Submerged Landscapes and Pleistocene Peoples: Geoarchaeology of the Aucilla and Wacissa Rivers

(6 undergraduate credits, 5 graduate credits)

The 2022 underwater field school will be held in the Aucilla-Wacissa drainage, a Florida Outstanding Waterway, ca. 45 minutes south-east of Tallahassee, Florida. This area contains dozens of ancient sites (>11,500 years old) that were drowned and preserved by rising water levels at the end of the last Ice Age. In summer 2022, we will be excavating portions of a terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological component and conducting marine remote sensing, diver survey, and geological coring and sediment descriptions of sites on both sides of the waterline.

We will be staying onsite for the duration of the field school. Class will be held Wednesday-Sunday. Students will be free for exploration and recreation on Monday and Tuesdays. Course fees will include food, transportation, housing fees, and use of FSU dive gear (fees are dependent upon number of students and grant funding but will likely be ca. $900-$1000/student in addition to FSU tuition and fees). Students must supply own bedding, field clothing, and mask, fins, and wetsuit booties.

Each student participating in the underwater excavation MUST be an AAUS diver or must be qualified to become one upon arrival, and MUST be cleared by the FSU dive safety officer, Chris Peters (cpeters@fsu.edu) prior to getting in the water. Diving requirements are viewable at https://www.marinelab.fsu.edu/marineops/diving/. There may be a few spaces available for non-divers. Priority will be given to AAUS divers, then non-diving FSU students and students with strong interest in geoarchaeology.

Who were the First Floridians?
How did they live?
How have their sites been preserved or destroyed?

Help us find out!
Deadline to apply is March 31, 2022.

Contact Jessi Halligan, jhalligan@fsu.edu for an application or for information.

Students will learn
Submerged landscape methods and theory
Paleoindian material culture and theory
Geoarchaeological basics, sampling, and recording
Public outreach and interpretation
Terrestrial survey and excavation
Archaeological sampling and recording
Artifact identification, processing, and basic analysis
Water screening and basic conservation methods
Small boat operation and safety
Underwater excavation and recording methods
Underwater diver survey in clear and dark water