



# THE YANGGUANZHAI ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, CHINA

**Course ID: ARCH 380A**

**June 16-July 20, 2024**

**Academic Credits: 8 Semester Credit Units (Equivalent to 12 Quarter Units)**

## FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTOR(S)

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## OVERVIEW

The prehistoric village of Yangguanzhai (YGZ) dates to the Middle to Late Yangshao period (3200-3,000 BCE). It is one of the largest settlements of its kind. The site is located in the Jing River Valley, approximately 25 kilometers north of the ancient city of Xi'an in northwest China. Since 2004, in preparation for a major construction project, the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology began to conduct large-scale excavations and exploratory surveys – by means of test trenches and coring with the Luoyang spade – in various parts of the site. More than 18,000 square meters have been excavated to

date. These activities revealed a moat, a row of cave dwellings, subterranean houses, child urn burials in the residential areas, and numerous pottery kilns. The quantity and quality of finds were impressive enough for the Chinese authorities to halt commercial development and declare the area a protected archaeological site.

In 2010, as part of the ongoing excavation, a joint UCLA/Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology/Xibei University project began to operate at the site. This project is shifting the focus from the large-scale exposure of architecture to a more careful and systematic analysis of local stratigraphy and a stronger emphasis on anthropological interpretations. More recently, researchers from the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology have discovered an extensive cemetery at the site, the only known cemetery so far dating to the Miaodigou Period (4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC).

In its initial five seasons (2010-2014), the YGZ project excavated the northeastern portion near the moat, exposing multiple layers of domestic architecture. Like the other excavated sections of the YGZ site, no clear pattern of planning or coherent arrangement of habitation spaces is evident, as compared to other known Neolithic villages in the region. Many features were found either adjacent or at very short distance from the moat. In 2016, the field project excavated several house foundations and hearths, as well as a potential pottery kilns and a child urn burial, adjacent to a large artificial reservoir in the south central part of the site. In 2017, field school work returned to the northeastern section of the site. There, students discovered additional pits, a possible dwelling, and the inhumation burial of an infant inside the fill of a pit - an unusual feature for the Miaodigou Period. In 2018, we once again investigated the area surrounding the central reservoir of the site, continuing some of the work of 2016. The students excavated several pits that intersect with dwellings or with each other. The complicated internal stratigraphy of these pits indicates that even when used as refuse dumps, the pits would be modified to walk or even build upon. In addition, our teams uncovered the partial remains of a disturbed child urn burial and worked in a portion of the reservoir itself to further determine how it was structured and maintained. In the 2019 season – the last field season of the YGZ field school before 2024 – we moved our focus to a new location in the east of the settlement. There, we opened new trenches and uncovered another part of the large moat that surrounded the site. As expected, the deposits inside the moat yielded a very large number of artifacts, especially pottery. In addition, we found further evidence, such as a pit and possibly a dwelling, of occupation of the moat after it had already been filled in. We will continue working in this area in the 2024 season.

Although full understanding of Yangguzhai still eludes us, a clearer picture has begun to emerge. Based on research into the formation processes of the moat and one of the pits excavated by the IFR field school, preliminary site formation models have been formulated. Results from the analysis of micromorphological samples suggests that the function of the moat has changed from “potentially defensive or symbolic in nature” (M. Fox 2016) to a refuse dump. Both environmental factors, particularly water-related effects, and anthropogenic actions were responsible for these developments. However, the reasons behind the changes in human behavior throughout the occupation history of the site are still unclear.

Test results and <sup>14</sup>C dates indicate the existence of a long-lasting farming community at Yangguzhai. The community subsisted on millet cultivation, husbandry of pigs, wild animal hunting, fishing, and wild plant gathering. Yangguzhai’s inhabitants also invested heavily in ceramic manufacture, demonstrated not only by the enormous amount of pottery sherds discovered at the site, but the remaining kilns found in all seven excavated sectors at Yangguzhai. Unlike earlier Neolithic villages, where ceramic manufacturing was separated from the village in adjacent locations, the ceramic kilns found in Yangguzhai are next to or built within residential areas. Imported ceramics such as white paste rings, either plain or painted with red colored patterns, attest to the fact that long distance contacts with other regions was commonplace.

