

INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS PERUANOS, IEP
Archaeological Field School Peruvian Central Coast
2015 Season Syllabus

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Objectives: Archaeology is not only about finding objects of the past. It implies the formulation of research questions about past societies that could be answered through a mixture of observation, recording and analysis of those objects. Archaeology is, indeed, a scientific discipline that aims to reconstruct how people lived in the past through the study of the material remains they left behind. The objective of IEP's Field School is to provide a hands on education on basic concepts of archaeology, and how these concepts are applied through field and lab work.

To this end, students will receive basic training in the most important field methods such as the excavation and recording of a variety of archaeological contexts, as well as the cataloguing, preservation and analysis of amazingly well preserved botanical remains, ceramics, textiles, lithics, animal and human bones, among others. Workshops on a variety of subjects will be carried out onsite to complement the training. Also, we will be visiting some other important sites in the region, as well as prestigious museums in Lima.

Evaluation and certificate of successful completion: In order to obtain IEP's certificate of successful completion students will have to complete at least 4 weeks of field and lab work. Students will have to attend at least 3 of our 4 workshops and participate of at least 3 of our 4 site and museum visits. Students will also have to demonstrate their willingness to learn, and have a good disposition towards teamwork.

Students may be able to obtain credit from their department after discussing that option with their department chair. Senior staff would be willing to discuss this with the department and provide feedback on student participation after the field season is completed.

Text Books:

Capriata, Camila. 2012. *Archaeological Field School IEP- Peruvian Central Coast Field and Laboratory Manual*. Instituto de Estudios Peruanos. Lima.

The field and lab manual will be distributed to all registered students for free.

White, Tim D. and Pieter A. Folkens. 2005. *The Human Bone Manual*. Academic Press. New York.

This is one of the most complete human bone manual, it is not mandatory to buy it and we have a couple of copies at our lab, but if you are interested in human osteology I strongly suggest you to buy it.

Program:

Week 1

1. Orientation session:

- 1.1. Power point presentation about IEP's research program at Panquilma, including an overview of the archaeological panorama of the Central Andean region, the program's general research questions and the objectives of this particular season at Panquilma.
- 1.2. Introduction to field and lab manuals. These manuals contain all the information needed by students to familiarize themselves with the field and lab work procedures and protocols. Information presented in these manuals includes the methodology applied in the excavation, graphic and written recording techniques, identification and preliminary analysis of recovered materials in the lab, preventive conservation and cataloguing of different types of archaeological materials.
- 1.3. Visit to the site of Panquilma, survey of the different sectors of site. We will survey the public, domestic and funerary sectors of Panquilma with the objective of determining the location of this season's excavation units.

2. Field Activities:

Beginning of the excavations in the public sector: The characteristics of Panquilma's public sector offer a perfect opportunity to learn how to recognize, interpret and record the most archaeological features in public spaces such as platforms, plazas, benches, floors and storage facilities. Given the amazing preservation conditions at Panquilma all of these features are very well preserved and easy to recognize.

- 2.1. On-site orientation session about the antecedents of the 2015 excavations at Panquilma's public sector: In general terms, students will be introduced to the discussion about how to approach the excavation of public spaces. In particular, student will be introduced to the specific research questions and objectives that the excavations in Panquilma's public sector pursue. This discussion will include the determination of the location of excavation units for this season and how to place a grid on the ground.
- 2.2. Using the profiles of already excavated test pits students will be introduced to the typical stratigraphic deposition present in public spaces at Panquilma. In this exercise students will learn how to recognize natural versus cultural layers in public spaces.

- 2.3. Students will learn how to record a surface level, how to map it and take pictures of it, and how to properly record its elevations.
- 2.4. Students will be introduced to the excavation of natural stratigraphic levels.
- 2.5. Students will be introduced to the use of the designated forms to record stratigraphic layers and the collection of materials.
3. Lab Activities:
 - 3.1. Students will be introduced to the basic lab procedures on processing materials. The first task will be to learn the difference between diagnostic and non-diagnostic ceramic fragments.
 - 3.2. Students will be introduced to the use of EXCEL and FILE MAKER data bases to process archaeological materials.
4. 1st Workshop on archaeological sampling methods. This workshop will discuss the fragmented nature of the archaeological record, the reasons why we sample in archaeology and an introduction to the basic statistical sampling techniques used in Archaeology.
5. 1st Saturday activity: Visit to the site of Pachacámac, located at just 21 km from Panquilma and considered one of the most important pilgrimage centers of the world. We will visit the most important monuments at the site, placing special emphasis in two aspects central to our research program at Panquilma: Pachacámac's Pyramids with Ramp, and the nature of the Inka presence at this important pilgrimage center.

Week 2

1. Field Activities:
 - 1.1. Continuing with the excavations in the public sector. At this stage, students will be able to recognize changes in the composition, color and texture between stratigraphic layers and how to record them. During this week, students will learn how to recognize and record architectural features such as floors and headwalls.
 - 1.2. End of the excavations in the public sector. By the end of week 2, students will be able to reconstruct the depositional sequences of the areas they were excavating. To this end, students will learn how to draw profiles and interpret them.
2. Lab Activities:
 - 2.1. Students will continue to work in the processing, classification and cataloging of archaeological materials recovered during weeks 1 and 2.
 - 2.2. By the end of this week, students will be able to recognize between diagnostic and non-diagnostic ceramic fragments. At this stage, students will also be able to recognize, classify and process different types of archaeological materials such as lithic, textiles, wood artifacts, and botanical remains.
3. 2nd Workshop on ceramic analysis. Ceramic fragments are the most important type of archaeological material recovered, and the results of its analysis constitute a key factor in the interpretation of the site. For this reason we programmed this workshop for the end of

the session, so students will already be familiarized with the different ceramic types found at the site, and also with the use of statistical sampling methods in archaeology. On this basis, this workshop will focus on the steps to follow in designing a ceramic analysis.

