Marine Affairs 514 01
FIELD TECHNIQUES IN PREHISTORIC UNDERWATER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
Fall Semester 2009 and
Intersession (4 - 15 January 2010)

Course description: An introduction to specialized techniques of underwater research applicable to the ongoing (since 1983!) study of Little Salt Spring (LSS), owned by UM and operated by RSMAS.

Course Requirements: basic SCUBA certification and permission of instructor. This is a graduate level course that is also open to upper-level undergraduates. SCUBA certification is a prerequisite; only students who are active, certified divers will be accepted; see below for additional diving prerequisites.

A list of readings will be distributed during the first week of Fall Semester. Then all students will participate in a three-week intensive lecture course (at RSMAS) in the prehistory of Florida and general techniques of underwater excavation at the end of the Fall Semester (specifically meeting on 19, 19, 24 November, 1 and 3 December from 4:30-5:45 PM at RSMAS). We then break until Intersession, reconvening at UM’s Little Salt Spring Archaeological and Ecological Preserve in North Port, Florida, on Tuesday, 5 January 2009. During the next ten days you'll live in a dorm-style, double-wide trailer on site (no phones or internet connections, only cold water showers) and be responsible for buying and your own meals (primitive kitchen facilities are available). There are no fees or special charges associated with this field school.

The field portion of the course continues every day through Friday 15 January; students will be able to return to Miami the following day. This is justified because of the full-time nature of the field work (10 hours/day). Students must be present for the entire Intersession field course in order to complete basic requirement, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Activities will include daily underwater excavation in depths of 20-40 feet of water, as well as surface support activities relating to science diving and the recording and basic conservation of recovered ecofacts and artifacts dating before 9,000 radiocarbon years before present.

Students need not already be qualified as RSMAS scientific divers, under guidelines established by the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) in order to participate in course-related SCUBA-diving activities. HOWEVER, it’s your responsibility to follow the detailed LSS Diver Qualification Procedure prepared by RSMAS Diving Safety Officer Rick Gomez (305 421 4107), well in advance of the beginning of Intersession in order to prepare for this fieldwork portion of the course. This is particularly true of the diving physical that you MUST obtain before the END of the Fall Semester.
Course grade is based on a combination of fieldwork evaluation plus completion of a 2000-word research paper describing some aspect of the field experience at LSS; this will be due before the end of Spring Semester 2010.

**Instructor:** John A. Gifford (Grosvenor S118, RSMAS, 421-4191). You only need to call ahead to make an appointment to see me. You can also send e-mail to [jgifford@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:jgifford@rsmas.miami.edu).

**Recommended Text:** Bowens, A., editor (2009). *Archaeology Underwater.* (This is also the new text for APY 340 “Introduction to Underwater Archaeology.”) Both the RSMAS and Richter libraries have copies.