INTRODUCTION

Among the most important archaeological sites in northern Ecuador, Cochasquí is also one of the largest earthen mound centers in the Americas. There are 15 massive truncated pyramids, some with extended entry ramps up to 300 meters in length. Most of these are thought to have been built after about 1280 A.D., and many, if not all, would have been adorned by large, circular communal structures. An earlier phase at the site, between about 1050 and 1250 A.D., is marked by numerous smaller hemispherical
burial mounds. The 1964-1965 German excavators at the site, led by archaeologist Udo Oberem, defined two ceramic assemblages associated with these sequential mound construction phases; a third possible phase began with the arrival of the Inka around 1500. After the Spanish conquest in 1534, the site continued to be occupied until inhabitants were finally reduced to the nearby towns of Tocachi and Malchingui in 1580 when the site area was incorporated into the Hacienda Cochasqui. Through the years various archaeologists, including German Andeanist Max Uhle in 1932, visited the hacienda and wrote about its visible remains. Uhle found 570 human skulls deposited within one of the pyramids which have been attributed to sacrificial victims and casualties in the war between the Inka and the Cara during the conquest. The 1964-1965 German excavation of Cochasqui was by far the largest. Much of the site area was designated as a regional park in 1978, protecting a significant portion of the site’s resources including the largest ramped mounds, resources that are quickly disappearing from many other parts of northern Ecuador.

Udo Oberem’s 1964-1965 Cochasqui project was one of the largest and most ambitious archaeological projects ever undertaken in Ecuador and the results now define much of northern Ecuadorian highland archaeology. Nonetheless, many questions were left unanswered and new and more complex questions have arisen in the intervening half century. Working in various projects across the northern highlands, our team realized that many of the critical questions facing modern archaeologists might be approached using new archaeological approaches and new technologies. PACM began its quest to re-examine this important site with a series of research questions appropriate to 21st Century archaeological ideas augmented by the latest technology utilizing aerial drones, 3D imagery, digital elevation models, ground penetrating radar, and magnetometry. Today, the Proyecto Arqueológico Cochasqui-Mojanda (PACM) is the most technologically advanced ongoing archaeological project in Ecuador and one of the most advanced in South America.

After several reconnaissance efforts by our team in and around Cochasqui and the Mojanda Lakes area in 2015, PACM began in earnest at the site itself in 2016 with drone aerial mapping, ground penetrating radar survey, Inka road surveys and other reconnaissance trips around the monumental center, as well as excavation units and stratigraphic profiles at various cultural features in the main ramped mound sector. Over the years, PACM has continued to survey the area surrounding Cochasqui, ground truth features detected through remote sensing, examine pyramid construction techniques, and search for the connections between the hemispherical burial mound phase and the pyramid phase of site occupation.

The 2020 field season will focus on excavating concentrations of the possible quotidian structures within the portion of the site identified by the Germans as a possible village. Since much of the archaeological focus at Cochasqui has been placed on the pyramids, little is understood of the domestic lives of the people that built the pyramids. Effort in the 2020 field season will also be focused on the largest pyramid on site where notable coursed masonry style walls constructed with distinctive local materials were discovered by Max Uhle which he identified as evidence of Inka modifications in one of the final phases of pyramid construction. In 2018 and 2019, PACM uncovered a portion of a similar style of construction deeper within the pyramid raising questions about local construction styles and the extent of Inka contributions to the site.

Another area of interest for the 2020 season will be the largest hemispherical mound on site, mound x, where evidence of habitation and feasting has been documented. Hemispherical mounds, which predate pyramid construction, are generally burial mounds. Though there are a few later dates, mound x is unique as much of the structure seems to pre-date the Late Integration ramped mound period. This mound also contains evidence of habitation, rather than burials, and could mark the transition from the hemispherical burial mound tradition to the quadrangular earthen pyramids.
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/2hvurkl.

PREREQUISITES

No prerequisites are required for attendance. Nonetheless, prospective students should understand that archaeological field work is a serious and ultimately destructive undertaking and field work involves intense physical labor outdoors, often under less than ideal conditions to achieve specific project related goals.

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.

The IFR does not provide trip or travel cancellation insurance. We encourage students to explore such insurance on their own as it may be purchased at affordable prices. Insuremytrip.com or Travelguard.com are possible sites where field school participants may explore travel cancellation insurance quotes and policies. If you do purchase such insurance, make sure the policy covers the cost of both airfare and tuition. See this Wall Street Journal article about travel insurance that may help you with to help to decide whether to purchase such insurance.

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.

