. **ANT 125 or 240** are required as prerequisites.

Required Texts: none

Assessment of Learning:

Students will be evaluated based on the following measures:

- 1. Field notes.** These are an important part of archaeological field work and are often crucial in understanding and interpreting artifactual materials in the lab.
- 2. In-field exam** covering basic excavation methods, as well as the method and theory used to understand the ancient lifeways of coastal foragers
- 3. Level of participation** (willingness to work and cooperation) during the project

Application & Payment Procedures:

Missouri State University students who are approved by the Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on program application. A **non-refundable deposit of \$345** will be billed to your student account upon application. The balance of the program cost will be billed to your account on Dec. 2, 2011.

The published program cost is based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change.

Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% in the program fee if costs increase before or during travel.

Cancellation & Refund Policies:

- Students who withdraw prior to Nov. 18, 2011 will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$345 deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.
- If a student is forced to withdraw after Nov. 18, 2011 for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$345 deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after Dec. 5, 2011, or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and to Elizabeth Strong at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. **Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.**
- Any plans by a participant not to travel and return with the group must also be submitted in writing to the Program Director and the Study Away Office.
- The program will be cancelled if enrollment is fewer than 8 participants. In this event, students will receive a full refund.