What makes Yangguzhai and other contemporary sites stand out in the Neolithic Period is the fact that about 90% of all uncovered features are pits. We aim not only to discover the reasons for this phenomenon, but also to make use of it in order to challenge the traditional notions of “pits” in Chinese archaeology. Up to now, settlement pits in China are commonly designated *huikeng*, literally meaning “ash pit”, but better translated as “refuse pit”. However, this describes only the last function in the use life of a pit, whereas many of the pits at Yangguzhai are much too large to have started off as mere garbage dumps. One of the main purposes of our research is thus to elucidate the initial function of these pits, as potential pit dwellings for example, through careful excavation and documentation as well as micromorphological analysis to study their formation in depth. This is supplemented by the typology of artifacts that have not entered the pit as refuse and the analysis of botanical remains from the pits. This way, we attempt to replace the simplistic concept of “refuse pits” in Chinese archaeology with a more nuanced idea of what functions settlement pits may have had.

In the coming 2024 season, the project will continue work on the eastern edge of the site. Coring and excavations in the 2019 season indicate that the moat continues in this area. As mentioned above, several aspects of the moats function and use over time remain unclear, so further investigation into the nature of the moat is one of our main concerns. Furthermore, previous excavations always noted a high density of features, such as houses and kilns, adjacent to the moat, even outside of the area it enclosed. The relationship between the moat and these features may tell us more about the original purpose of the moat and its chronological position.

One important question to be pursued in 2024 is the possible presence at this location of a gate with an embankment interrupting the moat, corresponding to the features previously excavated on the western side of the settlement. Such a structure would be expected on the eastern side as well to allow for a link between the settlement and the cemetery to the east. In addition, further excavation of the moat itself is expected to reveal its various functions, not just for protection, but possibly for keeping livestock and the accommodation of kilns for pottery production along its banks. The refuse deposits inside the moat, full as they are of artifacts as well as animal and plant remains, should provide us with a wealth of information about life in the settlement. For that reason, the field school students will not only participate in the excavation of these features, but also in vital post-excavation techniques, such as flotation for botanical remains and the sorting and statistical processing of pottery according to typological categories. The excavation process itself will have a strong emphasis on understanding the complex stratigraphies at the site. This will involve the students participating in the collection of micromorphology samples.

The Yangguzhai project provides not only training in field excavation, but also a full exposure to Chinese archaeology through lectures and visits to museums and archaeological sites of various periods. In addition, it provides opportunities for students to interact on a daily basis with Chinese students and to work closely with highly experienced Chinese archaeologists.

#### ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

**Credit Units:** Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see assessment, below). This field school provides a minimum of 160 hours of experiential education. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institution prior to attending this field school.

**Transcripts:** An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One more transcript may be sent to the student's home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the [National Student Clearinghouse](#).

## **PREREQUISITES**

There are no prerequisites for participation. This course will focus on hands-on, experiential learning. Students will study on site how to conduct archaeological research. Excavation involves physical work and exposure to the elements as well as a certain amount of improvisation, and it requires a willingness to adapt to new situations and an ability to react to unforeseen developments in a creative and flexible manner. An archaeological field school like ours is therefore rather different from the typical university learning experience. Furthermore, excavations are a team effort requiring cooperation and willingness to discuss and compromise.

You will encounter unfamiliar situations and people who think very differently from yourself, which can be a challenge but also a great adventure. You will get sweaty and tired and have to work outdoors, so please be sure that you are physically able to do so. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires real, often hard work – in the sun, on your feet, and with your trowel.

We will use bicycles every day to get to the site and back. The ride is about 10 to 15 minutes long, on asphalt and dirt roads. Previous experience in how to ride a bike is appreciated, but we are willing to train any unskilled participants.

It will also help if you know how to eat using chopsticks, but again, we can teach students without previous experience.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This field school is a collaboration between the Institute for Field Research, the Shaanxi Province Archaeological Academy, and Xibei University in Xi'an. The course will begin on June 17 and will meet daily until July 19. Students will be able to depart for onward travel or return home on July 20.

Students will spend the first week in Xi'an for four days of lectures and instructional museum tours. The classroom lectures will focus on questions of archaeological method and theory on the one hand and the particularities of Chinese archaeology on the other hand. The students will be introduced to some of the most important archaeological finds in the Wei River Valley, as well as to various anthropological themes related to the Yangshao culture and the Yangganzhai site. Important topics covered in the class include the history of Chinese archaeology, the origins of agriculture and animal domestication, sedentary villages, ritual, and craft specialization.

Following this initial week of preliminary instruction, four weeks will be spent in the field performing survey, excavation, and lab work at the Yangganzhai Station at the Yangganzhai site.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION**

Students will learn the basic artifact types found at the YGZ site. These include pottery sherds, lithics, and ceramic tools. Students will also learn to excavate and identify human and animal bones. Students

will learn how archaeologists use artifacts to reconstruct the layout of an ancient site, in order to learn about activities and ways of life in antiquity.

