



Filozofski
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Sveučilišta u
Zagrebu



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE

THE LOBOR BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, CROATIA

Course ID: ARCH 365AR

June 30 - July 27, 2019

FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Dr. Krešimir Filipec, Chief of Department of Medieval Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb (kfilipec@ffzg.hr)

Dr. Zdravka Hincak, Chief of Department of Methodology and Archaeometry, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb (zhincak@ffzg.hr)



INTRODUCTION

The site of Lobar in northwestern Croatia has been continuously excavated since 1998. Lobar was a focal point for its broader environs during two periods: 1) in Late Antiquity (6th century AD) as an important political and ecclesiastical center, most likely formed as a consequence of the collapse of Roman provincial urbanism; and 2) in the Carolingian age (early 9th century AD) as one of the centers of the Frankish province of Lower Pannonia (*Pannonia inferioris*), with all the usual features of the new, early feudal age: fortified settlement, residential buildings, and churches. In the early 12th century, new centers were established due to political developments such as the expansion of Hungary into southwestern Pannonia. Many of these centers remain in function today, while old centers that were rooted in different traditions disappeared or lost their importance. What made Lobar such an important location during these distinctive periods? All available historical sources and archaeological materials are considered in an attempt to answer this question.

From the very beginnings, the Lobar site has been associated with female cults. Based on sculpture

fragments, it is believed that a Roman temple dedicated to Diana once stood there. Later, churches related to the Marian cult were built on top. A cemetery stretches around the church, across the entire site, and up to the outer fortification wall. After several years during which research has focused on the church architecture, it is now shifting to a bioarcheological focus on the cemetery and the human remains there. Through survey, excavations, and lab work, using theory and methods from history, geography, archeology, bioarchaeology, biochemistry, and forensics, the project works to answer the following questions:

- Was Lobar an important military center or merely a settlement associated with a religious sanctuary?
- Were some of the churches in operation at the same time?
- What was the relationship between the local clergy and the local inhabitants?
- What can be deduced from the burials about the population that lived in Lobar? (predominantly Roman, Germanic or Slavic?)
- What can be said about the population's genetic composition? Who remained and who left?

This field school will allow students to acquire knowledge about the history of northwestern Croatia and the Lobar site itself, especially during Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. Students will approach these questions from the study of human bones, starting from determining burial areas, excavating and cleaning skeletons, to laboratory and forensic analysis. Students will become familiar with the cultural heritage of Lobar and its environs while also visiting the most important archaeological sites on the eastern Adriatic, the capital of Zagreb, and some of the natural attractions of Croatia.

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 private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. 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 home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: <http://bit.ly/2hvrkl>.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to the history of all periods present at the site of Lobar and the archaeology and culture of the northwestern parts of Croatia.
- To introduce students to contemporary standards of work in field archaeology.
- To introduce students to health and safety requirements at an archaeological site.
- To introduce basic field survey (dividing into groups, collecting finds from the ground, etc.)
- To prepare students to perform excavation tasks: the use of tools; digging techniques; sieving, etc.
- To introduce students to the basics of bioarchaeology and forensics archaeology and anthropology: excavation of skeletons; drawing; measuring; cleaning; determining sex, age, diet, traumas, etc.
- To prepare students to perform field documentation tasks: the use of measuring and documentation tools and devices; creating written documentation (context sheets, field notebooks,

finds labels, etc.); photographic documentation; drawing of stratigraphy, burials, skeletons, architectural structures, contexts; the use of a total station, etc.

- To introduce students to the basics of find processing procedures: cleaning, selecting and arranging archaeological finds; the organization of finds in storage, etc.
- To introduce students to Medieval cuisine.

PREREQUISITES

None. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study on-site how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus requires a measure of understanding that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will have to work outdoors and will get sweaty, dirty and tired. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that archaeology requires real, hard work, in the sun, rain and wind, hot and cold weather, on your feet, and with your trowel. The work requires patience, discipline, team work and attention to detail. It is vital that all students respect the IFR Student Code of Conduct, local culture, and local rules and laws.

DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Our primary concern is with education. Traveling and conducting field research involve risk. Students interested in participating in IFR programs must weigh whether the potential risk is worth the value of education provided. While risk is inherent in everything we do, we do not take risk lightly. The IFR engages in intensive review of each field school location prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the IFR reviews each program annually to make sure it complies with all our standards and policies, including student safety.

