The Panlongcheng site (30°41′40″N, 114°15′57″E) is located in the northwest outskirts of the city of Wuhan, which is the largest metropolis in central China. The site is adjacent to the Fu River, a tributary of the Yangtze River, to the south, and occupies an area of about 3.5km², making it the largest central city of the era of the Xia and Shang Dynasties (1600~1300 BC) in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River.

The archaeological history of Panlongcheng can be traced back to 1954, and large-scale archaeological excavations were carried out in the 1970s and 1980s. Through many years of archaeological excavation and research, the main age of the Panlongcheng site dates to around 1600-1300 BC, an era of early state formation in China. The Panlongcheng site has city walls, palace foundations, and elite burials, as well as
a large number of precious objects such as bronzes, jades, proto-porcelain, and so on, which show a very high social rank of the site. At the same time, the remains discovered at the site are often seen to reflect close contact with the Central Plains of North China, where early dynasties known from textual histories emerged, and thus provide excellent data for the exploration of the development of early bronze civilization in the Yangtze River Valley and the understanding of how those early dynasties located in the Central Plains expanded to the south.

Since 2013, Wuhan University, collaborating with the Hubei Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, the Wuhan Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, and the Panlongcheng Museum, has launched a new round of archaeological excavations and research on the settlement layout, landscape, and craft production at Panlongcheng. In recent years, in order to further reveal the settlement layout, deepen the understanding of the nature of Panlongcheng, and reevaluate the society of the early bronze age in the Yangtze River Valley, archaeological excavations and research in Panlongcheng mainly focus on the following aspects.

First, we explore the age and cultural nature of the early remains of the Panlongcheng site, as well as the early landscape and environment of the settlement. In the past, the age of the formation period and the cultural characteristics of the earliest stage were quite controversial, but there are already many clues indicating that the center of the settlement shifted from the lower elevation area in the south to the higher elevation one in the north. For this reason, drilling and trail excavation have been carried out at Wangjiazui, a location at the lower altitude of the Panlongcheng site, to obtain samples of the earliest stage and conduct chronological and typological research. At the same time, taking advantage of the better preservation of the archaeobotanical remains in this lowland area, we also obtained samples for research on the landscape and environment of Panlongcheng in the early stage.

Second, in the past, archaeological research on Panlongcheng and other cities contemporary with the Xia and Shang dynasties has focused on the remains related to elite activities, such as large buildings, elite burials, bronzes, and jades, but has lacked an in-depth focus on the daily life of ordinary residents and the social organization of the city. With this context, in recent years, we have been focusing on drilling and excavation at Wangjiazui, Louziwan, Yangjiawan, and other locations in the peripheral area of the city wall of Panlongcheng, aiming to reveal the settlement layout of the general residential areas, and to explore the social organization, subsistence strategy, and economic structure of the city.

Third, Panlongcheng was not only a city established in relation to the southward expansion of the Xia and Shang Dynasties, but also the largest central city in the middle Yangtze River during 1600-1300 BC, and some clues indicate that, with Panlongcheng as the center, there were close exchanges and interactions in terms of resources between the middle Yangtze River and the Yellow River. Based on the analysis of stone tools, ceramics, and bronzes, including petrography, metallography, and geochemistry, combined with systematic survey of the area around Panlongcheng, going forward we will explore the mode of distribution and circulation of resources centered on Panlongcheng during the Xia and Shang Dynasties. From the perspective of resources and society, we will try to understand the nature of Panlongcheng and reveal the characteristics of the society in the early bronze age in the Yangtze River Valley.

In 2024, we plan to carry out 2,000m² of drilling as well as 400m² of excavation in the general residential areas on the periphery of the city wall, such as Yangjiawan and Louziwan. Within these loci, we will focus on the layout of the general residential areas, and emphasize the extraction of remains related to subsistence and craft production, so as to explore economic and production activities. At the same time, we will also carry out 1,000m² of exploration and 100m² of excavation at locations where early remains may exist, such as Wangjiazui. We will focus on the dating and cultural connotations of the early remains, and emphasize the collection of dating samples and samples related to the paleo-environment. In
addition to the fieldwork, we will also be working on sorting out archaeological materials unearthed at Yangjiawan in the past several years.

ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

Credit Units: Attending students will be awarded 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 360 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 onsite how to conduct archaeological research. Excavation involves physical work, exposure to the elements, and 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 differs 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The summer course will begin on June 23 and will meet daily until July 27. Students will be able to depart for onward travel or return home on July 28.

Students will spend the first week in Wuhan for six days of lectures and 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 Yangtze River Valley, as well as to some topics related to the Panlongcheng site. These topics covered in the class include the history of field archaeology in China, settlement archaeology, environment and landscape in the Yangtze River, identification of animal bones, as well as analysis of pottery and stone tools.

Following this initial week of preliminary instruction, four weeks will be spent in the field and lab performing excavation and lab work at the Panlongcheng site. During this period, students will learn the procedures of fieldwork and master the general technical methods of field archaeology, including the norms and guidelines of field excavation and indoor analysis, the general methods of pottery and stone analysis as well as the basic process of bone identification and data analysis in zooarchaeology, and students are expected to use the relevant tools and related technical systems applied in the field.
excavation, including shovels and drilling tools, RTK, drone, archaeological excavation system, and the GIS.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION

Students will learn the basic artifact types found at the Panlongcheng site. These include pottery sherds, stone tools, and other types of materials. Students will also learn to identify animal bones and study how archaeologists use artifacts to reconstruct the layout of an ancient site, in order to learn about activities and ways of life in ancient times.

B. SOILS AND STRATIGRAPHY

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. Students will learn how archaeologists identify different soil and sediment types 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.

C. ASSEMBLAGE ANALYSIS

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-excaavation analyses.

D. DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY AND 3D MODELING

In this summer school, students are also expected to master drone photography and 3D modeling. In recent archaeology excavations, to record those important, large-scale relics and archaeological phenomena, it is often necessary to use drones. Photographs generated by drones are loaded with spatial information and data, so that they can be utilized to generate 3D models through some software. These models will lay a foundation for subsequent research, display, and conservation.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed in the following four aspects:

A. Performance of daily lectures and practices in archaeological excavation as well as lab work (60%). Students are required to participate in lectures and 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.

B. Presentation of fieldwork (10%) and research work (10%). Students will draw on their own experience in the field and lab work as well as materials from lectures and readings. Grades will be assigned for each student based on individual performance. These two presentations will happen at the end of our excavation (Week 4) and the final week of the field season (Week 5).

C. Final report (20%). Each student is required to submit a short report about five weeks after the end of the field season. The exact deadline will be announced by the instructors. The report consists of...
3-5 written pages summarizing the content of their work at Panlongcheng 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 Panlongcheng 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 23-29)

June 23, 2024 (Sunday)
6:00 PM: Participants meet at the hotel for dinner and program briefing.

June 24, 2024 (Monday)

Breakfast 7:30 AM at the hotel, 1st floor
Orientation 8:30-8:45 AM
Program safety briefing; review of IFR policies including sexual harassment, discrimination, and code of conduct
Lecture I 8:45-10:15 AM
Rowan Flad: An Introduction to Archaeological Theory and Method
Required reading: Renfrew and Bahn 2016
Q&A: 10:15-10:30 AM
Break: 10:30-10:45 AM
Lecture II 10:45-11:45 AM
Zou Qiushi: Environment and Landscape of the Yangtze River Valley
Optional reading: Wu et al. 2021
Discussion: 11:45 AM-12:00 PM
Lunch break 12:00-2:30 PM

June 25, 2024 (Tuesday)

Breakfast 7:30 AM at the hotel, 1st floor
Tour 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Sun Zhuo: Panlongcheng Site Museum visit
Lunch break 12:00-2:30 PM
Lecture IV 2:30 PM-4:30 PM
Zhang Hai: An Introduction to Field Archaeology in China
Required reading: Liu and Chen 2012
Q&A: 4:30-5:00 PM

