Summer Field School

Art and Archaeology of Upper Paleolithic Settlements
In Southwestern Europe

ANTH 380P / ANTH 570P

CONTACT
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CREDITS
Undergraduate: 4-6
Graduate: 4-6

DATES
Summer Session: III (June / July)
Field dates 2013: June 29th-July 27th

LOCATION
Commune of Fabas, Ariège, Midi-Pyrénées, France. Students should arrive in the city of Toulouse on June 30; they will be picked up and driven to the field house.

REQUIREMENTS
Prerequisites: Anth 167 or equivalent
Good overall physical condition – Medical and insurance requirements will be provided separately.
Texts: Archaeology: Basic Field Methods, by R. Michael Steward
Additional readings may be provided

Description of the context
Despite the richness of research over many decades, and of the archaeological record, we have much to learn regarding the varieties of sites and regional mobility of late Pleistocene hunter-gatherers, especially those of the Upper Paleolithic modern humans. A landscape archaeology of the Paleolithic is increasingly possible, building on, and expanding, the history of Paleolithic research in southwestern Europe that has long privileged the detailed studies of individual sites, especially caves and rock shelters.
The site of Peyre Blanque was discovered in the context of a broader landscape project, especially dedicated to investigating the nature and importance of open air settlements in a region (Midi-Pyrénées) where prehistoric research has almost exclusively concerned rock shelters and cave sites despite numerous evidence of outside occupations. This site is already contributing to the wider anthropological goal of understanding the emergence of the distinctive Pyrenean Middle Magdalenian and thus, to understanding the contexts within which a rich and flourishing material and visual culture comes to be among hunter-gatherers.

Learning objectives
Students will learn prehistoric excavation techniques, from careful exposition of artifacts to systematic detailed drawings (individual excavation units and stratigraphic profiles) and three-dimensional coordinate recording with a total station. Students will also be trained in laboratory processing of artifacts (including wet-sieving techniques and flotation), recording (including ink-drawing of artifact, site features, and stratigraphic profiles), and some analytic techniques (such as technological and typological analysis, refitting and petrographic and geochemical sourcing analysis). Students will be given a chance to further participate in the study of the site by collaborating on the analysis of the artifact collections (lithic and bone artifacts, pigments, spatial analysis), or its paleo-environmental aspects (charcoal, geology, geomorphology, micromorphology, etc).

Additionally, students will be immersed in the current debates and research trends regarding the Late Pleistocene both in the regional framework and in southwestern Europe. There will be field trips to local raw material sources (in connection with Peyre Blanque), as well as museums and archaeological sites throughout the region, including some of the most impressive decorated caves such as Niaux and Bédeilhac.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cost: Students are responsible for their transportation to Toulouse, France. Tuition varies according to the number of credits and New York state residency. Detailed costs can be provided, but students should expect to budget $4000-$5000, including airfare and spending money.

Contact:
Direct questions about the course and program in France to: Applications and administrative questions should be addressed to:

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