

# Archaeology

“Since archaeological data collection is generally a time intensive and physically demanding activity, having a group of enthusiastic students ready to survey and dig for an entire block is a real treat.”

*Visiting Professor of Archaeology, John Doershuk*

Archaeology is a multidisciplinary field that emphasizes the interpretation of material remains in order to understand a culture’s history, demographics, religions, economic exchange, political systems, and social values. Archaeologists can specialize in traditionally scientific areas, such as floral and faunal remains and forensic archaeology (biology), the chemical composition of ceramics or preservation of delicate paintings (chemistry), or the petrology and geomorphology of lithics and the ability to survey and map sites (geology).

Archaeologists use computer software to record and catalog data and to map, and sometimes reconstruct, ancient sites. Historical archaeologists must be able to read coins, inscriptions, and the preserved writings of a culture (languages).

Finally, archaeologists need to be able to understand human interaction (anthropology) suggested by the art and artifacts of a culture (art history). In short, to be a good archaeologist, one needs a broad liberal arts education with emphases in one or more specific areas.

Students have the opportunity to participate in summer research domestically or abroad and will complete a capstone course at the end of the major. A strength of the program is the ease with which students can work with faculty members to tailor

a program to their own interests and larger research plans. For these reasons, studying archaeology at Cornell offers the quintessential liberal arts experience and equips students with a critical and analytical toolbox in order to tackle complex material evidence, quantitative data, and textual evidence. Successful completion of the program prepares students for professional experience in the field and further academic study, but also amply prepares them for a myriad of professional pursuits.

Cornell also maintains a relationship with John Doershuk, the state archaeologist with the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City. He teaches classes at Cornell, including Intro to Archaeological Field Methods, which is taught outdoors at local historical sites. Doershuk has also provided research opportunities through his lab at the University of Iowa. Cornell’s close relationship with the Office of the State Archaeologist is a great partnership for our program because students have the opportunity to work with practicing archaeologists on everything from surveys, excavations, and data collection to recording and conservation of finds—and interpreting those finds within a larger context.

#### **BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME**

One Course At A Time provides extensive opportunities for off-campus study, research, and individual mentorship as students explore possible paths in the diverse terrain of archaeological endeavors.

Cornell’s One Course At A Time calendar affords many immersion experiences that allow you to delve

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## Faculty Bios & Courses

### **RHAWN DENNISTON**

*Associate Professor  
of Geology*

Teaches several courses related to archaeology, including Mineralogy, Climate Change, and Geomorphology. Ph.D. Geosciences

### **JOHN GRUBER-MILLER**

*Professor of Classical Studies*

Serves as advisor to the archaeology program. He teaches off-campus courses on Greek and Roman Archaeology and courses in Latin and Greek. Ph.D. Classics

### **JOHN DOERSHUK**

*Visiting Professor  
of Anthropology*

Has taught various courses in anthropology over the years, including Archaeology, Introduction to Archaeological Field Methods, Human Origins, and Indigenous Peoples and Cultures of North America. He became the Iowa State Archaeologist in July 2007. Ph.D. Anthropology

### **PHILIP VENTICINQUE**

*Associate Professor of  
Classical Studies*

Serves as advisor to the archaeology program. Teaches Greek and Roman History, Egypt After the Pyramids, Egypt in the Imagination, and courses in Greek and Latin language and literature. Ph.D. Classics - Ancient Mediterranean World

### **MARCELA OCHOA-SHIVAPOUR**

*Associate Professor of  
Spanish*

Teaches Latin American History as well as courses in Spanish. Ph.D. Spanish



deeply into the subject matter. Students can spend a block investigating the archaeology and history of Greece, Rome, and Pre-Columbian Mexico, among others; many students cultivate an interest in archaeology and geology and spend time in the field with one of our geology course offerings. One Course At A Time and the flexibility of the block schedule also allow our students to undertake internships and other experiences during the academic year for a single term—a focused academic-professional experience. We also encourage our students to pursue their interests in the summer and find digs, internships, and research opportunities on campus and elsewhere.

#### CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

At Cornell, archeology is considered an individualized major, so certain courses are recommended for the individualized archaeology major, but students choose their own emphasis and path of study based on their own personal strengths and goals.

The archaeology program at Cornell is highly flexible and intentionally multidisciplinary. It includes a set of core courses in anthropology, the sciences, and language study. It also includes several options for investigating themes of time and place, along with a choice of electives and a senior thesis project.

Cornell's One Course At A Time curriculum gives students a great deal of flexibility in pursuing off-campus courses, such as Intro to Archaeological Field Methods (taught locally), or Greek Archaeology (in Greece). Students also enjoy access to high-level internship and research opportunities through our relationship with the Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa, the Cornell Fellows program, and programs abroad (field schools in Portugal, Israel, Greece, Bulgaria, and the American Southwest).

The Capstone Project consists of an internship, research paper, and a dig.

#### INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Some recent internships and fellowships conducted by Cornell archeology students include:

- Office of the State Archaeologist.
- University of Iowa, in Israel with an excavation.
- Kenchreai Archaeological Field School in Greece under the auspices of the Center for Hellenic Studies.
- Cornell Fellowship at The Mexican Museum in San Francisco.

#### AFTER CORNELL

##### ALUMNI CAREERS

Archaeological field technician, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Middleburg, Pennsylvania (Class of 2015)

Enrichment assistant, Americorp Vista, Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Class of 2015)

Facilitator, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (Class of 2015)

Field technician at Merjent, Inc., Alton, Illinois (Class of 2015)

Research intern, National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C. (Class of 2014)

Graduate teaching assistant, University of South Carolina Department of Anthropology, Columbia, South Carolina (Class of 2013)

Graduate teaching assistant, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan (Class of 2013)

Geospatial technician, BAE Systems, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Class of 2013)

Office assistant II at State of Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska (Class of 2013)

Program coordinator at Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry County, Crystal Lake, Illinois (Class of 2012)

Archaeology field technician, Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program, Champaign, Illinois (Class of 2006)

Project manager, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Denver, Colorado, previously senior archaeologist for William Self Associates (Class of 2003)

##### GRADUATE PROGRAMS

M.A., archaeology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida (Class of 2017)

M.A., geology, University of Connecticut, Mansfield, Connecticut (Class of 2017)

M.A., anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina (Class of 2013)

M.A., geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan (Class of 2013)

M.A., art history, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia (Class of 2013)

#### CHRISTINA PENN-GOETSCH

*Professor of Art History*

Teaches the course Etruscan and Roman Art. Ph.D. Art History

#### JUDITH SIEBERT

*Lecturer in Anthropology and Latin American Studies*

Teaches the course The Maya. Ph.D. Anthropology

#### CINDY STRONG

*Professor of Chemistry*

Teaches courses in analytical chemistry. Ph.D. Chemistry

#### EMILY WALSH

*Associate Professor of Geology*

Teaches a number of courses that may count toward an archaeology major, and she has also co-led the off-campus course Greek Archaeology. Ph.D. Geological Sciences