THE PINARBAŞI PROJECT, TURKEY
INVESTIGATING THE BEGINNINGS OF SEDENTISM IN THE NEAR EAST
June 9–July 10, 2022
Academic Credits: 8 Semester Credit Units (Equivalent to 12 Quarter Units)

FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTOR
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OVERVIEW
Turkey has evidence of one of the earliest transitions from hunting and gathering to sedentism in the world. Understanding the period in time immediately preceding and encompassing the first steps in this transition, the Epipalaeolithic period, is crucial; however, the Epipalaeolithic period in central Turkey is poorly understood. The Pınarbaşı project investigates the only known Epipalaeolithic site in Anatolia. During previous excavations, our team uncovered exciting burials with elaborate grave goods, indicating a commitment to place that may represent a transition to more sedentary behaviours. Working alongside professional excavators and experts in Epipalaeolithic communities, students will learn a range of archaeological research techniques and methods and about the wider context of Anatolian archaeology.
The course will take place at the Epipalaeolithic site of Pınarbaşı (c. 14000-11000 BCE), the only Epipalaeolithic site on the central Anatolian plateau and the predecessor of the famous Neolithic sites of Boncuklu and Çatalhöyük. The site is located on the edge of the Konya Plain in central Turkey, 65 km east of the major city of Konya, a famous Medieval centre where the ‘whirling dervish’ sect was founded by the Medieval philosopher Celaleddin Rumi. We will stay in Karaman, an important Medieval city located 50 km to the south of Pınarbaşı. There are many medieval buildings of the Seljuk period to visit in Konya and Karaman, both booming cities. The field school also includes visits to other sites and museums in central Turkey including Çatalhöyük and the dramatic Neolithic site of Aşıklı, where there is evidence of repeated rebuilding of houses and an experimental village. Aşıklı is located about 3 hours east of Konya in Cappadocia, also famous for its underground cities and painted medieval churches. We will also visit a number of remote Byzantine and Hittite sites around the Konya plain.

**ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS**

**Credit Units:** Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 360 hours of experiential education. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institution prior to attending this field school.

**Transcripts:** An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One more transcript may be sent to the student’s home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: [http://bit.ly/2hvurkl](http://bit.ly/2hvurkl).

**PREREQUISITES**

No prior experience in archaeology is required. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study on-site how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus, requires a measure of acceptance that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will get sweaty, tired and have to work in the outdoors. The food is Turkish style; if you are fussy about new or unfamiliar cuisine, this program may not be the best choice for you. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires real, hard work – in the sun, on your feet, and with your trowel.
DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Our primary concern is with education. Traveling and conducting field research involve risk. Students interested in participating in IFR programs must weigh whether the potential risk is worth the value of education provided. While risk is inherent in everything we do, we do not take risk lightly. The IFR engages in intensive review of each field school location and programming prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the IFR reviews each program annually to make sure it still complies with all our standards and policies, including those pertaining to student safety.

The IFR does not provide trip or travel cancellation insurance. We encourage students to explore such insurance on their own as it may be purchased at affordable prices. Insuremytrip.com or Travelguard.com are possible sites where field school participants may explore travel cancellation insurance quotes and policies. If you do purchase such insurance, make sure the policy covers the cost of both airfare and tuition.

We do our best to follow a schedule of activities, methods training, and programming as outlined in this syllabus. However, this schedule can be easily disrupted by any number of unforeseen circumstances, including revised decisions by local permitting agencies, political unrest, and changes in the weather. While this schedule represents the best of the director’s intentions, we—students and staff alike—need to be adaptable and tolerant of necessary alterations. This adaptability is an intrinsic part of all field research.

This program operates in a hot Mediterranean summer environment. During the day, temperatures in the shade fluctuate between 70°F-90°F. However, under the sun they may reach 80°F-90°F. Humidity is relatively low and some mosquitoes and/or flies may be close to the excavation area and dig house. In order to be protected from sunburn and/or insects students will not be allowed to work in shorts or tank tops at the site. Good footwear, working clothes, and sun protective gear (hat, sunglasses and sunscreen) are required.

