ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY 2009 KENYA SUMMER PROGRAM

ARCHAEOLOGY IN KENYA:

IN SEARCH OF OUR ANCESTORS

ANTHROPOLOGY/AFRICAN STUDIES 248

This field course has been designed to provide students with an interdisciplinary introduction to Kenyan archaeology and early human evolution in eastern Africa. Student participation in field methodology and laboratory analysis of geological samples, stone tools and animal bones is stressed. Evening field seminars emphasize such topics as the origins of bipedality, scavenging and meat eating, the emergence of fully modern humans, the development of animal domestication and cultural complexity and human burials. Students keep field journals, engage in individual research projects and will be encouraged to extend their projects into junior-senior Independent Studies or Senior Honor Theses.

The research area is located within the southern Kenya Rift Valley at Lake Magadi. Students will conduct excavations at Lenderut, a 500,000 year old Acheulean site near the Tanzanian border, at the Later Stone Age (LSA) site of Olkena on the western side of the lake and possible Pastoral Neolithic (PN) burial cairns. The sites were occupied by different species of hominins, Homo erectus at Lenderut and Homo sapiens at Olkena and the burial cairns. Students will compare important behavioral differences in stone tool technology and subsistence between the species.

While at Lake Magadi students will study the fundamentals of archaeological field techniques including site survey, stratigraphy, vertebrate taphonomy, excavation procedures and laboratory analysis of stone artifacts and animal bones. Excursions to well known Kenya archaeological sites, including Olorgesailie, are planned. Field conditions are challenging as the environmental setting is semi-desert and temperatures often soar above 100^0 F. The course is designed for students with some prior course work in archaeology or biological anthropology and is of particular interest to majors in anthropology, geology and biology.

Instructor: John Barthelme
Office Phone: 315-229-5216
Fax: 315-229-5803
Email: jbarthelme@stlawu.edu

Texts: Course Reader

Seminars:

Evening seminars will be held at Lake Magadi as well as prior to and after fieldwork at the St. Lawrence Center in Nairobi. Articles will be assigned from the Course Reader.

Field Notebook:

Students will keep a field notebook. Records of fieldwork (geology, archaeology and paleontology) are to be entered daily. Notebooks will be collected and evaluated several times during the course.

Evaluation:

Course evaluation will be based on your participation in seminars (Nairobi and in the field), field notebook and final research paper.

Research Paper:

This course requires that you write a 10-15 page research paper on an aspect of Kenyan archaeology. Papers will be evaluated in terms of the breadth and depth of your analysis. Special attention will be given to your ability to synthesize and integrate articles in the Course Reader with seminars and your field experience. Research topics (stone tools, zooarchaeology, sedimentary or tectonic geology, ostrich eggshell beads, excavation methods and more) will be selected after discussion with professors.

Final grades will be determined on the basis of total points:

Seminar participation	200
Field notebooks	300
Research Paper	500
TOTAL	**1000 points**

All work will be graded on a 4.0 scale as follows:

4.0	97-100%	2.25	75-73%
3.75	96-93%	2.0	72-70%
3.50	92-88%	1.75	69-67%
3.25	87-85%	1.50	66-64%
3.0	84-82%	1.25	63-62%
2.75	81-79%	1.00	61-60%
2.50	78-76%	0.0	59 and below

ARCHAEOLOGY IN KENYA 2009

(Anthropology/African Studies 248)

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

June 2-7 Orientation

Lake Magadi

June 8 Set up camp: Little Magadi Lake

June 9 Field Labs: Geological Sections and Site Survey

June 10 Olkena: (GxJi 4): Stone Tool Collection
Evening seminar: Later Stone Age

June 11 Oloololo (GxJi 8): Mapping and Site Survey
Afternoon Lab: Stone Technology

June 12 Oloololo: Excavations
Afternoon Lab: Mapping

June 13 Excavation continued

June 14 Excavation continued
Laboratory: Animal Bone Identification

June 15 Wash Day!