### **SOILS, SEDIMENTS, AND GEOARCHAEOLOGY**

An archaeological site cannot be interpreted without an understanding of how the layers of sediment at the site became deposited over time, both by natural and human processes. In the field, Students will learn how archaeologists identify different soil and sediment types, describe their color, grain size, and texture, and then use this information to help reconstruct a chronology of the archaeological strata, as well as to clarify the relationships between different parts of the site and excavated artifacts.

In addition, students will learn about the geoarchaeological method of micromorphology. This technique consists in extracting samples of sediment from archaeological features for further analysis in a laboratory, which can reveal the specific composition of the earthen matrix and the history of its deposition. These insights are of tremendous help in understanding how certain features were formed and how they were impacted by the environment. Students will learn about the extraction and preparation of samples first hand, while the laboratory part of the analysis will be covered in lecture by a specialist.

### **STRATIGRAPHY**

Once the excavation of a site has begun, archaeologists must have a clear understanding of the spatial relationships of various parts of the site. Vertical and horizontal stratigraphy provide critical contexts for understanding the function and use of artifacts, as well as determining the occupation history of the site, including how its major and minor features relate to each other. Students will gain an understanding of this interpretive process as the excavation proceeds. They will thereby learn how spatial analysis creates a framework for excavation planning and post-excavation analyses.

### **SURVEY TECHNIQUES**

Students will be introduced to a survey technique that is unique to Chinese archaeology: the Luoyang spade. Students will work together with YGZ field technicians and learn how to identify soil samples from natural and cultural deposits.

### **FLOTATION**

Archaeological flotation involves using water to process soil or archaeological deposits to recover tiny artifacts, specifically botanical remains. At the Yangguzhai site, students will use simple techniques in flotation to extract plant seeds for later analysis.

### **FIELD DOCUMENTATION**

Students will learn all the important methods of documentation in the field, such as keeping a field journal, feature description, field drawing, field photography, photogrammetry, and various measuring techniques.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Grading will be based on two different components: Fieldwork and presentations. The following is the grade breakdown:

**Fieldwork (60%):** Students are required to participate in excavation activities at the site every working day and to keep field records, which will be checked regularly. This grade also reflects the ability to work well in a team.

**Two presentations (2 x 10%):** Each team of students is required to prepare two PowerPoint presentations - a mid-season and a final presentation –informing their teammates, the instructors, and Chinese collaborators about the progress of their work and any results they have obtained. The presenters will draw on their own experience in the field as well as materials from lectures and readings. Grades will be assigned for each team member based on the grade assigned to the team and individual performance.

**Final report (20%):** Every student is required to submit a short report one week after the end of the field season. The report consists of 3-5 written pages summarizing the content of their work at Yangganzhai and putting it into a wider context. With the approval of the instructors, the report can also focus on a specific subject relating to the work at Yangganzhai that the student is particularly interested in.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

All IFR field schools begin with a safety orientation. This orientation addresses local and program protocols concerning student behavior, appropriate attire, local practices and sensibilities that may be unfamiliar, potential fauna and flora hazards, IFR harassment and discrimination policies, and the student Code of Conduct.

### **PART ONE: Lectures and Museum Tours (June 17-21)**

#### **June 16, 2024 (Sunday)**

**5:00 PM:Participants meet at Hanting Hotel lobby followed by dinner and program briefing.**

#### **June 17, 2024 (Monday)**

The first week of classroom lectures focuses on three topics: the history of Chinese archaeology; a brief review of Shaanxi archaeology with emphasis on Wei River Neolithic archaeology and the YGZ site; theory and method of archaeology. Students need to pay attention to the keywords of each lecture. The full citations of the required readings are at the end of this syllabus.

**Breakfast        7:00 AM** Student dining hall, Xibei University

**Orientation      8:30-8:45 AM**

**Program safety briefing; review of IFR policies including sexual harassment, discrimination, and code of conduct**

**Lecture I        08:45-09:30 AM**

**Richard Ehrich: Brief Introduction to Archaeology: Our goals and methods**

Keywords: definition of archaeology, context, excavation, documentation

Required readings: Schiffer 1972, Shelach 1998

Discussion: 09:30-09:45

**Lecture II        09:45-10:15 AM**

**Cori Hoover: 3D technologies in current archaeology**

Keywords: 3D reconstruction, photogrammetry, 3D printing

Required readings: -

Discussion: 10:15-10:30

Break: 10:30-10:45

**Lecture II 10:45-11:45 AM**

**Richard Ehrich: Introduction to Chinese archaeology**

Keywords : Geographical overview, chronology, cultures, features, key sites in Shaanxi (Paleolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Qin to Tang dynasties)