We live in a friendly but conservative small city community. We must respect local customs so clothes that do not reveal any flesh are appropriate for these reasons as well as to protect you from the sun. In contrast to hot daytime temperatures it can be cool in the evening and morning. Food is Turkish style so you will need to be willing to eat unfamiliar foods.

In order to attend an archaeological excavation in Turkey you will need a research visa. These are arranged through a permit application by Professor Baird. Before you travel to Turkey you will need to pick up your research visa from a suitable consulate in USA or elsewhere. This may involve a trip to the consulate or mailing your passport with a secure prepaid return delivery envelope, these arrangements may vary by consulate and you will have to be in touch with your local consulate to check their arrangements. Be aware that this process will take time and some effort on your part, as well as the cost of the research visa.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the program director and staff.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to enable students to better understand how archaeology is practiced in the field. To achieve this objective, this course has three primary goals: (1) to provide students a practical working knowledge of archaeological field methods, including survey, excavation,
laboratory analysis, artifact cataloging, and conservation; (2) to introduce students to the intellectual challenges presented by archaeological research, including research design, the interpretation of data, and the continual readjustment of hypotheses and field strategies with regard to information recovered in the field; and (3) to introduce students to the Epipaleolithic and later archaeology of Anatolia.

The course primary directive is to enable students to better understand how archaeology is practiced in the field. Students will also learn how archaeologists study the beginnings of sedentism in an area where it first began.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students completing this course will have significantly developed excavation and recording skills and thus be able to operate more independently and take on more responsibility on future archaeological fieldwork; they will have achieved a better understanding of the whole archaeological process including interpretation, which will be a good preparation for graduate work, should they pursue; they will have developed significant transferable skills—collaboration and teamwork, initiative, working to demanding deadlines, and adaptability in the face of challenging conditions—all prized by a wide range of employers and key to success on future field projects of whatever nature.

ASSESSMENT

Undergraduate Student grading:

- **33% of Grade**: One essay on Anatolian Epipalaeolithic-Neolithic archaeology
- **67% of Grade**: Fieldwork participation, assessed in relation to competence in
  - Excavation tool use and observation of stratigraphic phenomena
  - Accurate and precise planning
  - Comprehensive, accurate, precise and insightful compilation of context and feature records
  - Contribution to retrieval processes such as flotation and residue sorting
  - Effective on-site survey
  - Contribution to team activity

TRAVEL, ROOM & BOARD, & SAFETY LOGISTICS

Students will spend 4.5 weeks at accommodations in Karaman. We will drive to the site each day. The first days involve lectures. Subject to COVID-related circumstances, we will make site visits around central Turkey, including to Cappadocia and other local sites, on weekends. The main four weeks will be spent in the field conducting survey and excavation at Pınarbaşı, interspersed with laboratory training.

Accommodation will be in the city of Karaman. In the evening, there will be access to the amenities of a small Turkish city, including coffee and juice bars, COVID-19 permitting. All meals will be communal events and will provide plenty of nutritious but basic food in the tradition of local cuisine. The daily diet in Turkey is heavily based on pasta, rice, legumes bread other vegetables, with some meat. Vegetarians/Vegans are catered for.
Detailed safety guidelines will be provided relating to on-site and lab work and to the accommodation situation. Students must comply with all safety guidelines and instructions. Protocols on appropriate behaviour and interaction with the local community and government officials are also provided and must be followed. First aiders are present on the project and site.

**COVID Disclaimer.** The logistics outlined below for this IFR field school were written according to the most current and accurate information available to IFR. We recognize that the best practices for preventing the transmission of the coronavirus may change in the coming months. The IFR will be revisiting program-specific plans periodically throughout the enrollment period and will update program details according to new developments, new travel protocols, and updates to local policies.

