HP860 Historic Preservation Field School

Instructors:

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Felix Valle State Historic Site  
Ste. Genevieve, MO

course webpage: cstl-cla.semo.edu/hoffman/hp860

Course Description:

A workshop for graduate, undergraduate and continuing education students involving intensive field experience in documenting and preserving the built environment and the historic landscape.

Students will receive hands-on field experience in documenting, preserving and interpreting the built environment and the historic landscape, including work with standing structures and historic sites. Authentic 18th and early 19th century buildings in the Felix Valle State Historic Site will serve as learning laboratories, providing hands-on investigation of Ste. Genevieve’s rare vertical log structures. The goal of the Field School is to acquaint students with the broad array of skills and techniques affecting historic preservation issues and historic site management. Students will learn to gather and record architectural data, utilizing library and archival collections in researching history as tools for understanding historic structures. (3 credit hours)

Objectives of the Course:

1. To provide field experience in the documentation and preservation of the built environment.
2. To familiarize students with various methods of gathering data and understanding past cultures, including material culture and historic archaeology.
3. To deepen students’ understanding of the historic landscape.
4. To strengthen students’ skills in field observation and historical research.
5. To develop a basic understanding of the operation of historic sites.
6. To broaden student understanding of past human behavior from a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural perspective.
Expectations of students:

Students are expected to: attend all sessions, read assigned materials, participate in all field trips and field studies, conduct themselves as professionals, participate fully in group projects, and complete any written assignments. In addition, graduate students will prepare a research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor(s).

Proposed Schedule:

Meet daily (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the Creole House, 339 St. Mary’s Road, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.

Monday, May 21

Introduction and Orientation
Tour Bauvias-Amoureux House
Lunch
Planning Process for Historic Sites
Presentation of Interpretive Plan
Tour Felix Valle House State Historic Site

Assignment for Tuesday: Read Interpretative Plan

Tuesday, May 22

Meet at Creole House
Tour: Guibourd-Valle House
     Bolduc House
     Ste. Genevieve Interpretative Center
     Ste. Genevieve Museum
     Green Tree Tavern

Assignment for Wednesday: Read Invitation to Vernacular Architecture, Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. xiii-18)

Wednesday, May 23

Sanborn Map exercise
Lunch
Document Transcription
Preparing Press Releases (Jean Rissover, editor, Ste. Genevieve Herald)

7 pm lecture – Creole House – Mark Stauter, Western Historical Manuscript Collection; “A Living Stream of Prosperity – The Ste. Genevieve and Iron Mountain Plank Road”
Assignment for Thursday: Read Invitation to Vernacular Architecture, Chapter 2 (pp. 19-43)

Thursday, May 24

Photography workshop (Booker Rucker, retired DSP historic sites)
(Joseph Thomure, Jr. House, 873 Gabouri Street)

Assignment for Friday: Read Invitation to Vernacular Architecture, Chapter 3 (pp. 45-62)

Friday, May 25

Measured Drawings (Richard Young, Southeast graduate student)
(Joseph Thomure, Jr. House, 873 Gabouri Street)

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day – No Class

Assignment for Tuesday: Read Invitation to Vernacular Architecture, Chapters 4 & 5 (pp. 65-95)

Tuesday, May 29

Discuss interpretative plan
Break into teams to design interpretation
Lunch
Interpreting drawings

Wednesday, May 30

Make a mortise and tenon joint
Assignment: go find 2-3 variations of that joint at the Guibourd- Valle house and sketch them. Two time periods (11:00-11:30 and 1:30-2:00)
Time to work on projects


Thursday, May 31

Archeology and History Sites
Brant Vollman, staff archaeologist, Division of State Parks
Lunch
Cultural Resource Plans, Kim Dillon, Program Director, Cultural Resource Program, Division of State Parks
Activity: Archaeological collection management

Friday, June 1

Groups Present Interpretive Plans
Individuals Present transcribed document
BBQ lunch – Lion’s Club Park, Market Street

Textbooks


Various additional readings will be assigned to enhance student understanding of observations made in the field and to relate to the particular projects being pursued.

Basis for Student Evaluation

Grades for undergraduates will be based on performance in field exercises (50%), written assignments (30%), and class participation (20%).
Graduate students will be evaluated on field exercises (50%), written assignments (20%), and class participation (30%), including leading portions of discussion of additional readings.