Required readings: Yan 2000

Discussion: 11:45 AM-12:00 PM

**Lunch break 12:00-2:30 PM**

**Lecture III 2:30-4:30 PM**

**Zhai Linlin: Neolithic Cultures of the Wei River Valley**

Keywords: Laoguantai culture (6000-5000 BC), Yangshao culture (5000-3000 BC), Longshan culture (3000-2000 BC)

Required readings: Li 2013

**June 18, 2024 (Tuesday)**

**Breakfast 7:00AM** Student dining hall, Xibei University

**Lecture IV 8:30-9:30 AM**

**Li Yue: A Brief introduction to Chinese Zooarchaeology**

Keywords: Domestication, Consumption patterns

Required readings: Flad et al. 2007

Discussion: 9:30-10:00

Break: 10:00-10:15

**Lecture V 10:15-11:30 AM**

**Tang Liya: Agriculture of the Guanzhong Basin during the Yangshao Period: A Case from the Yangguanzhai site**

Keywords: Agriculture, Guanzhong Basin, Yangshao Period, Yangguanzhai site

Required readings (if you read Chinese, otherwise just the abstract): Zhao 2023, Tang et al. 2020

Discussion: 11:30AM-12:00 PM

**Lunch break 12:00-2:30 PM**

**Tour 2:30-5:00 PM**

**Zhang Hongyan: Laboratory and Xibei University Museum visit**

**June 19, 2024 (Wednesday)**

**Breakfast 7:00 AM** Student dining hall, Xibei University

**Lecture VI 8:30-9:45 AM**

### **Qian Yaopeng: Settlement Archaeology in China**

Keywords: Neolithic settlement in the Yellow River region, Settlement remains analysis, Settlement pattern analysis, Settlement relationships

Required readings: Lee 2007, Peterson and Shelach 2012

Discussion: 9:45-10:00 AM

Break: 10:00AM-10:15 AM

### **Lecture VII 10:15-11:45 AM**

#### **Zhao Dongyue: Human Osteology, theory and methodology**

Keywords:

Required readings:

Handout: Introduction to human osteology, selection from physical anthropology handbook

**Lunch break 12:00-1:00 PM**

**Tour 1:00-5:00 PM Qian Yaopeng:Banpo Museum visit**

### **June 20, 2024 (Thursday)**

**Breakfast 7:00 AM** Student dining hall, Xibei University

**Lecture VIII 8:30-9:45 AM**

**Mathew L. Fox: An introduction to geoarchaeological research and Chinese paleoclimatology: the application of geoscience and paleoclimate research to anthropological problems at the Yanggouanzhai Site.**

Key words: Chinese paleoclimates, monsoonal variability, loess-paleosol pedostratigraphy

Required readings:

Huang et al. 2000, 2007, 2010

Break: 10:00 AM-10:15 AM

**Lecture IX 10:15-11:45 AM**

#### **Yang Liping: Important discoveries at Yanggouanzhai**

Key words: Miaodigou phase, Banpo IV phase, archaeological features

Required readings:

Wang et al. 2009 (It's in Chinese but look at the figures.), Ye and Hein 2020, Kielhofer et al. 2021, Hein et al. 2020

Discussion: 11:40 AM-12:00 PM

**Lunch break 12:00-1:00 PM**

**Tour 1:00-5:00 PM**

**Shaanxi Archeological Museum visit**

### **June 21, 2019 (Friday)**

**Breakfast 7:00 AM** Hanting Hotel



**Leave at 9:00 AM from Hanting Hotel. Bring all your belongings.**

**Tour to the Terracotta Warriors**

**12:30 PM: Lunch at the Terracotta Warriors Museum or on the way to the hotel**

**3:00 PM: Check-in at the Wufulinmen Hotel.**

**7:00 PM: Dinner, meet at the lobby of Wufulinmen Hotel**

**June 22, 2024 (Saturday)**

**8:00 AM: Breakfast at the Wufulinmen Hotel**

**9:00 AM: Visit to the Yangguanzhai site, discussion of this year's excavation plan in the field, safety briefing**

**12:30 PM: Lunch**

**2:30 PM: Visit of the Yangguanzhai Field Lab**

**Lecture:**

**Yang Liping: Yangguanzhai recording system**

Handout: field journal

**7:00 PM: Dinner, meet at the lobby of the Wufulinmen Hotel**

**June 23, 2024 (Sunday)**

Free time, optional outing to supermarket

**PART TWO: Fieldwork (June 24-July 19, 2024)**

Intensive excavations and lab work at the Yangguanzhai site and the Yangguanzhai field research station. Students may return to Xi'an for organized field trips on the weekends, staying Saturday night at hotels in Xi'an at your own expense, and returning to the site on Sunday before 5 pm.