Ecuador is an extremely ecologically diverse country and it is possible to go from frozen glaciers to sweltering jungles in a matter of hours. The project area is located at about 3,100 meters (10,000 feet) elevation, temperatures range from the high 60s (Fahrenheit) during the day to low 40s at night, and there are very few biting insects. During the day the sun can be very intense, and you can heat up very quickly; the relatively low humidity can be dehydrating and carrying drinking water is essential. UV radiation is also stronger at this high altitude and sunscreen is essential. Nights can be cold, and as there is no heat in the cabins, and the bathroom facilities are outdoors, students should have a good
sleeping bag and warm evening clothes. In general, students should be prepared for a wide range of temperatures, especially if field trips take us to higher or lower elevations, or if you plan to travel before or after the field school. A few layers of clothing that can be removed or added as needed are best.

Students will enjoy relatively easy field conditions with most areas of excavation within a short walk from the compound. Most areas are within the fenced and protected archaeological park with guards on duty 24/7 and llamas being the most dangerous animal one might ordinarily encounter. Nonetheless, students should be ready and willing to hike and carry equipment to their specific excavations, work all day, and hike back to the compound in the evenings. For safety reasons, students will not be allowed to excavate in shorts. Sturdy boots will be necessary for much of the fieldwork.

The project lies in the Andean highlands and some activities will be conducted at even higher elevations. While most students have no trouble with the altitude, a short period of acclimation should be expected. If you have asthma, COPD, other breathing difficulties or previous problems with altitude sickness, it would be wise to consult your doctor and discuss your issues with the project directors. Students (especially students who plan on travelling after the field school) should visit a travel doctor to be sure they are up to date on all their vaccinations and take all necessary precautions for their journey. Students should also bring any personal medication they might require for their time in Ecuador.

For any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The field school will introduce students to the basics of archaeological field investigations and provide a general introduction to Andean archaeology and culture history. Participants will conduct archaeological field investigations during the day under the guidance of professional archaeologists and attend occasional evening lectures on field methods, theory, Andean/Ecuadorian history and prehistory, and geoarchaeology.

This will be achieved through a combination of lectures, assignments, and hands on training. Students will also spend some time in the lab cleaning and documenting collected materials. Each field school participant will also be required to design and implement an independent project during the field season. The goal of the field school will be to teach students the basics of research, the scientific method, hypothesis testing, and project development by encouraging participants to develop and test research questions as part of their final project in the field school.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the field season, students should know and understand the basics of archaeological theory, excavation methods, and understand basic scientific methods as utilized in archaeology. Participants should know how to lay out excavation units, basic excavation and mapping techniques, what techniques might best be suited to particular contexts, how to complete archaeological paperwork, and how to identify, sort, catalog, and prepare artifacts for analysis. Students should also understand how to identify general soil types and should understand basic concepts of site formation, geomorphological processes, concepts of typology and cultural change through material items, as well as how evidence of material context can be related to evidence of cultural context.

GRADING MATRIX
Students will be graded on a combination of comprehension of assigned reading topics and participation, field exercises, field notebooks, and a final research project.

**Lectures and Readings (20%)**: Students will receive a portion of their final grade derived from their ability to articulate and form questions based on the content of lectures and assigned readings. Students may be asked to write brief summaries or be quizzed on the contents of specific readings during the course of the field school.

**Participation in Field Exercises (40%)**: A portion of students’ grades will be based on their daily participation in the operations of the project. Students will cycle through various operations and tasks during the season and will be expected to willingly and enthusiastically engage in those activities. Uncooperative or negative behaviors or shirking work will be graded accordingly. Students will be graded upon their willingness to cooperate.

**Field Notebooks (20%)**: Notes and observations in the form of a field notebook are integral to the success and appropriate documentation of archaeological fieldwork. Students will be required to keep a complete and professionally acceptable journal of daily activities, archaeological findings and interpretations. Incomplete notebooks or inappropriate entries are unacceptable, and grades will be based on thoroughness, appropriate content, and a demonstration of an understanding of archaeological concepts will be graded positively. Field notebooks will be checked by directors on a randomly selected day once a week and should be maintained daily. The field notebooks are an essential part of our recordation process and will be turned in to the project at its completion. If students would like to keep a copy of their fieldnotes for their own records, they should make their own copies before turning them in.

**Student Research Projects (20%)**: During the course of the project, students will be required to develop a research project in which they will form a hypothesis, develop a method to test the hypothesis, and form appropriate conclusions about their topic. Research projects will be developed by students according to their interests with the guidance of project directors and must be approved by directors before students begin conducting their research. Projects can involve observations from ongoing excavations or recording activities, analysis of artifacts, or related experimental activities with archaeological materials. Student projects should identify and investigate specific archaeological or anthropological problems that relate to the archaeology of the site or the region. Students will be required to report on their findings in a 15-minute professional-style presentation to other members of the project during the final week of the field school as well as write a 5 to 8-page, double spaced paper with SAA-style citations. See the SAA Style Guide for reference to making appropriate citations: https://documents.saa.org/container/docs/default-source/doc-publications/style-guide/saa-style-guide_updated-july-2018c5062f7e55154959ab57564384bda7de.pdf?sfvrsn=8247640e_6

