OVERVIEW
Turkey has evidence of one of the earliest transitions from hunting and gathering to sedentism in the world. Understanding the periods immediately preceding and encompassing the first steps in this transition, the Epipalaeolithic is key, but the Epipalaeolithic of central Turkey is poorly understood. The Pınarbaşı project is investigating the only known Epipalaeolithic site on the Anatolian plateau. During previous excavations, our team uncovered exciting burials with elaborate grave goods, indicating the commitments to place that may precede sedentary behaviours. Working alongside experts in the analysis of evidence from Epipalaeolithic communities and professional excavators, 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 300 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/2hvurk](http://bit.ly/2hvurk).

**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 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.
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°-90°F. However, under the sun they may reach 80°-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 make sure you are happy with 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 the 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 Neolithic and later archaeology of Anatolia.

The course's 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 c. 25 days in accommodation either in a good quality hostel in the local city of Karaman or in a dig house close to the site. If in Karaman we will drive to the site each day. The first days there will 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 3.5 weeks will be spent in the field conducting survey and excavation at Pınarbaşı, interspersed with laboratory training.

All meals will be communal events and will provide plenty of nutritious but basic food in the tradition of local cuisine cooked by local people. The daily diet in Turkey is heavily based on pasta, rice, legumes, bread and 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 accommodation situations. All safety guidelines and instructions must be complied with. Protocols on appropriate behavior 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.
An IFR field school is designed to provide safe, positive, and constructive experiences for participating communities, students, and researchers. We are committed to protocols and practices that support the health and well-being of all involved in our field school projects, including the members of the community in which these projects take place. The IFR COVID-19 Policies have been developed with Dr. Kurt Eifling, the IFR Medical Director. Dr Eifling is a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine and a practicing physician (https://ifrglobal.org/about/staff/).

We strongly recommend reviewing IFR’s COVID-19 policies before enrolling in a program. All IFR students sign an agreement (Student COVID-19 Prevention Agreement) to uphold and abide by all aspects of the IFR COVID-19 policy as published on the website (https://ifrglobal.org/ifr-covid-19-practices/) as well as any program-specific protocols. These practices are subject to change as health and risk management experts provide new recommendations and best practices.

PRIOR TO TRAVEL

IFR requires all students participating in IFR programs to be “up to date” with their COVID-19 vaccines, meaning they have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series AND received the most recent booster dose recommended by CDC, if eligible. For recommendations and eligibility for booster shots according to age and health status, please consult the CDC website.

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 the 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)

Under normal circumstances, we suggest you hold off purchasing your airline ticket until six (6) weeks prior to the departure date. Natural disasters, political changes, weather conditions and various other factors may force the cancelation of a field school. The IFR monitors local conditions 6–7 weeks prior to the beginning of each program and makes a decision accordingly. This approach allows sufficient time to still purchase deeply discounted airline tickets. This year, 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 the issue of research visas is confirmed.

**Passport Validity**

The Turkish government requires 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 (4.5 hours) from Istanbul 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 the 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.

Trips relating to the field school programme, for example to other archaeological sites, will be carefully managed in regard to local circumstances pertaining to the transmission and abundance of COVID-19.

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.

**LOCAL PROTOCOLS, REGULATIONS, & EXPECTATIONS**

**Local Community.** We are accommodated in a small Turkish city or near a small village. 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 visitors from local communities as well as Turkish and foreign tourists.

**ACCOMMODATION**

Our accommodation will either be in a government building, a teachers’ hostel Karaman (most likely) or a new dig house near the site. Students will share bedrooms. In the hostel each room has its own shower and toilet. Laundry facilities are available in the building. 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 2023.

The catering arrangements will involve prepared breakfast and dinner and a picnic lunch. Vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free diets are catered for. 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 be isolated 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 utensils 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 from the hostel (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 2023.

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.
- Diarrhea relief tablets e.g. Imodium etc.
- Currency and/or cash cards plus a credit card
- Covid 19 masks
COURSE SCHEDULE

All IFR field schools begin 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
Lecture: The origins of agriculture
Lecture: The Neolithic of Turkey
Pınarbaşı lecture
Boncuklu lecture
Çatalhöyük lecture

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

Trip to Çatalhöyük and Hittite sites

Weeks 1-4: 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 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)

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 Bağgelen eds *The Neolithic of Turkey; new excavations, new discoveries*. Arkeoloji ve Sanat.
Baird D. 2011 Pınarbaşi; 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)


Collis J. 1996 Digging Up the Past – an introduction to archaeological excavation. (Available as a Kindle edition) (relevant to weeks 2-5)

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 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 2002 ‘Early holocene settlement in central Anatolia: problems and prospects as seen from the Konya Plain’ in F Gerard and L Thissen eds. The Neolithic of central Anatolia, 139-159.


Baird, D 2007 The Boncuklu Project; the origins of sedentism, cultivation and herding in central Anatolia. Anatolian Archaeology Vol 13,14-17

Baird D 2008 The Boncuklu project; investigating the origins of sedentism, cultivation and herding in central Anatolia. Anatolian Archaeology Vol 14, 11-13

Baird D 2009 The Boncuklu project; investigating the origins of sedentism, cultivation and herding in central Anatolia. Anatolian Archaeology Vol 15, 9-11


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

Hodder I and Meskell, L ‘“Curious and sometimes trifle macabre artistry”’ Current Anthropology 52/2, 251-2

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