4. 2nd Saturday activity. Visit to the Larco Museum (<http://www.museolarco.org>). The Larco Museum is one of the best and most prestigious private museums of Peru. Its permanent exhibit is, without doubt, one of the best in South America. Although primarily focused in the archaeology of the Moche Culture of Peru's northern coast, it also offers a very good general overview of the different archaeological cultures that populated the central Andes during the different pre-Columbian periods.

Week 3

1. Field Activities:

Beginning of the excavations in Panquilma's domestic sector: The beginning of the excavations in Panquilma's domestic sector represents a step forward in our training program. Panquilma's domestic sector is much more complex in terms of the archaeological deposition and architectural remains than the public sector. Here students will learn how to deal with complex stratigraphic depositions as well as with multiple features that can include fire pits, midden deposits, whole vessels, and even funerary contexts.

- 1.1. On-site orientation session about the antecedents of the 2015 excavations in Panquilma's domestic sector. In general terms students will be introduced to the discussion about how to approach the excavation of domestic spaces. In particular, students will be introduced to the specific research questions and objectives that the excavations in Panquilma's domestic sector pursue.

- 1.2. Location in Panquilma's map of the specific household compound that will be excavated. This exercise will include the detailed description of the household compound including number of rooms, patios, and different remodeling events. After completing this exercise students will be introduced to the "household developmental cycle" concept. This concept will be a key element in the interpretation of the results of the excavation of Panquilma's domestic sector.

- 1.3. Excavation of the domestic sector of Panquilma. Students will apply what they learn during the excavation of the public sector in terms of how to register a surface level including how to map it, how to take a picture of it and how to properly record its elevations.

2. Lab Activities:

- 2.1. Students will continue to work in the processing, classification and cataloging of the archaeological materials recovered during weeks 1 and 2.

- 2.2. Students will continue to recognize, classify and process different types of archaeological materials such as lithic, textiles, wood artifacts, and botanical remains.

3. 3rd Workshop on lithic analysis. This workshop's objective is to provide students with the basic tools to perform a lithic analysis. In particular we will focus on the analysis of ground stones artifacts which constitute an important feature in the identification of domestic spaces.
4. 3rd Saturday activity: visit to the site of Cerro Azul. Contemporaneous to Panquilma and Pachacámac, the site of Cerro Azul represents a complex settlement composed by a series of monumental buildings. As in the case of Pachacámac, the site of Cerro Azul is located right in front of the Pacific Ocean and had a broad regional importance.

Week 4

1. Field Activities:

Beginning of the excavation of Panquilma's funerary remains. A central aspect in the study of Panquilma's domestic sector is the role of ancestor veneration practices in the social organization of the community. For this reason, one of the objectives of this season is the identification and excavation of funerary chambers inside Panquilma's household compounds. We will pay particular attention to the relationship between households' patios and funerary structures as well as to the characteristics of the burials in terms of types and number of offerings and to the sex and age of the individuals.

- 1.1. On-site orientation session about the antecedents of the 2015 excavations of Panquilma's funerary remains. In general terms students will be introduced to the discussion about how to approach the excavation of human remains placing special emphasis in scientific ethics. In particular, student will be introduced to the specific research questions and objectives that the excavations in Panquilma's funerary remains pursue.
- 1.2. Identification and location in Panquilma's map of the specific funerary structure that will be excavated. This exercise will include the detailed description of the particular funerary structure and its spatial relationship with the rooms and patios of the household compound. After completing this exercise students will be introduced to the "funerary feast" concept. This concept will be a key element in the interpretation of the results of the excavation of Panquilma's funerary remains and its relationship with domestic spaces.
- 1.3. Excavation of a funerary chamber at Panquilma's domestic sector. Students will apply what they learn during the excavation of the public and domestic sectors in terms of how to register specific features including human osteological remains and grave offerings.

2. Lab Activities:

- 2.1. Students will continue to work in the processing, classification and cataloging of the archaeological materials recovered during weeks 1, 2 and 3.
- 2.2. Students will continue to recognize, classify and process different types of archaeological materials such as lithics, textiles, wooden artifacts, and botanical remains.

- 2.3. Based on the manuals provided during this week's workshop on human osteology students will be introduced to the analysis of human remains.
3. 4th Workshop on bioarchaeological analysis: Given the extraordinary preservation level in the Peruvian coast we are expecting to recover important amounts of paleobotanical, zooarchaeological, malacological, and human osteological remains. This workshop's objective is to provide students with an introduction to the most important methods and concepts of bioarchaeological analysis. Topics covered will include identification and classification of paleobotanical materials as well as the identification of pathologies and traumas in human osteological remains.
 4. 4th Saturday activities: Farewell lunch