An IFR field school is designed to provide positive, constructive experiences for communities, students, and researchers. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the following protocols have been developed based on the assumption that any participant in an IFR field school may be an asymptomatic carrier of SARS COVID-19. Our goal, with these protocols, is to reduce the possibility for COVID-19 transmission among participants, staff, and local community members. IFR depends on the complete and sustained commitment of all students to stay healthy and to help others stay healthy. On enrollment, students commit to comply with all aspects of the IFR COVID-19 avoidance policy as well as any/all policies specific to their respective IFR field school.

**PRIOR TO TRAVEL**

We ask that all students participating in IFR programs be **fully vaccinated** prior to travel. Students must arrange a test for current infection for COVID-19 through a RT-PCR test for themselves in their home location within 72 hours prior to the start of the program and upload proof of a negative result to their IFR application portal.

After demonstrating they tested negative, students must take all precautions possible to ensure they remain COVID-19 free prior to and during travel to the field school. Students should plan to travel in the safest manner that they are able (e.g., avoid flights with long layovers and multiple connections). In addition, we require the following from all students: use of a face mask during travel to, from, and on airlines, ferries, trains, busses, and the like; regular washing of hands; and, in so far as possible, maintain social distancing of 6 feet / 2 meters in airports and other spaces.

**VISA REQUIREMENTS**

All personnel engaged in archaeological research in Turkey must be cleared by the authorities. Enrolled students will receive a special visa to attend the field school. All accepted students will be asked to complete official forms – those will be sent to students by Project Director – and all documents will be submitted as a group for approval to relevant Turkish authorities. Just before the program students will collect research visas from relevant local consulates, this will involve making suitable arrangements with those consulates for visa collection under guidance from Prof. Baird.
TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)

Due to ongoing uncertainties regarding the travel regulations related to COVID-19, IFR will assess the local conditions closer to the travel date (5–6 weeks prior to the program beginning) and will make Go/No Go decisions then. You are required to participate in the mandatory orientation meeting when we will discuss the latest travel information and regulations. We also suggest you consider postponing the purchase of your airline ticket until after the program orientation.

In addition, Professor Baird suggests you wait to purchase airline tickets until issue of research visas is confirmed.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS/PROTOCOLS

Please frequently consult the US Embassy in Turkey website for the most up-to-date travel restrictions/protocols: https://tr.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information-2/. Below are current (as of December 2021) travel restrictions/protocols:

- Starting December 6, 2021, all air travellers aged two and above, regardless of vaccination status or nationality, must show a negative COVID-19 test. Your negative test result must be from a COVID-19 viral test performed one calendar day before the day of your flight to the U.S. In other words, the testing window can be slightly more than 24 hours before your departure.

- Passengers arriving in Turkey will be required to complete an information form and will be checked for symptoms. Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19 will be transported to a hospital for examination or to a dormitory to self-isolate. If an individual on a particular aircraft is found to have COVID-19, the information forms completed upon arrival will be used to identify others have been in contact with them; those individuals will then be subject to 14-day isolation/quarantine. If a student is required to quarantine, they will need to phone Professor Baird immediately (phone numbers will be provided).

- Effective November 29, 2021, entry into the United States of noncitizens who are not U.S. LPRs and who were present in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, or Zimbabwe within 14 days prior to their arrival at the port of entry in the United States is suspended, per Presidential Proclamation.

- Travelers must complete a “Traveler Entry Form” to be presented at check-in at the airport before traveling and upon arrival to Turkey. The form can be obtained at http://register.health.gov.tr. You will be asked to provide the residential address of where you will stay within the borders of Turkey and your contact information. You may be asked by your airline to provide personal information regarding COVID-19 that may be shared with Ministry of Health and third countries when necessary. Anyone who knowingly provides false information may be prevented from travelling.