We do our best to follow schedule and activities as outlined in this syllabus. Yet local permitting agencies, political, environmental, personal, or weather conditions may force changes. This syllabus, therefore, is only a general commitment. Students should allow flexibility and adaptability as research work is frequently subject to change.

Archaeological fieldwork involves physical work in the outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home. Croatia is divided into two predominate climate regions: Continental (where Lobar is located) and Mediterranean (where we will go on a fieldtrip), with temperatures ranging from 77 to 86 °F. Mornings are little bit colder but you should expect to walk 10 minutes uphill every morning. You are required to bring suitable clothing (sleeveless T-shirt with long-sleeve work shirt on top, long pants, thick socks and hiking boots or some similar shoes). Always wear a hat and sunscreen. Rainy and chilly days in this season are rare but not unheard of. One of the most important things is to be patient and learn how to share your private and working area with other people.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director – as appropriate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to perform basic excavation tasks and will know how to use archaeological tools and digging techniques and sieving. They will know how to perform basic field documentation tasks such as filling in context sheets, keeping a field notebook and labeling finds. They will learn the principles of archaeological photography and field drawing. They will be able to use measuring and levelling devices and process finds. They will learn how to identify and excavate human burials, and how to clean, pack,

and prepare the bones for laboratory analysis. Student will be instructed in how to sex and age a human skeleton, how to recognize the most common traumas.

GRADING MATRIX

% of Grade	Activity
35 %	Excavation (use of tools, drawing, measuring, photography, etc.)
25 %	Bioarchaeological workshop
25 %	Field notes
15 %	Final project

TRAVEL & MEETING POINT

Hold purchasing your airline ticket until six (6) weeks prior to departure date. Natural disasters, political changes, weather conditions and a range of other factors may require the cancelation of a field school. The IFR typically takes a close look at local conditions 6-7 weeks prior to program beginning and make Go/No Go decisions by then. This time frame still allows the purchase of discounted airline tickets while protecting students from potential loss of airline ticket costs if we decide to cancel a program.

On June 30, 2019, students will meet the project director Dr. Krešimir Filipec or his assistant Jana Škrkulja at the information desk/meeting point at the Dr. Franjo Tuđman Airport in Zagreb, from where they will be escorted directly to their accommodation in Zagreb and later to the site. The exact time of the meeting will be provided after the student confirms their flight bookings.

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

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of the US, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand do not need visa to visit Croatia for up to 90 days. All nationals who are holders of valid Schengen documents do not require an additional (Croatian) visa for Croatia.

Citizens of other countries are asked to check the embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirements. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Zagreb University could send an official invitation letter that should be used at the relevant embassy to secure a visa to the program.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In Zagreb, students will either share a residence hall or a rented apartment. In Lobar, students will be housed at the Hunting Lodge in the foothills of the site. Getting daily to the work area and project facilities involves a 10 minutes' walk uphill. The center of the village, where shops and bars can be found, is a 5 minutes' walk from the lodge. The Hunting Lodge provides 3 - 6 persons bedrooms, two bathrooms with showers, three separate toilets, a kitchen, a common room with a fireplace and a large enclosed terrace.

A local restaurant provides two hot meals a day, which are chosen from their daily menus. Breakfast and dinner are self-served from provisions provided by the project. The field school can accommodate vegetarians, vegans, and students with gluten and lactose intolerance. Students with specific dietary needs should report their preferences in the field school application.

COURSE SCHEDULE

All IFR field schools begin with safety orientation. This orientation includes proper behavior at the field area, proper clothing, local cultural sensitivities and sensibilities, potential fauna and flora hazards, review of IFR harassment and discrimination policies, and review of the student Code of Conduct.

The Field School schedule consists of Four Units:

Unit 1: Theoretical module consisting of three components:

- Lectures and instructions on field methods and practices;
- Lectures on different aspects of the Late Antiquity/Early Medieval archaeology (4th–10th century) in Croatia;
- Lectures on the history and archaeology of the Balkan region.

Unit 2: Practicum consisting of two components:

- Archaeological fieldwork including basic practices of excavation and archaeological records
- Bioarchaeological fieldwork and labwork including basic practices of excavation and documentation such as sexing, aging, identifying traumas, etc.;
- Workshops dedicated to archaeological and anthropological finds processing and documentation.