June 26, 2024 (Wednesday)
Breakfast 7:30 AM at the hotel, 1st floor
Lecture V 9:00-11:30 AM
Sun Zhuo: Methods and Techniques of Field Archaeology
Required readings: Schiffer 1972, 1987
Q&A: 11:30-12:00 PM
Lunch break 12:00-2:00 PM
Lecture VI 2:00-3:15 PM
Liu Yiting: An Introduction to Zooarchaeology
Optional reading: Reitz and Wing 2008
Q&A: 3:15-3:30 PM
Lecture VII 3:30-4:45 PM
Zou Qiushi: An Introduction to GIS and Landscape Archaeology
Optional reading: Conolly 2016
Q&A: 4:45-5:00 PM

June 27, 2024 (Thursday)
Breakfast 7:30 AM at the hotel, 1st floor
Tour 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Hubei Provincial Museum visit
Lunch break 12:00-2:00 PM
Tour 2:00 AM-5:00 PM
Wuhan University visit

June 28, 2024 (Friday)
Breakfast 7:30 AM at the hotel, 1st floor
Lecture VIII 9:00-11:30 AM
Qin Ling: An Introduction to Settlement Archaeology
Required reading: Trigger 1967
Q&A: 11:30 AM-12:00 PM
Lunch break 12:00-2:30 PM
Lecture IX 2:30-3:30 PM
Li Tao: Pottery Analysis
Optional reading: Rice 2015
Q&A: 3:30-3:45 PM
Break: 3:45-4:00 PM

Lecture X  4:00-5:00 PM
Su Xin: Stone Analysis
Optional reading: Su et al. 2021
Q&A: 5:00-5:15 PM

June 29, 2024 (Saturday)
Breakfast  7:30 AM at the hotel, 1st floor
Lecture XI  9:00-11:30 AM
Sun Zhuo: Important Archaeological Discoveries at the Panlongcheng Site over the Years
Required reading:  Zhang 2014
Optional readings: Baley 1977, Sun et al. 2018
Q&A: 11:30 AM-12:00 PM
Lunch break  12:00-2:30 PM
Lecture XII  2:30-3:30 PM
Zou Qishi: Archaeological Geospatial Recording System for the Panlongcheng Site
Q&A: 3:30-3:45 PM
Break: 3:45-4:00 PM
Lecture XIII  4:00-5:00 PM
Sun Zhuo: Recording System for Archaeological Excavations at the Panlongcheng Site
Q&A: 5:00-5:15 PM

June 30, 2020 (Sunday)
Free time and rest

PART TWO: Fieldwork (July 1-July 27, 2024)

Project directors and scholars who visit the site will give lectures on site or Panlongcheng Site Museum. 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. We expect to have lectures on the following topics:

1) GIS and remote sensing
2) Zooarchaeology
3) Ceramic analysis

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

In addition, we will make tours to other museums, including Wuhan Museum and Hubei Archaeology Museum.
Notice: The rainy season starts in May in Wuhan, so our lab work (washing pottery sherds and cataloging) is usually arranged on rainy days.

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

7:00 AM: Breakfast  
8:00-11:30 AM: Work (morning)  
11:30 AM-2:30 PM: Lunch break  
2:30-5:30 PM: Work (afternoon)  
6:00 PM: Team Meeting and Dinner

**July 1-July 14**  
All students will work together on the excavation.

**July 15-July 19**  
Students will be assigned to two groups: excavation group and lab work group. Tasks of the two groups will be done simultaneously and rotated daily.

**July 20, 2024 (Saturday)**  
2:00 PM: Presentation of the fieldwork  
Students present their gains from the excavation, 20 minutes per group. Instructors and other students will comment on the presentations.

**July 21-July 26**  
We will set up three research groups, including zooarchaeology, pottery and stone tool analysis, and field research. Students will select a research group of their interest to participate in learning and discussion.