Project directors and scholars who visit the site will give lectures on site or at the hotel where we are staying. The times are not fixed yet, since it depends on their availability, but we will announce them to the team as soon as we know.

Detailed assignment of each week's tasks will be explained at the site.

In addition, we will make tours to other sites and museums, including the local base of the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology, the Hanyangling Museum (Han Dynasty imperial tomb), and other archaeological sites of the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology.

Notice: The monsoon season starts mid-June in northern China, so our lab work (washing pottery sherds, flotation, cataloging) is usually arranged on rainy days.

**Daily schedule (Monday through Saturday):**

**6:40 AM: Breakfast**

**7:00-11:30 AM: Work (morning)**

**11:30 AM-3:00 PM: Lunch break**

**3:00-6:30 PM: Work (afternoon)**

**7:30 PM: Team Meeting and Dinner**

### **July 6, 2024 (Saturday)**

#### **2:00 PM: Mid-Season Presentation**

Students present their research results and further questions at this stage in the season, 20 minutes per group. Professors from collaborating institutions will comment on the presentations.

### **July 19, 2024 (Friday)**

#### **2:00 PM: Final Presentation**

Same procedure as the mid-season presentation.

#### **7:00 PM: Farewell Party**

### **July 20, 2024 (Saturday)**

Students depart

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

PDF files of all mandatory readings will be provided to enrolled students via a shared Dropbox folder. Students are encouraged to download and/or print readings prior to traveling. Course participants are expected to be prepared to engage the discussions led by facilitators, all of whom will be looking for compelling evidence that students have read and thought about the assigned readings prior to the scheduled day on which they are first discussed.

Falkenhausen, Lothar von (1995). "The Regionalist Paradigm in Chinese Archaeology." In *Nationalism, Politics and the Practice of Archaeology*, edited by P. Kohl and C. Fawcett. New York: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 198-216.

Flad, Rowan K., Yuan Jing, and Li Shuicheng (2007). "Zooarchaeological Evidence for Animal Domestication in Northwest China." In *Late Quaternary Climate Change and Human Adaptation in Arid China*, edited by David B. Madsen, Chen FaHu, et al. Amsterdam: Elsevier Press. Pp. 163-199.

Flad, Rowan Kimon, Shuicheng Li, Xiaohong Wu, and Zhijun Zhao (2010). Early wheat in China: Results from new studies at Donghuishan in the Hexi Corridor. *The Holocene* 20(6): 955-965.

Hein, Anke, Wa Ye, Liping Yang (2020). "Soil, Hands, and Heads: An Ethnoarchaeological Study on Local Preconditions of Pottery Production in the Wei River Valley (Northern China)." *Advances in Archaeomaterials*, vol.1, Issue 1:51-104

Huang, Chunchang, Jiangli Pang, and Jingpo Zhao (2000). "Chinese Loess and the Evolution of the East Asian Monsoon." *Progress in Physical Geography* 24(1): 75-96.

Huang, Chunchang, J. Pang, H. Su, Q. Yang, and Y. Jia (2007). "Climatic and Anthropogenic Impacts on Soil Formation in the Semiarid Loess Tablelands in the Middle Reaches of the Yellow River, China." *Journal of Arid Environments* 71: 280-298.

Huang, C.C., J. Pang, X. Zha, Y. Zhou, H. Su, and Y. Li (2010). "Extraordinary Floods of 4100-4000 a B.P. Recorded at the Late Neolithic Ruins in the Jinghe River Gorges, Middle Reach of the Yellow River, China." *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, and Palaeoecology* 289:1-9.

Kielhofer, Jennifer R., M. Fox, Wa Ye, Liping Yang (2021). "Human-environment interaction at Yangguanzhai, a middle Neolithic site in the Wei River valley, North China: a comprehensive review on soil-stratigraphic analysis." *Geoarchaeology*, vol.36, issue 6:943-963.

