

2021 Application to Paleontology Field School (ANTH 470)

Kim Nichols & Tom Bown, Faculty Instructors

CSU, Department of Anthropology & Geography, kimberly.nichols@colostate.edu



Course Description & Learning Objectives:

This 4-Credit biological anthropology course provides hands-on paleontological field and lab experience with a focus on primate-bearing fossil localities dated at ~56-52 Ma (early Eocene, Willwood Formation) in the Bighorn Basin, Wyoming. Participants will learn how to recover & identify vertebrate fossils, fossil collection methods, stratigraphy, paleosol development, field documentation & accession, and lab fossil preparation & cataloguing. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to: (1) identify vertebrate fossil dental & skeletal elements; (2) employ field paleontology collection methods (surface collecting, excavation, screening, *etc.*); (3) utilize stratigraphic data to ascertain environmental & biotic data; (4) document & prepare fossils for museum collections; (5) utilize lab technology; (6) produce a professional-grade field report based on field and lab data on an assigned fossil taxon or field locality.

Course Outline: June 7 – July 2, 2021

WEEK 1: June 7-13: CSU Fort Collins, Daily Lab Meetings (Primate Origins Lab, GSB 342A)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MONDAY - SATURDAY (6/7-6/13): Daily Instruction, On-campus in the Primate Origins Lab & Online• SUNDAY (6/14): Day off in preparation for field departure
WEEK 2: June 14-20: Bighorn Basin, WY., Field Paleontology
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MONDAY (6/14): 7:30 AM, Entire class meets at CSU Vans on-campus, Departs for Basin, Wyoming• TUESDAY - SATURDAY (6/15-6/19): Daily Field Locality Expedition, Nightly Field Accession• SUNDAY (6/20): 7:30 AM, Return to CSU Fort Collins, Entire class returns field materials to Lab
WEEK 3: June 21-27: CSU Fort Collins, Daily Lab Meetings (Primate Origins Lab, GSB 342A)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MONDAY (6/21): Day off• TUESDAY - FRIDAY (6/22-6/25): Fossil preparation, documentation, lab analysis for course term assignment• SATURDAY OR SUNDAY (6/26-6/27): To be determined, possible field trip
WEEK 4: June 28 - July 2: CSU Fort Collins, Daily Lab Meetings (Primate Origins Lab, GSB 342A)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MONDAY - WEDNESDAY (6/28-6/30): Finalize course term assignment (Field Report)• THURSDAY - FRIDAY (7/1-7/2): Class Presentations of Field Reports!• FINISHED FIELD REPORT FINAL DEADLINE: July 5 at the Canvas Course Website

Paleontology Field School Course Costs:

1. CSU Registration fee for 4.0 credit course
2. Paleontology Field School Fee = \$1,000 - The fee covers the following FIELD expenses:
 - Transportation between CSU Fort Collins & Basin, Wyoming and between Basin & Field Localities;
 - Individual field equipment (*e.g.*, field notebook, hand lens, lanyard, *etc.*);
 - Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) while in Wyoming;
 - Motel room for 6 nights in Basin, Wyoming.
3. Participants are financially responsible for all other expenses, including lodging, meals, & transportation during the course weeks that take place in Colorado.

Application Process:

1. Submission at <https://anthgr.colostate.edu/research-and-teaching/field-schools/paleontology-field-school/>
 - a. Attach a FULL-PAGE TYPED statement (word.doc or pdf) that details why you wish to participate in the Paleontology Field School and how this experience will help you to meet your long-term goals.
 - b. Attach a copy of your college transcript (unofficial is fine).
 - c. Fill in all other application information on the submission website and hit submit!
 - d. Kim will contact you regarding your status and to arrange an online interview as a possible participant!
 - e. Following the interview, you will be contacted about your participation status.
2. APPLICATION DEADLINES:
 - a. **EARLY APPLICATION DEADLINE: Before April 1, 2021**
 - b. **GENERAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 1, 2021**
 - c. **LAST CHANCE APPLICATIONS: After April 1, 2021**
3. **DO NOT DELAY SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION** - this course fills quickly!
4. If you are accepted into the course & are a CLA major, please visit <https://anthgr.colostate.edu/undergraduate-programs/scholarships/> to apply for an Anthropology Field School Scholarship!