



Digging roman graves in the Necropolis of Sanisera & Archaeological Techniques of drawing, photography and digital illustration (Menorca – Balearic Islands – Spain)

1. General Information

The Sanisera Archaeology Institute for International Field Schools offers an annual archaeology dig on the island of Menorca, off the coast of Spain. This course is for students interested in bioanthropology, osteology who come from all over the world. It covers advanced and essential techniques used in an archaeological laboratory, such as technical drawing and photo-taking. The skills that students will learn can be externalized to complete studies, publications, or reports from the pieces found on any site. This program is divided in two main parts: **Digging roman graves** and **Tools and laboratory techniques used with archaeological material**.

Part 1. Digging roman graves in the Necropolis of Sanisera

Death in Rome has been studied in Sanisera since we started digging the first necropolis in 2008. So far we have excavated 90 tombs belonging to a Roman cemetery which could have been related to a basilica in the Roman city of Sanisera, which dates from the 4th and 6th centuries AD. The Osteology corpus in this necropolis includes more than 232 individuals.

The fieldwork focuses on funerary structures, specifically inhumation graves. Participants will learn and apply excavation techniques used in biological anthropology when excavating tombs. Students will also participate in lectures on skeletal anatomy and pathologies, classes, exercises and excursions related to the course material. In the laboratory participants will be instructed by an anthropologist and other archaeologists in the classification, study, and conservation of human remains and other related materials found.

Time dedicated to this part of the program: 50%.

Part 2. Tools and drawing techniques, photography and digital illustration

In the second part the students will practice the techniques that are used in an archaeological laboratory so that they can register the main objects found on a site with the highest quality. The development of those techniques will help us to obtain drawings, photographs and digital archives that will be extremely useful for the elaboration of publications, reports or further studies.

Time dedicated to this part of the program: 50%.

2. What you will learn

2.1. In the Fieldwork:

- How to dig and which archaeological techniques are used.
- Use and handling of the tools that are used during the excavation process.
- Basic principles of stratigraphy.
- Recording the data obtained during the excavation using the Harris Method.
- Basic procedures for collecting C14 samples.

2.2. In the Laboratory

- Cleaning, inventory and cataloging of recovered human bones during the excavation process.
- Basics of the methods used in human osteological analysis, including skeletal anatomy, palaeodemography and palaeopathology.
- Learning how to identify age, sex and height of buried individuals.
- Relative dating based on the classification of archaeological artifacts discovered in stratigraphic sequence.
- Learn how to draw ceramic according with the standards (piece orientation, diameter edge estimation, representation of the decoration and several views generation).
- Objects drawing exercises (glass, lithics, coins, bone needles).
- Correct handle of the graphic representation and learning of different scales 1:1, 2:1...
- General standards of composition and illumination in photography.
- Photography techniques used on little objects like coins, jewels and ceramics with decoration and epigraphy.
- Drawing and photographing with Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop
- Drawing and vector handling of the archaeological material with Adobe Illustrator.

2.3. Theory

- History, archaeology, economy and culture of the Roman civilization.
- Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Bioarchaeology
- Skeletal Anatomy –Terminology-: generalities, dental structure, skull and other bones.
- Introduction to the History of the Sanisera Site.
- Minorcan archaeology before the Roman conquest of the Balearic Islands.

3. Directed at

If you are interested in bioarchaeology, how to excavate, classification of archaeological material from the Roman world as well as how to process this information using technical drawing, photography and digital illustration then this is the course you are looking for. This course accommodates participants with or without previous experience.

Learn how to excavate is the most important thing for a student who wants to become a professional archaeologist, however during the last years we have noticed that both the archaeological investigation projects and the archaeological management projects are becoming more demanding and strict with the information gathering that take place in an excavation.

In the necropolis of Sanisera, without much physical exertion, and due to the stratigraphic conditions, you easily find and excavate tombs and their contents. **You will excavate tombs and learn anthropological techniques used to recover human remains and grave goods.** In the biological anthropology laboratory, you will learn how to treat and classify bones and grave goods recovered from the necropolis.

Due to current needs of the archaeology world the archaeologist must acquire more experience and knowledge in the laboratory. It's basic to catalogue all the material from the excavation efficiently and effectively by elaborating drawings, photographs and digital documentation that allow us to develop a rigorous research, for that reason the use of an appropriate image software has become essential for the elaboration of any report, study or publication.

This course takes place on a Mediterranean island, among a pristine and unique landscape, surrounded by the sea.

Previous knowledge or experience in archaeology is not required.

4. Field School life & language

The fieldwork runs 7 hours per day. The day will be divided between learning mapping techniques, lab work, exercises, lectures on methodology, biological anthropology and excursions. For every seven course days there are two days off. The course is taught in English and Spanish.

5. Certificates

At the end of the Program students will receive a certificate of participation stating the hours and activities of the course.

Participants that perform exceedingly well in the course may receive a letter of recommendation from our organization up on request.

6. Sessions & Cost

Sessions	Dates	Cost
Session #1	2018 July 20 – August 06	\$ 1800
Session #2	2018 August 09 – August 26	\$ 1800

7. Course fee includes

- Course tuition.
- Drawing material and photographic gear.

- Software: Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.
- Accommodation in the Student Residency in Ciutadella. Two to six per room.
- Walking distance to the historic center, port and beach
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Accident insurance at the site.
- Daily transportation to/from the archaeological fieldwork.
- Excursions.
- Certificate of participation.

Airfare not included from the student home to/from Menorca (Spain).

8. Spaces available

The course is limited to 5 participants per session. Reservations are only effective when payment of the registration fee is received. If for any reason the course is cancelled, payment is returned according to the field school refund policy.

9. Information and reservations

For more information, contact:

Email: info@archaeology.institute

Web page: www.archaeology.institute