- Passengers who in the past 14 days have been in Afghanistan, Brazil, Nepal, South Africa or Sri Lanka are subject to quarantine for up to 14 days, at their own expense, in a government hotel listed at http://web.shgm.gov.tr/tr/covid-19-tedbirler/6599-izolasyon-otelleri.

- Effective November 8, 2021, all non-immigrant, non-U.S. citizen air travelers to the United States will be required to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination status prior to boarding an airplane to the United States.
PASSPORT VALIDITY

The Turkish government require that your passport be valid for at least 6 months from the date you enter Turkey and that there is a full blank page for the entry and exit stamps.

FLIGHTS

The closest city to the site with an airport is Konya. There is an international airport at Konya although most flights route through Istanbul. Flying to Konya is easiest and Professor Baird will meet IFR students at that airport. Alternatively, one can fly to Istanbul and travel by high-speed train (4 hours) from Istanbul to Konya and then by train to Karaman, although these trains book up quickly. Professor Baird will also meet people at the train station in Karaman, if required. You will be driven from collection point to the accommodation in the dig vehicle.

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email the field school director immediately. A local emergency mobile phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

Travel on weekends for leisure purposes may be restricted depending on COVID-19 circumstances. Trips relating to the field school program, for example to other archaeological sites, will be carefully managed in regard to local circumstances pertaining to the transmission and abundance of COVID 19.

Travel to the site will involve 2 vehicles, including a minibus that affords reasonable spacing of occupants. Students and staff will travel in pods in accordance with their accommodation arrangements. Masks will be worn in vehicles.

LOCAL PROTOCOLS, REGULATIONS, & EXPECTATIONS

Local Community. We are accommodated in a small Turkish city. We wish to maintain good relations with the local community and respect local sensibilities and traditions, dressing appropriately in that regard (guidelines will be issued preceding the excavation).

Normally the excavation has many visitors from local communities as well as Turkish and foreign tourists. We will probably limit such public access according to Coronavirus conditions in summer 2022. Subject to pandemic circumstances we will create our own isolated ‘social bubble’ amongst the excavation team if necessary.

Public Spaces and Services. During the height of the pandemic the wearing of masks was mandatory at all times outside the home throughout Turkey. This included, but was not limited to, all public places, including streets, side streets, parks, gardens, picnic areas, markets, seaside and public transportation including Metro, buses, taxis and ferries. Masks were also mandatory in all shops, restaurants, hairdressers and barber shops. We will see whether this is required in summer 2022.

Smoking in open areas (streets, avenues and other open public areas) is banned.

Shopping centres, markets, restaurants and hairdressers will be open from 10am to 8pm throughout the week, with restaurants only providing takeaway services.
Those who do not abide by COVID-19 restrictions may be issued with a fine of 900 TL (approximately £100). Follow Turkish announcements and local media for up-to-date information.

Interaction with the local community will be limited to situations where everyone is masked when indoors and/or can ideally be outside.

All participants in a field school, students and staff, will wear masks while indoors (i.e., during lectures, during labs, in shared residential spaces, etc.).

Materials that might be contaminated by COVID-19 will be kept isolated until they can be safely disposed of. Up-to-date advice will be sought on this aspect before the field season.

Regular hand washing will be a part of the project’s daily schedule.

The excavation areas are outdoors, well ventilated, and separated by 10s of metres. Organized into ‘pods’, excavation teams will also be well-separated. Some tools will be allocated to individual team members for the project duration but shared equipment (e.g., survey equipment) will be cleaned after each use (a method already successfully used on a Liverpool field school in October 2020).

**FACE MASKS / FACE COVERINGS**

All students, faculty and staff are expected to wear face masks when in indoor spaces shared with others and outside when a 6-foot/2-meter distance cannot be maintained. Currently in Turkey, the wearing of masks is mandatory at all times outside the home. Wearing face masks, combined with vaccination, are among the most effective ways of minimizing the spread of the coronavirus.

