

Uncover History, Explore the Past, and Learn the Craft of Archaeology

Earn college credits, gain field experience, and train for employment in archaeology

For students, practical, hands-on experience will include training in:

- Archaeological Survey and Excavation Methods
- Research Design Development and Collaborative Team Research
- Photography, Mapping, and Data Recordation
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Laboratory Dating and Soil Sampling Techniques
- Total Station and Precision Survey
- Geophysical Survey Methods
- Precontact- and Postcontact-era Artifact Identification

This Summer, Join an Ongoing American University Archaeological Research Program in the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia and North Carolina

The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is stewarded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and is 190 square miles in size. Student archaeologists will explore this remote landscape through an exciting, teaching-focused, and rigorous 7-week field course. Working with an expert staff at sites located miles into the swamp interior, students will be integral in the effort to systematically collect information on resistance communities that thrived between 1610 and 1860. Students will also be making substantial contributions to the federal preservation and protection of these unique historical sites. This is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about poorly understood African American and Indigenous American social, cultural, and economic histories and developments.

Anthropology
COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES

The Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study

4th Annual American University Archaeology Field School

May 14-June 28, 2012

Continuing Archaeological Explorations of a Hidden Social World, its Communities, and its People, 1600-1860

Dismal Swamp Maroon, 1856

About the Field School

The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is a very difficult place to work in the summer. Participants must be in good physical shape. We work and learn 5 days a week and spend long days in a hot, humid, wet, and insect-heavy environment—and we will be housed in the area around the swamp throughout the course.



Photo by Cyndi Goode

Full-time participants should take the field school as 3 or 6 credit hours through American University. Those interested should submit an application as soon as possible and before May 7, 2012 to the project director:

Dr. Daniel O. Sayers
Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology
American University
Washington DC 20016
(202) 885-1833
sayers@american.edu

Applications and more details about the program, housing, and costs can be obtained at:

www.american.edu/cas/anthropology/



"Confronting the historical realities of slavery is facilitated by historical archaeology wherever it is practiced..."

Warren Perry and Michael Blakey, 1997, *North American Dialogue* 2:1

Great Dismal Swamp History—1600-1860

The Great Dismal Swamp has a complex and deep social history. Indigenous Americans inhabited the swamp for several millennia prior to colonial occupation in the region (early 17th century). Subsequently, its recesses were home to thousands of Indigenous and African Americans who had escaped the brutalities of colonialism, indentured servitude, and slavery. Included among these groups were maroons, or African-Americans who permanently extricated themselves from the conditions of enslavement. After 1800, corporations found profitability in the swamp through the labors of enslaved African-Americans. In all, a poorly documented and secret human world existed in the swamp between 1600 and the Civil War. The historical archaeology being done through the Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study is bringing the history of these people and their communities to light.

"...historical archaeology is a global pursuit that examines the growth of the modern world."

Robert Preucel and Stephen Mrozowski, 2010, *The New Pragmatism*:13



Photo by Cyndi Goode

The Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study

- Has been active for a decade.
- Is an internationally recognized multidisciplinary project.
- Is a National Endowment for the Humanities "We the People" Collaborative Research program.
- Has been the subject of numerous films, articles, news reports, and public television programs.
- Is an active contributor to federal government historical preservation and public interpretation initiatives.
- Is one of the only field programs in North America that focuses on swamp-dwelling maroons and Diasporic communities.
- Has provided many participants with invaluable research opportunities and unforgettable learning experiences.