June 16 Excavation continued
Evening Seminar: LSA overview

June 17 Burial Cairn Survey and Mapping
Evening seminar: Pastoral Neolithic Burials

June 18 Oloololo: Excavation Continued
Evening Seminar: Site Survey of Middle Stone Age Sites

June 19 MSA Survey: North of Little Magadi Lake

June 20 Oloololo: Final Excavations
Evening Seminar: Overview of Excavations

June 21 Wash Day!

June 22 Lenderut: Survey (possible overnight)

June 23 Shompole and Lake Natron

June 24 Laboratory: Stone and Bone Analysis

June 25 Goat Roast and Ngoma!

June 26 Break camp: Return to SLU Compound

June 27 Research Papers

June 28 Research Papers

June 29 Research Papers

June 30 Closing and Departure

COURSE READER

Lake Magadi: Geology

1. Baker, B.H.
1986 Tectonics and volcanism of the southern Kenya Rift Valley and its influence on rift sedimentation. In Frostick et al. Sedimentation in the African Rifts. Geological Society of America Special Publication, No. 25, 45-57.

2. Hillaire-Marcel, Claude et al.
1986 C^{14} and Th/U Dating of Pleistocene and Holocene stromatolites from East African paleolakes. Quaternary Research 25, 312-329.

3. Roberts, N. et al.
1993 Timing of the Younger Dryas event in East Africa from lake level changes. Nature, vol. 336, 146-148.

Lake Magadi: Archaeology

4. Barthelme, J.
1993 A new Acheulian site in the southern Kenya Rift. UISPP. Bratislava, vol. 3, 449-454.

5. Barthelme, J.
1993 Archaeological investigation in the Magadi Basin, Kenya. Unpublished report to the National Museum of Kenya. 67 pp.

6. Barthelme, J. et al
2003 Recent archaeological research in the Lake Magadi Basin, southern Kenya. Nyame Akuma, no. 60, 8-13.

7. Barthelme, J., S. Murimi and L. Ngari.
2004 Undergraduate Field Course and Research in the Magadi Basin, Kenya: June 2004. Report to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the National Museum of Kenya. 14 pp.

8. Barthelme, J., S. Murimi and L. Ngari
2006 Undergraduate Field Course and Research in the Magadi Basin 2006. Report to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the National Museum of Kenya. 17 pp.

Lake Magadi: Other

9. Werdelin, L. and J. Barthelme
1997 Brown hyena (Parahyaena Brunnea) from the Pleistocene of Kenya. Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology 17(4), 758-761.

East Africa: Environmental Reconstruction

10. Hay, Richard
1976 Environmental setting of hominid activities in Bed I, Olduvai Gorge. In Isaac and McCown (eds), Human Origins: 209-225.

East Africa: Human Evolution and Archaeology

11. White, Tim et. al.
2003 Pleistocene Homo sapiens from Middle Awash, Ethiopia. Nature, vol. 423, 692-693 + 742-751.

12. Ambrose, Stanley
1998 Chronology of the Later Stone Age and Food Production in East Africa. Journal of Archaeological Science 25, 377-392.

13. Ambrose, Stanley
2002 Small things remembered: origins of early microlithic industries in Sub-Saharan Africa. In: Thinking Small-Global Perspectives on Microlithization. Elston and Kuhn (eds.), 9-29.

East Africa: Early Pastoralists and Burial Cairns

14. Marshall, Fiona
2000 The origins and spread of domestic animals in East Africa. In: The Origins and Development of African Livestock: Archaeology, Genetics, Linguistics, and Ethnography. MacDonald and Blench (eds.), 191-121.

15. Leakey, M.D.
1996 Excavation of Burial Mounds in Ngorongoro Crater. Tanzania Notes and Records, No. 66: 123-135.

Ostrich Eggshell Beads

16. Mitchell, Peter
1996 Prehistoric Exchange and Interaction in Southeastern Southern Africa: Marine Shells and Ostrich Eggshell. African Archaeological Review, Vol. 13: 35-77.