HP860 Historic Preservation Field School

Instructors:

Dr. Steven J. Hoffman
Department of History
311T Carnahan Hall
email: shoffman@semo.edu

Mr. Jim Baker
Site Administrator
Felix Valle State Historic Site
P.O. Box 89
Ste. Genevieve, MO
email: felix.valle.state.historic.site@dnr.mo.gov

Office Telephone: (573) 651-2808
Home Telephone: (573) 335-2820
Cell Phone: (573) 225-8393
Office Telephone: (573) 883-7102

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, interpreting 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 have additional readings and be responsible for leading portions of discussion.

Proposed Schedule:

Meet daily, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Wednesdays 9-5, 6-8) at the Creole House, 339 St. Mary’s Road, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.

Monday, May 19

Introduction and Orientation
Tour Bauvais-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 20

Meet at Creole House
Tour: Ste. Genevieve Interpretative Center
    Bolduc House
    Guibourd-Valle House
    Ste. Genevieve Memorial Cemetery
    Ste. Genevieve Museum

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

Wednesday, May 21
Discuss Interpretative Plan, especially re: Diorama
Break into teams to design interpretation
Document Transcription
Lunch
Sanborn Map exercise

7 pm lecture – Creole House – Brant Vollman, staff archaeologist, Division of State Parks, “Archeology of Missouri”
Thursday, May 22

Bousillage/Pierrotage workshop (Jesse Francis, St. Louis County Parks Department)
(Durand Cabin, behind Bequette Ribault house)

**Assignment for Friday:** Read *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture*, Chapter 2 & 3 (pp. 19-62)

Friday, May 23

Measured Drawings (Richard Young, Southeast graduate student)
(Lalumundier House, Gabouri Street)

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day – No Class

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

Tuesday, May 27

Archeology and Historic Sites
Greentree Tavern excavations
Lunch
Activity: Archeological collection management

Wednesday, May 28

Photography workshop (Booker Rucker, retired DSP historic sites)
(Lalumundier House, Gabouri Street)


Thursday, May 29

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 1:15-1:45)
Time to work on projects
Friday, May 30

Groups Present Interpretive Plans
Individuals Present transcribed documents
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.