**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.

Students can meet field school staff at the Amazonia Café in the Quito International Airport (UIO) on Sunday July 12, 2020. Students must inform the project staff of their arrival time in Quito before the project to arrange transport from the airport which is some distance from the site. If you are coming overland or would like to arrange your own transportation to the site, please inform the project as soon as possible and provide contact information. 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
A valid passport over six months from its expiration date is required to enter Ecuador. This is important; persons with less than six months before their passport expiration will be turned away at the airport. No visa is required for U.S. visitors for stays of 90 days or less. Stays of greater than 90 days will require a travel visa to be obtained in advance. Citizens of other countries are asked to check the embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirements.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Students will stay in relatively comfortable field accommodations in 3-persons per-room onsite cabins with Wi-Fi, bathrooms, hot showers, and laundry facilities. Nighttime temperatures can be near freezing around the cabins, which are not heated, so students are encouraged to bring a sleeping bag in addition to the blankets that will be provided. Breakfasts will generally be informal, and lunches will consist of sandwiches and field food prepared by students themselves from foods provided, while dinners will be eaten as a group in the small site cafeteria, prepared by local cooks. Local foods are heavily based on potato and rice but can be accompanied by a variety of fruits, vegetables, and proteins. Some accommodations can be made for vegans, vegetarians, and students with allergies or special dietary restrictions, but other specific dietary restrictions such as kosher or halal meals may not be feasible.

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. Students will have free afternoons on any Saturday without a scheduled fieldtrip and a free day on Sundays as well as a 3-day weekend during the middle of the field season. Students are free to remain on-site or arrange their own travel. Travelling students will be required to sign a travel sheet indicating their destination and return time as well as to return to the project by 7 pm the day before fieldwork unless they have made prior arrangements with the field school directors.

Note: Ideally, students will begin readings before the start of the field school. Readings should be completed by the date on which they are listed. Recommended readings on the schedule relate directly to the associated lecture topics. Some recommended readings not listed on the schedule relate more to a broad understanding of archaeology and Ecuador rather than lectures.

Unlike places such as Peru where U.S. archaeologists have a long history of conducting fieldwork, it is difficult to find readings on Ecuador (and especially Cochasqui) written in English. Lectures and instruction will be conducted in English and knowledge of Spanish is not a requirement of the field school but, for students proficient in Spanish, some of the Spanish-language recommended readings may be extremely useful.

The course schedule will generally be adhered to but could change based on the availability of visiting experts or the needs of the project. Unexpected visitors may be invited to present lectures and students should be prepared to attend and take notes. Students will be informed ahead of time of any changes to the schedule.

Week 1 (Sunday July 12-Sunday July 18)
Sunday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Airport pickups
12:00 PM Lunch
1-7:00 PM Airport pickups
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM-2:00 AM Airport pickups

Monday
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Health & Safety Orientation, Introduction to Project
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Site Tour

Tuesday
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 Site Tour Continues
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Lecture: Archaeological Field Methods I - General Survey and Excavation (Field school directors)

Lecture Readings:


Wednesday
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Begin fieldwork
12:30 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3-5:00 PM Free Time
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research project

Thursday
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 Fieldwork
3-5:00 PM Lecture: Research Design I - Archaeological Research and Complex Societies (Field school directors)
5-7:00 PM Free Time

Lecture Readings:


- Some General Characteristics of Chiefdoms (pp. 622-628)
- Chiefdoms and Empire in the Andean Regions (pp. 628-629)
- Northern Andes (Ecuador) (pp. 648-653)
- Conclusion (pp. 653-656)

Recommended Lecture Readings:

Friday
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3:00 PM-5:00 PM Lecture: Regional History I - Ecuadorian Prehistory, Climate Change, Volcanism (Dr. David Brown)
5:00 PM-7:00 PM Free Time

***Student Project Proposals are Due – Approximately 200 words with a clearly stated and testable hypothesis

Lecture Readings:


Saturday
Field Trip to Hacienda Guachalá (Lunch will be provided at the Hacienda)
Lecture: Regional History II - Inka and Spanish Invasions (Field school directors)
Lecture: Ecuadorian History (Guachalá Hacienda owner Diego Bonifaz)

Lecture Readings:
Recommended Lecture Readings:


Sunday Free Day (Students are required to return to site by 7:00 PM on Sunday)

Week 2 (Monday July 20-Sunday July 26)

Monday 7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfas and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3:50 PM Lecture: Research Design II - Geoarchaeology (Dr. Charles Frederick, Research Fellow, Department of Geography, University of Texas at Austin)
5-7:00 PM Free Time

***Students Should Begin Working on Projects

Lecture Readings:


