

UAF CHENA TOWNSITE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

Founded in 1902 on the north bank of the Tanana River, The Chena Townsite was a bustling goldrush town home to thousands of miners and settlers that flocked to the region in search of prosperity. Chena rivaled its close neighbor Fairbanks as the commercial center of mining operations in the Alaska Interior. The rivalry lasted only a few short decades, however, before Fairbanks emerged victorious. Chena became a ghost town by 1920 and was all but forgotten. Little remains of the once thriving town. In the past two decades however, archaeologists have mapped, surveyed, and begun to excavate parts of Chena in hopes of better understanding its birth and abandonment. This year we will continue this research by conducting archaeological survey and excavations at the site where Chena once stood.



The Chena Townsite is located just outside of Fairbanks, Alaska. Students will live in their own accommodations and report to the site daily. Students will provide their own lunches, but all tools and equipment will be provided. Participants will learn the fundamental skills of archaeological fieldwork while excavating and documenting historic structures and artifacts. They will examine artifacts, botanicals, sediments, and faunal materials to learn analytical techniques while providing insight into the lives of the traders, miners, and other members of this short-lived historic community.

Instructor: Dr. Justin Cramb
Email: jecramb@alaska.edu

2024 Summer Session I - May 20th- June 28th

ANTH: F490 Archaeological Field School (6 credits)

Application Deadline: April 1st, 2024

HOW TO APPLY:

Please contact Dr. Justin Cramb (jecramb@alaska.edu) for permission to enroll.



COURSE DETAILS

Project Directors:

- Dr. Justin Cramb, UAF Department of Anthropology

The Course Will Cover:

- Fundamental training in archaeological survey, mapping, and excavation
- Historic document research
- The basics of historic artifact identification
- The basics of faunal (animal bone) identification

Location: Fairbanks, Alaska

Dates: 2024 Summer Session I

Application Deadline: April 1, 2024

Program Type: Accredited Field School (6 credits)

Affiliation: The University of Alaska Fairbanks

Course Number: ANTH F490

Project Size: up to 25 participants

Experience Necessary: No field experience needed, but an Introduction to Archaeology class is recommended.

Academic Credit: Institution offering credit: UAF; Number of credits offered: 6

Cost:

- In-state tuition through UAF: 6 Credits*
- Course Fee: \$1000.00**
- *Out-of-state students will be charged the in-state rate, Additional institutional fees apply
- **Course or "Field Trip" Fees are applied to the cost of equipment, supplies, insurance, and transportation.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please contact Dr. Justin Cramb prior to registration for permission to enroll. (jecramb@alaska.edu)

The application deadline is April 1, 2024 though you are encouraged to apply early.

The University of Alaska is committed to equal opportunities for students experiencing disabilities.

Due to the rigors of the fieldwork, students with disabilities are expected to notify the instructor of any potential difficulties prior to enrollment so that arrangements may be made to ensure a positive educational experience.

Contact Information:

Dr Justin Cramb (jecramb@alaska.edu)