The objective of wearing a mask is to capture potentially infectious droplets from the wearer. Therefore:

- Masks or respirators that are equipped with an "exhalation valve" are not permitted, unless covered by another mask.
- Neck fleeces (gaiter masks) are considered the least effective form of face masks and are not permitted. (The material found in gaiters tend to break down larger droplets into smaller particles that are more easily carried away in the air.)
- Folded bandanas and knitted masks are ineffective and are not permitted.
- Masks must be worn so as to cover both the mouth and nose. If your mask becomes loose, it can be tightened by twisting the ear loops.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Our accommodation will be in self-catered, rented apartments in Karaman. Students will share bedrooms and a kitchen area. Each apartment has its own shower, toilet and laundry facilities. We will run a cleaning rota, employing latest guidelines pertaining to COVID-19. There are no specific security concerns. Adjustments can be made to cater for whatever mix of transgender/non-binary gender identities might be involved. Some of these arrangements may be subject to change depending on the circumstances of COVID-19 in summer 2022.

All participants in a field school, students and staff, will wear masks while indoors (i.e. during lectures, during labs, in shared residential spaces, etc.).

Regular hand washing will be a part of the project’s daily schedule.
The catering arrangements will depend on the circumstances of COVID-19 in 2022: either 1) partial self-catering (breakfast and lunch) plus restaurant food (dinners), if there are no pandemic-related restrictions, or 2) purely self-catered meals. The mix of self-catering plus restaurant meals worked well during previous field seasons. Karaman restaurants are generally good quality and clean; we haven’t had any problems with food-related illness. Vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free diets can be accommodated. The food is varied and nutritious, but it will be thoroughly Turkish, which might not appeal to fussy eaters. It is, of course, halal.

MANAGING COVID-19 CASES & OUTBREAKS

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms will need to isolate in dedicated rooms. Their laundry will be isolated separately and after the suitable time period, laundered according to COVID-19 protocols. They will have separated toilet/shower facilities subject to regular deep clean. Likewise, meals will be supplied and their utensil subject to isolation and deep cleaning. Testing will be provided through local health services.

High-quality hospital and ICU facilities are available in Karaman, located approximately 15 minutes away (by car). Ambulance services are available, including ambulances equipped with high-quality paramedical equipment. If advised by the local health services, the dig vehicle could also transport medical cases. Any COVID-19-related health situation during the excavation will be communicated to the local municipality and health teams. The government representative who works on the project will also implement relevant Ministry of Culture protocols pertaining to COVID-19, which we anticipate will be updated in summer 2022.

EQUIPMENT LIST

What to bring checklist. We supply bedding and facilities for clothes washing, as well as work equipment, but you should bring or obtain the following before you come to site (the items marked * can easily be obtained in Turkey; those marked ^ are not easily available, unavailable for larger/taller people or surprisingly expensive in Turkey and should be brought with you). Note that there are more specific notes on some of these items elsewhere in this guide.

- Towel*
- Toiletries* in a bag that can be hung in the showers while you wash
- Sheet sleeping bag if using communal sheets creeps you out
- Flip-flops for use in shower, bathroom and around the dig house
- A minimum of 2 changes of work clothing (light, strong and covering arms and legs)^
- Work shoes (desert boots or similar – no or very light tread)^
- Wide brimmed hat^  
- Sunblock^  
- 4 inch pointing trowel and plasterer’s leaf – US -Marshaltown^ (Pack in hold luggage!)
- Water bottle*
- Torch and replacement batteries
- Small rucksack or bag to take gear to site
- Entertainment: books, cards, tablet/i-devices
- Stationery for personal use (notebook, pens etc)
Personal medication (many medications are available in Turkey but bring specific medicines)
- Insect repellent
- Rehydration salts – e.g., UK Dioralyte.
- Diarrhoea relief tablets e.g., Immodium etc.
- Currency and/or cash cards plus a credit card
- Covid 19 masks

COURSE SCHEDULE

All IFR field school begins with safety orientation. This orientation addresses local and program protocols concerning student behavior, appropriate attire, local practices and sensibilities that may be unfamiliar, potential fauna and flora hazards, IFR harassment and discrimination policies, and the student Code of Conduct.