- Lee Yun-Kuen (2007). "Centripetal Settlement and Segmentary Social Formation of the Banpo Tradition." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 26: 630-675.
- Li Xinwei (2013). "The Later Neolithic Period in the Central Yellow River Valley Area, c. 4000-3000 BC." In *A Companion to Chinese Archaeology*, edited by A. Underhill. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. Pp. 213-235.
- Liu Li and Xingchan Chen (2012). *The Archaeology of China, from the late Paleolithic to the Early Bronze Age*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1 "Chinese archaeology: past, present, and future," pp. 1-21.
- Peterson, Christian and Gideon Shelach (2012). "Jiangzhai: Social and economic organizations of a Middle Neolithic Chinese village." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 31(2012): 265-301.
- Schiffer, Michael B. 1972. "Archaeological context and systemic context." *American Antiquity* 37 (2):156-65.
- Shelach, Gideon (1998). "A Settlement Pattern Study in Northeast China: Results and Potential Contributions of Western Theory and Methods to Chinese Archaeology." *Antiquity* 72(275): 114-127.
- Tang Liya, Yang Liping, Ye Wa et al. (2020). "Gudai zhiwu de yaoyao gongneng chutan: Yi Shaanxi Gaoling Yangguanzhai yizhi H85 chutu zhiwu yicun wei lie." *Disiji Yanjiu* 40 (2).
- Underhill, Anne P. (2002) *Craft Production and Social Change in Northern China*. New York: Kluwer Academic / Plenum Publishers. Chapter 1: "Craft production and the development of complex societies in ancient China. Pp. 1-18."
- Underhill, Anne P. and Junko Habu (2006). "Early Communities in East Asia: Economic and Sociopolitical Organization at the Local and Regional Levels." *Archaeology of Asia*, edited by M. T. Stark. Malden, MA: Blackwell. Pp.121-148.
- Wang Weilin et al. (2009). "Shaanxi Gaoling Yangguanzhai xinshiqishidai yizhi (The Yangguanzhai Neolithic Site at Gaoling County, Shaanxi Province)," *Kaogu* 2009: 3-9.
- Yan Wenming (2000). "Neolithic Settlements in China: Latest Finds and Research." *Journal of East Asian Archaeology* 1(1-4): 131-148.
- Ye, Wa and Anke Hein (2020). "A buried past: five thousand years of (pre)history on the Jing-Wei floodplain." *Asian Archaeology*, vol. 4:1-15
- Zhao Zhijun (2023). "Yangshao Wenhua wanqi Zhongyuan Diqu nongye shengchan moshi chutan." *Zhongguo Nongshi* 2.

## RECOMMENDED READINGS

- An, Cheng-Bang, Zhao-Dong Feng, and Loukas Barton (2006). "Dry or humid? Mid-Holocene humidity changes in arid and semi-arid China." *Quaternary Science Reviews* 25(3-4): 351-361.
- Berger, Elizabeth, Yang Liping, Ye Wa (2019). "Foot binding in a Ming dynasty cemetery near Xi'an, China." *International Journal of Paleopathology* vol. 24:79.
- Chen Zhuhai (1986). "Field Investigation of the Prehistoric Methods of Pottery Making in Yunnan." *Scientific and Technological Insights on Ancient Chinese Pottery and Porcelain*, edited. Shanghai: Shanghai Institute of Ceramics. Pp.27-34.

- Crawford, Gary W., Anne P. Underhill, et al. (2005). "Late Neolithic Plant Remains from Northern China: Preliminary Results from Liangchengzhen, Shandong." *Current Anthropology* 46(2): 2005.
- Huang Chun Chang (1989). "The Loess and Environmental Changes of Holocene in the Weihe River Basin." *Geographical Research* 8: 20-31.
- Falkenhausen, Lothar von(1993). "On the Historiographical Orientation of Chinese Archaeology." *Antiquity* 67:839-849.
- Falkenhausen, Lothar von (1999). Su Bingqi (b. 1909). *Encyclopedia of Archaeology: The Great Archaeologists*, edited by T. Murray. New York: Garland. Pp. 591-600.
- Falkenhausen, Lothar von (1999). Xia Nai (1910-1985). *Encyclopedia of Archaeology: The Great Archaeologists*, edited by T. Murray. New York: Garland.Pp. 601-614.
- Fitzgerald-Huber, Louisa G. (1999). "The Yangshao Culture: Banpo." *The Golden Age of Archaeology: Celebrated Discoveries from the People's Republic of China*, edited by Yang Xiaoneng. Washington: National Gallery of Art. Pp.54-77.
- Gao Qiang and Yun KuenLee (1993). "A Biological Perspective on Yangshao Kinship." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 12: 266-298.
- Li F, Wu N, Lu H, Zhang J, Wang W, et al. (2013) "Mid-Neolithic Exploitation of Mollusks in the Guanzhong Basin of Northwestern China: Preliminary Results." *PLoS ONE* 8(3): e58999. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0058999.
- Liu, Li. (2003). "The Products of Minds as Well as of Hands": Production of Prestige Goods in the Neolithic and Early State Periods of China. *Asian Perspectives* 42(1):1-40.
- Liu, Li. (2004). *The Chinese Neolithic, Trajectories to Early States*. London: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3: "Household subsistence and ritual," pp. 33-72; Chapter 4: "Spatial organization and social relations in communities," pp. 73-113.
- Lu, Houyuan, Jianping Zhang, Kam-biu Liu, Naiqin Wu, Yumei Li, Kunshu Zhou, Maolin Ye, Tianyu Zhang, Haijiang Zhang, Xiaoyan Yang, LichengShen, Deke Xu, and Quan Li (2009). "Earliest domestication of common millet (*Panicummiliaceum*) in East Asia extended to 10,000 years ago." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106(18): 7367-7372.
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## PART II: TRAVEL, SAFETY & LOGISTICS

