

Anthropology 3320 (1.0 course credit)
Archaeological Field School in St Kitts Nevis 2023

Information Sheet for Potential Applicants

The Department of Anthropology is offering students the opportunity to participate in archaeological research on the island of Nevis, in the eastern Caribbean. Course instructor is Dr. Neal Ferris, and field direction will be supported by Western graduate students or project team members. Students will work as crew members conducting archaeological field survey, site excavations, and field laboratory work on a series of sites along the Bath Spring and Stream on Nevis, just south of the island's capital of Charlestown. These archaeological sites include ancient Indigenous-era components, but will mainly consist of colonial, post-emancipation and national era historical components (ca. 17th-20th centuries) related to community households, British military forts, and the Bath House-Hotel, the earliest formal hotel established in the eastern Caribbean.

Students will also assist the Nevis History and Conservation Society by undertaking service work tied to the care and management of heritage places. Students will also participate in fieldtrips to cultural heritage places and participate in longstanding Nevisian or Kittian cultural traditions.

The course requires you to learn to live and work together in a foreign country, experiencing Nevisian society and culture while contributing to a large research project. You are participating in a Western-led learning experience, are guests on Nevis, and handling the heritage of Nevisians. It is vital for your own positive experience, camaraderie with your co-workers and project team members, and interactions with Nevisians that you are respectful, considerate and mindful at all times. All participants will be expected to commit to a Field School Code of Conduct, as well as know and adhere to Western's [Student Code of Conduct](#).

IMPORTANT TO KNOW:

Fieldwork - Students interested in taking this course need to keep in mind that the **fieldwork will be hot, dusty, and physically demanding**. We will be on island during the late Spring, where average day time temperatures (30-32 Celsius) will feel like London Ontario in July or August. As such, fieldwork will start early in the day (8:00 in the field or earlier), and lab work will normally occur in the afternoons.

Hats, sunscreen, and a water bottle are vital. Likewise, footwear for digging and hiking (hiking boots, etc.) is necessary. Long pants are recommended,

as is the use of field or garden gloves. Mosquitoes and midges abound, so bug spray is needed.

Living Together – Accommodations and meal arrangements will be shared and simple, to reduce costs. Wi-Fi likely will be available where we stay. People can use cell data too, but at exorbitant costs. There will be a project cell phone in case of emergencies and you can give that number to family. There will be a project van for all crew travel.

The language of St Kitts Nevis is English. Local currency is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (around 2 to 1 CDN dollar). Locally people tend to use WhatsApp to phone and text, using Wi-Fi connections.

IMPORTANT FOR US TO KNOW –

Do you have any medical concerns or needs that might limit your participation in the course? Dietary restrictions that constrain your participating in meals? **Please discuss any considerations you feel the instructor needs to be aware of and consider your choice to enroll in this course if you think you may not be able to participate as it is designed.**

TIMING –

The course will take place from **May 29 to June 16, 2023**. That allows for 15 days of field and lab work, and two weekends for field trips. Travel to and from Nevis will occur on the weekends immediately before and after. A half day orientation session will be held earlier in May.

WHO CAN APPLY –

The course is intended primarily for 3rd and 4th year Anthropology students; students in other programs may also be accepted into the field course, depending on the applicant pool. Class size will be limited to **5-6 students**.

HOW TO APPLY –

An Application form can be accessed [HERE](#) [insert link], and through the department website for [Summer 2023 courses](#). We will begin to review applications for this course Tuesday, February 14th. Applicants will be evaluated based on their statement of interest and past academic performance. Applicants may also be interviewed after February 14th.

COSTS –

In addition to paying Western a 1.0 Credit Course Tuition, students need to cover their **travel, accommodation, and food** costs. Costs related to working on Nevis (ground transportation, support crew, equipment and lab, speakers and field trips) will be covered by SSHRC research funding.

A request to the Social Sciences Student Donation Fund will be submitted to assist in defraying student costs.

Cost Estimates –

Travel – Airfare from Toronto, avoiding overnight layovers, and return travel from Basseterre to Nevis: est. **\$1250-\$1400**. Please note that additional cancellation insurance is strongly recommended for your flight. (Possible tip: you can save \$300-400 on flights, depending on dates of travel, by doing overnight layovers in places like Miami International Airport. I don't recommend it, though).

Accommodation – To be finalized. Plan for \$70-95 a night per person, shared accommodation, for approximately 23 nights: **\$1600-\$2200**

Food – Pooled grocery shopping. Plan for **\$400-500** total

Estimated Total Cost – Plan for **\$3250-\$4100**.

If we are awarded an SDF, that will be divided equally across all students participating. If the 6 students are accepted into the course, and we receive something similar to past awarded amounts, course costs would be:

Estimated Total Cost *if* SDF awarded - Plan for **\$1750-\$2600**.

AVAILABLE TRAVEL BURSARIES FOR STUDENTS –

There are several Western International Learning Bursaries students are eligible for and can directly apply for to additionally cover course costs. These bursaries include the Global Opportunities awards (\$1,000-\$2,000), and the International Learning awards (\$1,000).

IMPORTANT!!! DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR THESE FOR THIS COURSE IS FEBRUARY 15, 2023.

Go to Western International Learning's page [International Learning Funding Opportunities](#) for more information.

WHAT TO KNOW TRAVELING TO ST KITTS NEVIS –

Travel is open without restriction or need of a Visa for Canadian and Commonwealth citizens. You will need a passport that doesn't expire for at least 6 months after your travel dates.

Note that it is illegal in St Kitts Nevis for anyone outside of the military to wear any kind of camo-styled clothing.

The government of St Kitts Nevis strongly recommends every traveler fill out their online [Immigration and Customs Form](#). Recommended Vaccinations for St Kitts and Nevis include Hepatitis A & B, and Typhoid.

More detailed information will be available through the Course page on [Atlas](#), Western's international experience portal. If you are accepted in the course, you will need to register on Atlas and complete their safety training module.

HOW TO GET THERE –

A direct flight to Basseterre, the capital of St Kitts Nevis, leaves both Miami International Airport and Charlotte Douglas International Airport in the States most days. Other options include flying to Sint Maarten or Antigua and then catching a local flight to St Kitts Nevis.

Once in Basseterre, we travel to Nevis by getting down to the port and catching a ferry, or taking a Taxi to the bottom of St Kitts, and then catching a water taxi across to Nevis.

Once on Nevis, the project van will be our main transport. Nevis is also serviced by taxis (no Uber!) and Community buses... colorfully painted vans that drive around the island picking people up and dropping them off along the way. To get a bus to stop for you, stand anywhere at the side of the main road, and when you see a vehicle coming, just wave your hand in a downwards motion.

YOUR TIME -

Our days will be very full, most days of the week. Typically, you will get some time to explore Nevis on your own during one down day a week. Additionally, because we will start fieldwork early in the day, we will typically wrap up between 3-4 PM, giving you some free time at the end of the day if you are not involved in cooking or cleaning.