EXCURSIONS

Three types of excursions are planned within the course: (1) an extended visit to the nearby site of Çatalhöyük; (2) a day trip to Cappadocia visiting Neolithic sites and the famous Byzantine rock cut churches; and, (3) visits to local Byzantine and Hittite sites.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Lectures and Site Visits

Lecture: The Epipalaeolithic of the Near East
   Required reading:
   Baird D. 2011. The Late Epipalaeolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic of the Anatolian Plateau, 13000-4000 BC calibrated. In D Potts ed. Blackwell’s Companion to Near Eastern Archaeology. (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

Lecture: The origins of agriculture (tba)

Lecture: The Neolithic of Turkey
   Required reading:
   During, B. 2011. The prehistory of Asia Minor. Cambridge University Press. (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

Lecture: Pınarbaşı
   Required reading:
   Baird D. 2011. Pınarbaşı: from Epipalaeolithic camp-site to sedentarising village in central Anatolia, in Ozdoğan and Başgelen eds The Neolithic of Turkey; new excavations, new discoveries. Arkeoloji ve Sanat. (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)
Lecture: Boncuklu
Required reading:
Baird D, Fairbairn A, Martin L and Middleton C. 2011. The Boncuklu Project; the origins of sedentism, cultivation and herding in central Anatolia, in Ozdoğan and Başgelen eds The Neolithic of Turkey; new excavations, new discoveries. Arkeoloji ve Sanat.

Lecture: Çatalhöyük
Required reading:
Hodder, I. 2007. The Leopard’s Tale. Thames and Hudson (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

NB, depending on numbers of students these may become evening lectures instead.

Trip to Çatalhöyük and Hittite sites

**Weeks 2-5:** Excavations at Pınarbaşı. Daily program: 7 - 9.30 am, 10 am - 1 pm, 3.30 - 6 pm. Students will rotate between excavation, sampling, laboratory work and planning on site and in the labs.

**First long weekend:** Trip to Cappadocia, visiting Neolithic sites under excavation and Byzantine underground cities.

**Week 5:** Finish field work

**REQUIRED READINGS**

PDF files of all mandatory readings will be provided to enrolled students via a shared Dropbox folder. Students are encouraged to download and/or print readings prior to traveling. Course participants are expected to be prepared to engage the discussions led by facilitators, all of whom will be looking for compelling evidence that students have read and thought about the assigned readings prior to the scheduled day on which they are first discussed.

Sagona, A and Zimansky, P. 2009. Ancient Turkey. Routledge (relevant to week 1 and site excursions)


Baird, D. 2011. Pınarbaşı: from Epipalaeolithic campsite to sedentarising village in central Anatolia, in Ozdoğan and Başgelen eds The Neolithic of Turkey; new excavations, new discoveries. Arkeoloji ve Sanat. (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)


During, B. 2011. The prehistory of Asia Minor. Cambridge University Press (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

Hodder, I. 2007. The Leopard’s Tale. Thames and Hudson (relevant to initial lectures in week 1 and throughout)

RECOMMENDED READINGS

You can find out much more about the Boncuklu project on our website: boncuklu.org

The British Institute at Ankara produces an annual publication detailing the results from its projects. Until 2011 this was called Anatolian Archaeology. Now it is called Heritage Turkey. The Boncuklu project has an article in each year since 2006.


Baird, D. 2010. ‘Was Çatalhöyük a centre; the implications of a late Aceramic Neolithic assemblage from the neighbourhood of Çatalhöyük’ in Bolger and Maguire eds in The Development of Pre-state Communities in the Ancient Near East. Oxbow books.


Lichter, C. ed. 2007. Die ältesten Monumente der Menschheit, 123. Badishce Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe. (Some sections in English and good images of Neolithic sites)