### NOTICE OF INHERENT RISK

Traveling and conducting field research can involve risk. The IFR engages in intensive review of each field school location and programming prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the IFR reviews each program annually to make sure it still complies with all our standards and policies, including those pertaining to student safety. Participants should also take every reasonable step to reduce risk while on IFR programs, including following the safety advice and guidelines of your program director, being alert to your surroundings and conditions, letting someone know where you will be at all times, and assessing your personal security.

The IFR does not provide trip or travel cancellation insurance. We strongly encourage participants to consider purchasing this insurance, as unexpected events may prevent your participation or cause the program to be canceled. Insurance is a relatively small cost to protect your educational investment in an IFR program. When comparing trip cancellation insurance policies, make sure the policy covers the cost of both airfare and tuition.

We do our best to follow a schedule of activities, methods training, and programming as outlined in this syllabus. However, this schedule can be easily disrupted by unforeseen circumstances, including weather, revisions by local permitting agencies, or conditions onsite. While this schedule represents the intentions of the program, adaptability is an intrinsic part of all field research, and necessary alterations to the schedule may happen at any time.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the program director and staff.

### PROGRAM SPECIFIC FIELD CONDITIONS

Archaeological work involves physical work outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different from those you experience in your home or college town. This program operates during the summer. During the day, temperatures in the shade can exceed 90°F and humidity is high. Our excavation units will be covered by a protective roof but we are still working outdoors. Sturdy shoes, a hat, and work clothes are mandatory. Appropriate attire includes loose clothing that protects skin. Long pants and closed toe shoes are required for excavation work. Avoid dangling jewelry. Sunglasses with UV protection are recommended. Mosquito repellent and sunblock lotion are also needed.

### VISA REQUIREMENTS

Non-Chinese participants are required to secure a tourist visa to China prior to arrival. You should apply for the visa at least one month or 5 weeks ahead of time. You will receive an invitation letter from the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology ahead of application time. You need both the invitation letter and airplane ticket for applying for a Chinese visa. You can download your visa application [here](#).

All students should apply for a Tourist visa (L visa) for **60 days, unless you plan to stay in China longer**. On Section 2 of the form, please fill in the fields using the following options:

2.1: mark: Tourism

- 2.2: mark: One entry valid for 3 months, unless you want to come back to China multiple times this year.
- 2.5: write down the days you plan to stay in China: at least 40 days--our program is 34 days.
- 2.6: 06/16 – 07/19; Shaanxi, Xi'an;Hanting Hotel, No. 6 Shunxing Road, Guodu, Chang'an District, Xi'an.
- 2.7: myself

There is no need to fill out field 2.8. We will provide all enrolled students with the hotel reservation, which you have to submit along with the visa application form and a copy of your flight ticket.

Citizens not from the USA are asked to check the embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirements.

## STUDENT HEALTH

An IFR field school is designed to provide safe, positive, and constructive experiences for participating communities, students, and researchers. We are committed to protocols and practices that support the health and well-being of all involved in our field school projects, including the members of the community in which these projects take place.

We recommend that students adopt best-practices for arriving in a good state of health to protect themselves and their peers' readiness to set about the work of the field school. A thriving field camp environment is a constant exchange of energy, patience, effort, respect, and service. Arriving healthy is every student's first act of service — their first opportunity to behave in a way that respects the safety and wellness of one another.

## TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)

Natural disasters, political changes, weather conditions and various other factors may force the cancellation or alteration of a field school. IFR recommends students only purchase airline tickets that are fully refundable and consider travel insurance in case a program or travel plans must change for any reason. General information for this program is below, but keep in mind we will discuss any updated travel information and regulations during the required program orientation, which could affect travel plans.

Students will be met at the Xi'an airport or train station or may travel themselves directly to the Hanting Hotel near Xibe University on June 16. Students may travel to X'ian by train or may fly into the Xi'an-Xianyang international airport (XIY). Please note that train tickets often sell out in summer and should be purchased well in advance through a website such as [Trip.com](http://Trip.com) or through a local travel agent. From Beijing to Xi'an, high speed trains leave every 1 to 2 hours throughout the day. If you are unable to purchase the ticket you desire, you can always take a slower train. There are also many domestic flights to Xi'an from other points of entry into China such as Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Beijing, and some international flights go directly to Xi'an.

To make it easier for the program coordinators to meet you at the airport, arrange to arrive on June 16 between 11 AM and 2 PM and email the specific time of your arrival to the instructors beforehand.

Those who miss the meeting time can take the public transportation or a taxi to the Hanting Hotel (Xi'an Chang'an Xibe Daxue Branch) 汉庭酒店(西安长安西北大学店).

The hotel address is No. 6 Shunxing Road, Guodu, Chang'an District, Xi'an (西安长安区郭杜顺兴路6号). For those who don't speak Chinese and like to travel directly to the hotel, please print out the Chinese address and show it to the taxi driver or bus driver after arriving at Xi'an airport or train station.

If you come in from the airport and miss the pick-up time, take the shuttle bus of Chang'an University city Line 长安大学城线 to Xibu Dadao Xifeng Lukou 西部大道西沔路口, walk 410 m to Bus 311, get off at Jianye Sanlu Xikou 建业三路西口, walk 550 m to the Hanting Hotel. The cost is about 30 RMB. If you decide to take a taxi, the cost is 140 RMB (price might change).

If you arrive at Xi'an North Station (the station for most high speed railway lines), take subway line 2 in direction of 常宁宫 and get off at Zhong Lou 钟楼. From there take subway line 6 in direction of Xi'an Nanzhan 西安南站 and get off at Guodu Xi 郭杜西. From there take bus number S781 in northern direction to Jianye Sanlu Shunxing Lukou 建业三路顺兴路口. The hotel is 80 m north of the stop.

More information will be provided to all enrolled students in the pre-departure online orientation.

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email the field school director immediately. A local emergency mobile phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

During the first week of the field school, students will live in the university hotel at Xibei University in the city of Xi'an. While in the field, students will reside at the Wufulinmen Hotel near the site.

Food is provided Monday to Saturday (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). Students are responsible for their own meals on Sundays. While students are free to obtain their own breakfast and lunch with a daily allowance we provide, all dinners are taken together, since we will use this opportunity to get the whole team together and catch up on the progress of the day. The daily diet in North China is heavily based on rice, noodles, and vegetables. Specialized diets (vegan, kosher, etc.) are difficult to maintain in this location. Vegetarians may find options somewhat limited and should be prepared to be flexible when eating the local food, or should bring supplemental food (e.g. protein bars) if they think it will be necessary.

## EQUIPMENT LIST

- Passport
- Entry visa to China
- Close-toed shoes
- Sunscreen
- Mosquito repellent
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- Rehydration powder
- Imodium or PeptoBismol
- Medications or prescriptions that you need
- Preferred feminine hygiene products
- A few pairs of work pants and shirts

Alert your credit card company and ATM bank that you will be abroad so they don't think your cards have been stolen and cancel your access. In China, many places won't accept American credit card today. Although you can use your debit card to withdraw cash at the Bank of China (中国银行 zhongguoyinhang), the Construction Bank of China (中国建设银行 zhongguo jianshe yinhang), and other banks, to have a stack of cash is not a good idea (if you have a debit card from Bank of America, there is no fee charged when withdrawing certain amount of cash from the Construction Bank. Both banks are near the site of Yangguanzhai). In China people use electronic payment most of the time, therefore, the best way is to download the Alipay app on your cell phone before leaving for China, which links directly to your bank account. It is similar to Apple Pay in the U.S.



If you want to use your phone, check the roaming options of your carrier or consider getting a temporary eSIM card, e.g. through [Holafly](#).

WeChat app: We advise students to get a WeChat app on your cell phone. Our field school will handle a lot of the communication via WeChat.

Electrical adapters to the Chinese electrical system – have a look [here](#) to see what you need for China as compared to what you may already own.