Tuesday 7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3-5:00 PM Free Time
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects

Wednesday 7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Field Work
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3:50 PM Lecture: Archaeological Theory I - Implementing Theory (Dr. Steve Black, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Texas State University)
5-7:00 PM Free Time

Lecture Readings:


**Thursday**
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3-5:00 PM Free Time
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects

**Friday**
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3-5:00 PM Field Work
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects (Potential Guest Lecture)

**Saturday**
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8-12:00 AM Fieldwork
After 12:00 Free time (Potential Guest Lecture in the Afternoon)

**Sunday**
Free Day (Students are required to return by 7:00 PM on Sunday)

**Week 3 (Monday July 27-Sunday August 2)**

**Monday**
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3-5:00 PM Lecture: Archeological Theory II - Evolutionary Theory (Dr. David Brown)
5-7:00 PM Free Time

**Lecture Readings:**

**Recommended Lecture Readings:**


**Tuesday**
7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 Fieldwork
3-5:00 PM Free Time
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects
**Wednesday**

7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3:30-5:00 PM Lecture: Field Methods II – Subsurface remote sensing in archaeology (Dr. Chet Walker)
5-7:00 PM Free Time

**Lecture Readings:**


**Thursday**

7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3:30-5:00 PM Free Time
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects

**Friday-Sunday**

Free Long Weekend - Students can travel or stay on site. Students who travel will be required to provide an itinerary and travel plans to project directors as well as arrange their own meals, transportation, and lodging. Travel arrangements can be made with the help of project directors. Students who stay on site can take local day trips with the help of project directors and will have lodging and meals provided. Students are required return to the site by 7:00 PM on Sunday.

**Week 4 (Monday August 3-Sunday August 9)**

**Monday**

7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3:30-5:00 PM Free Time
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects

**Tuesday**

7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3:30-5:00 PM Free Time
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects

**Wednesday**

7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Introduction to Archaeology
3:30-5:00 PM Fieldwork
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects
Thursday 7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3-5:00 PM Free Time
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects

Friday 7:00 AM Students meet in dining hall for breakfast and to make their own lunch
8:00 AM-12:00 PM Fieldwork
12:00 PM Lunch
12:30-3:00 PM Fieldwork
3-5:00 PM Field Work
5-7:00 PM Students write notes or work on research projects

Saturday  Field Trip to Hacienda Zuleta, Urcuquí, or Yahuarcopcha (Yet to be determined; Students will pack lunch)

Sunday Free Day (Students are required to return to site by 7:00 PM on Sunday)

Week 5 (Monday August 10-Saturday August 15)

Monday Final Day of Excavations- Students draw profiles and finalize paperwork and notes

Tuesday Close and Backfill Excavations

Wednesday Organize materials and prepare them for storage

Thursday ***Final Research Project Presentations


Friday 8-12:00 PM Continue with project presentations if necessary & conduct Project Evaluations
After 12:00 PM End of field season celebration

Saturday Students are taken to airport or begin their travels

EQUIPMENT LIST

- Sturdy hiking boots
- Hat
- Sunscreen (It’s expensive in Ecuador and you’ll be using it a lot)
- Daypack/backpack
- Sleeping bag
- Flashlight
- Any medication you need and prescription medication to last for the duration of the field school
- Water bottle/water bottles, at least 2 liters (you can buy disposable water bottles and reuse them if you’re worried about space, but there is only one small store in Cochasquí so make sure you hold on to them)
- Marshalltown Pointing Trowel - 5” x 2”
- A rain jacket or rain poncho
- A warm jacket
- A towel
- A laptop computer (not required but if you have one and can bring it, you may find it useful while working on your research project)

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Athens, J. Stephen

Black, Stephen L., and Kevin Jolly

Bray, Tamara

Carneiro, Robert L.

Davis, Jera R., Chester P. Walker, and John H. Blitz

Hester, Thomas R., Harry J. Shafer, and Kenneth L. Feder

Pauketat, Timothy R.

Rapp, George, and Christopher L. Hill

Rowe, John Howland

Uhle, Max

Villamarín, Juan A., and Judith E. Villamarín
RECOMMENDED READINGS

Bray, Tamara

Bray, Tamara L., and José H. Echeverría Almeida
2014  The Late Imperial Site of Inca-Caranqui, Northern Highland Ecuador: At the End of Empire. *Ñawpa Pacha: Journal of Andean Archaeology* 34(2):177-199.

DeBoer, Warren R.

Doyon, Leon G.

Duncan, Ronald J.

Lippi, Ronald D.

Nesbitt, Jason

Oberem, Udo

Salomon, Frank
Trigger, Bruce G.


Uribe Alarcón, María Victoria


**RECOMMENDED READINGS FOR SPANISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS**

Oberem, Udo


Uhle, Max