

ANTH 344 – Historical Ecology & Coastal Archaeology

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Iain McKechnie

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to historical ecology from an archaeological perspective. We will examine archaeological and ecological data from a series of coastal archaeological sites in Nuu-chah-nulth territory on Western Vancouver Island. The majority of course time will be spent at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre and in the Treaty lands of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations where we will be conducting laboratory analysis of data previously collected from the neighboring territory of the Tseshaht First Nation. Students will attend lectures, labs, seminars, and fieldtrips introducing them to Indigenous history and the analytical potential of ecological data obtained from coastal archaeological sites. Students will undertake laboratory analyses as part of independent student projects. Final project reports will be presented to the First Nations as well as the Provincial and Federal Heritage agencies upon completion of the course.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Students will learn about zooarchaeological data analysis and historical ecological methods and collaboratively prepare data files and reports on their findings. Additionally, each student will write an individual report which will advance research and fulfil federal permit reporting obligations as well as earn them authorship credit on an agency reviewed permit report. We will work in groups to develop and address research questions and share our observations with community members.

NOTE:

This course is part of a six-week long archaeological field school held in conjunction with the Department of Anthropology, Tseshaht First Nation, Parks Canada, and the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. Enrolment in both ANTH 343 A01 and ANTH 344 A01 is mandatory for UVic students. Enrolment is limited and decided upon by the Department of Anthropology. An application form will be found on the Anthropology web site under the tab: Field Schools. In addition to the normal course registration/enrolment fee, there will be a fee for the Field School and additional registration with the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. Please email Dr. Iain McKechnie iim@uvic.ca with any questions.