**July 27, 2024 (Saturday)**  
2:00 PM: Presentation of the research work  
Same procedure as the presentation of the fieldwork.

7:00 PM: Farewell Party  
**July 28, 2024 (Sunday)**  
Students depart

**REQUIRED READINGS**

PDF files of all mandatory readings will be provided to enrolled students. 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.


**RECOMMENDED READINGS**


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

Archaeology excavation is a kind of physical work in the outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than 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 partial-shade tarps but we are still working in the 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 sun block 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 several months ahead of time. Please visit the visa page of the Chinese Embassy in your own country for more information and required paperwork. Here is guidance for your reference.

All students could apply for a short-term study visa (X2 visa), and you will receive an official admission letter from School of History, Wuhan University after you are accepted by this summer school.
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.

IFR programs follow the health requirements and guidelines of local health authorities. You may also wish to consult recommendations from the US Centers for Disease Control at: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list

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 Wuhan airport or train station or may travel themselves directly to the Jinjiang Inn Select (Wuhan Tianhe Airport Branch) on June 23. Students may travel to Wuhan by train to the Wuhan Station and Hankou Station or may fly to the Wuhan Tianhe International Airport (WHU). Please note that train tickets often sell out in summer and should be purchased well in advance through a website such as trains.ctrip.com or www.12306.cn. There are many domestic flights and trains to Wuhan from different points of entry into China, such as Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Beijing, and some international flights go to Wuhan directly.

To make it easier for the program coordinators to meet you at the airport or train station, please arrange to arrive on June 23 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 Jinjiang Inn Select (Wuhan Tianhe Airport Branch).

The address of the Jinjiang Inn Select (Wuhan Tianhe Airport Branch) is: No. 5 Commercial Building, F. Airport Center, No. 157 Panlong Avenue, Panlongcheng, Huangpi District, 430200 Wuhan, China.

锦江之星宾馆（武汉天河机场店），湖北省武汉市黄陂区盘龙大道157号F空港中心5号商业楼

From Wuhan Tihanhe International Airport:

A. Take the subway (Wuhan Metro Line 2) to the Julong Dadao (巨龙大道) at the airport, then go outside through Exit B (cost 4 RMB).

B. Take a taxi at the airport directly to the hotel, which will cost about 40 RMB.
From Wuhan Station (high speed railway station):

A. Take the Wuhan Metro Line 4 (Bolin Direction 柏林方向) at Wuhan Station (武汉站), then transfer to Wuhan Metro Line 8 (Jinyintan Direction 金银潭方向) at Yuejiazui (岳家嘴), then transfer to Wuhan Metro Line 2 (Tianhe Airport Direction 天河机场方向) at Hongtu Dadao (宏图大道), eventually arrive at Julong Dadao (巨龙大道) and then go outside through Exit B (cost 7 RMB).

B. Take a taxi to the hotel directly, which will cost about 80 RMB.

From Hankou Station:

A. Take the subway (Wuhan Metro Line 2) to the Julong Dadao (巨龙大道) at the train station, then go outside through Exit B (cost 5 RMB).

B. Take a taxi at the airport directly to the hotel and it will cost about 40 RMB.

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 period of the field school, students will live in a hotel near the Panlongcheng site. Food is provided Monday to Saturday (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). Breakfast for participants will be provided by the hotel in the hotel restaurant, while lunch and dinner will be provided by the cafeteria of the archaeological workstation at the Panlongcheng site. The daily diet in Wuhan is heavily based on rice, noodles, and vegetables. Specialized diets (vegan, kosher, etc.) are not very easy to maintain in this location. We will try to be as flexible as possible and offer some special diets, but you need to let us know in advance.

**EQUIPMENT LIST**

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

Do not forget to 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 addition, it will be convenient in China to adopt some electronic payment methods including Alipay and WeChat, and we will have an instruction at the orientation on the first day. You can also consider bringing a little cash, but try to be in small denominations.

If you want to use your phone, alert your carrier that you will be abroad and ask about rates, or plan to obtain a local SIM card.

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.