Unit 3: Field trips to prehistoric, Classical, and Medieval sites, accompanied by presentations and behind-the-scene visits to archaeological sites and museums along the Adriatic sea and the sites close to Lobar (Trakošćan, Krapina, Varaždin, Veliki Tabor).

Unit 4: Homework - assignments will be allotted to all students, which will consist of editing and processing field documentation (field notebook, context sheets, drawings, photos, and so on.), and preparing presentations and reports.

Day	Morning	Afternoon
Day 1	Arrival and check in (Zagreb)	Traditional Croatian welcome dinner
Day 2	Orientation panel	Visiting the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb and the historical neighborhood of the city
Day 3	Lecture: Health and safety at the site; Basic Field Methods and Practices for Excavation and Documentation; Use of Tools and Working Techniques	Lecture: "Romans and Germans"
Day 4	Lab work: Ceramics	Lecture: "Introduction to the Early Christian Architecture in Northwestern Croatia"
Day 5	Lab work: Ceramics	Lecture: "Avars and Slavs"
Day 6	Lab work: Ceramics	Workshop: Recognizing Late Antique and Early Medieval Pottery
Day 7	Trip to the Adriatic coast (Zadar or Split)	
Day 8	Trip to National Park Krka	Departure to Lobar
Day 9	Field work Instruction: Total station, digging the burials (basic rules)	Lecture: Introducing the site. Workshop: cleaning and sorting archaeological material
Day 10	Field work and workshop the same as the day before.	
Day 11	Field work Burials drawing	Bioarchaeological workshop
Day 12	Field work Instruction: packing the bones and	Bioarchaeological workshop

	preparing for the lab	
Day 13	Field work Instruction: importance of sieving	Workshop: working on the total station
Day 14	Field work Working in groups	Bioarchaeological workshop
Day 15	Day off	
Day 16	Field work Working in groups	Lecture: Team work
Day 17	Field work Field survey	Archaeological workshop: pottery
Day 18	Field work Back to the graves Total station	Archaeological workshop: pottery
Day 19	Field work Back to the graves Total station	Workshop: Introducing human skeleton I
Day 20	Field work Back to the graves Cleaning bones	Workshop: Introducing human skeleton II
Day 21	Visit to Krapina Neanderthal Museum and Veliki Tabor Castle (or Trakošćan Castle)	
Day 22	Day off	
Day 23	Field work Working in groups	Workshop: Bioarchaeology Medieval Cuisine
Day 24	Field work Working in groups	Workshop: Bioarchaeology Medieval Cuisine
Day 25	Field work Working in groups	Lecture: Forensic anthropology Preparing for the final talk
Day 26	Field work Cleaning the site	Workshop: Cleaning, sorting and documenting of archaeological finds
Day 27	Closing the site: Final talk 'Bone analysis: Medieval lunch	'What can a skeleton tell you about nutrition?'
Day 28	Return home or onward travel	

Typical Word Day at the Site

6:30 - 7:30 am	- Breakfast
8:00 - 11:00 am	- Fieldwork
11:00 - 11:40 am	- Hot meal
11:40 am – 4:00 pm	- Fieldwork & lecture/workshop
4:00 pm	- Lunch
After lunch	- Free time, homework, dibber

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The required minimum attendance for the successful completion of the field school is 90% of the course hours. Any significant delay or early departure from an activity will be calculated as an absence from the activity. An acceptable number of absences for a medical or other personal reasons will not be taken into account if the student catches up on the field school study plan through additional readings, homework, or tutorials with program staff members.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Students will be provided with all the tools and equipment necessary for the excavation and other field activities. However, students should bring with them the following:

- clothes for both hot and cold weather
- hiking shoes
- A hat
- Wind and/or rain jacket
- Sunscreen
- Sun glasses with UV protection
- Large (1L) drinking bottle
- Towels.

REQUIRED READINGS

Ortner D., *Identification of Pathological Conditions in Human Skeletal Remains*, Massachusetts: Academic Press-Elsevier, 2003 (selected chapters).

I Goti, (bilingual catalogue), Milano 1994.

Curta F., *The Making of Slavs: History and Archaeology of the Lower Danube Region, c. 500-700* (Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought: Fourth Series), 2001 (selected chapters).

Roma e i Barbari, La nascita di un nuovo mondo, (bilingual catalogue) Palazzo Grassi, Skira 2008.

Wolfram H., *History of the Goths*, Berkley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press, 1988 (selected chapters).