

**IRLAB**INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND LEARNING IN  
ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIOARCHAEOLOGYIn collaboration with the  
Department of Anthropology**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

# Field Experience in Bioarchaeology in Ohio

ANTH 5685 - 3 Credit Hours

## A HANDS-ON PROGRAM FOCUSED ON EXCAVATING HUMAN REMAINS FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS.

This exclusively field-based program aims at familiarizing participants with the professional excavation of human remains from archaeological contexts. Participants will work side by side with professional archaeologists and bioarchaeologists in the excavations of an historic cemetery in central Ohio (HTCC).

The cemetery, located just 20 minutes away from downtown Columbus, was originally established as early as 1804 to serve as a burial ground for the local community. Due to its proximity to the Ohio-Erie canal, the site was subsequently used as a resting place for victims of the infectious disease cholera – an infection of the small intestine that killed tens of millions of people worldwide through various pandemics since 1815. The cemetery remained in use until 1859.

Previous excavation seasons at the site have revealed the presence of several single burials with predominant east-west orientation, which appear largely undisturbed and lined up in the western two thirds of the cemetery. Several tombstones or simple markers are scattered throughout the field, but evidence of vandalism and consequent removal and restoration attempts by the township administration suggest that their current location does not mark any specific graves and does likely not correspond to the original layout of the cemetery. In the easternmost third of the cemetery, it is not possible to detect features corresponding to single burials; however, larger, more marked depressed areas suggest the presence of more complex features, consistent with the notion that one or more mass graves may be present at the site.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROGRAM

The excavation of the HTCC site is a multifaceted project with potentially important implications for reconstructing relatively unknown events in the history of the county, for shedding new light on the lives of individuals too poor to be visible in official histories, and for gaining insights on a disease that reaped millions of lives during the 19th century and that still persists in the developing world.

## INFO & CONTACTS

For any questions concerning enrollment in OSU's Class, ANTH 5685, please contact **Sarah Palazzo**: [palazzo.66@osu.edu](mailto:palazzo.66@osu.edu). For all other questions, including regarding obtaining credits through non-OSU institutions, please contact **Dr. Giuseppe Vercellotti**: [giuseppe.vercellotti@irlabnp.org](mailto:giuseppe.vercellotti@irlabnp.org).



## DATES FOR 2025 PROGRAM

### SESSION 1 - May 4-29, 2026

In collaboration with OSU Anthropology, open to both OSU and non-OSU students.

### SESSION 2 - June 1-26, 2026

Open to students and professionals regardless of academic status and affiliation.

## LOCATION

Pickaway County, OHIO, USA

## TUITION and FEES

For information on tuition and fees, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/wxns8wya>

OSU tuition and fees cover general excavation equipment and personnel costs, such as in-field demonstrations and lectures. Fees do not include lodging, meals, transportation, personal gear and equipment, or any other costs not expressly specified.

## IRLAB MEMBERSHIP

Participating students are required to become members in IRLAB. The cost of \$25 is paid directly to IRLAB. An on-line payment link will be emailed to all enrolled students and payment must be made by April 30, 2026.

## STAFF

Executive Director / PI  
**Giuseppe Vercellotti, PhD**

Field Director\* and Supervisors  
**Alessandro Cariboni**  
**Allyson Simon**  
**Lauren Hayden**



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