

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY HIS 188 – FIELD SURVEY TECHNIQUES FOR ARCHAEOLOGY (3 CR.)

Course Description

Provides an introduction to basic field techniques used in surveying archaeological and architectural sites. Emphasizes hands-on experience in both classroom and field work. Includes methods to identify and record archaeological sites and standing structures, to nominate sites to the National Register of Historic Places, to address relevant preservation laws, to preserve, mark, and catalogue artifacts in the laboratory. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course is designed to teach the basic field techniques used in surveying archaeological and architectural sites. Hands-on experience will be emphasized in both classroom and field work. Students will also be introduced to the procedures in processing, identifying, analyzing and conserving artifacts.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Explain the development of cultural resource management in the United States.
- b) Describe historic preservation laws and how they are applied in the planning process.
- c) Participate in conducting a Phase I archaeological survey.
- d) Explain the process of a Phase II archaeological evaluation used to determine the significance of objects identified in a Phase I survey.
- e) Describe how a typical Phase III archaeological data recovery investigation would proceed.
- f) Complete an archaeological survey form and use basic field equipment.
- g) Conduct archival research.
- h) Collect data for local and national architectural surveys.

Major Topics to be Included

- A. Tools of the trade in historic preservation field research
- B. The role of archaeology in historic preservation
 1. The need to survey: Is the process development driven or a useful planning tool?
 2. Applying Historic Preservation law locally, statewide and nationally
- C. Field Methods in Archaeology
 1. Introduction to maps
 2. Using topographic maps in archaeological survey
 3. Preparing the base map, the importance of the transit and grid
 4. A close encounter with the transit