



Short Summer Course in Forensic Archaeology, July 24-28, 2017

Forensic Archaeology I - search, excavation and documentation of clandestine graves

The five-day course is aimed at forensic practitioners who would like to improve their search, documentation and excavation skills of clandestine graves. The course applies up-to-date archaeological theories and methodologies in a forensic setting. The course will be delivered by experienced forensic archaeologists from the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI), cooperating with the Dutch National Police, the Engineering Unit of the Dutch Royal Army and academics from the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University. The itinerary includes theory and practical exercises. The outdoor part addresses practical applications for the search, discovery and excavation of buried human remains through a simulated crime scene.

After completion the participants:

- are able to recognize human skeletal remains,
- are able to organize and perform a search for a buried missing person and know the advantages and limitations of each search technique,
- have a practical knowledge of the documentation of outdoor crime scenes or places of incident and the advantages and limitations of each documentation technique,
- have a practical knowledge of human taphonomy,
- have a basic knowledge of dating techniques for human skeletal remains,
- have a basic knowledge and skills of the excavation of a clandestine graves,
- have a basic knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

The price of the Short Summer Course for individuals representing a Member or an Associate-Member of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) is EUR 650,-. The price for other individuals is EUR 750,-.

Summer Course Program:

Day 1 Monday, July 24
Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General introduction • Archaeology vs forensic investigation
Forensic archaeology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to forensic archaeology • Application of forensic archaeology in mass grave investigations • Dating of dry human remains: contextual dating and radiocarbon dating
Geographic Information Systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS: the basics • The use of databases and GIS in the search of clandestine burials

Day 2 Tuesday, July 25
Human taphonomy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decomposition stages • Decomposition of human remains underground
Basic knowledge for recognising human skeletal remains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human vs other mammal • Adult, juvenile and infant ➤ Exercise in human osteology
Documentation techniques, from past to future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels, tape measures and total station • 3d scans, photogrammetry and the latest 'state of the art' tools ➤ Field exercise in documentation
Day 3 Wednesday, July 26 (overnight accommodation at a military base)
<i>Transfer to a military base near Vught</i>
Pedology and excavation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to pedology • Clandestine burials and excavation techniques
Forensic search: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological search techniques including probe, coring, test pits • Geophysical search techniques ➤ Field exercise in search for and documentation of clandestine burials
Day 4 Thursday, July 27 (overnight accommodation at a military base)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Field exercise in excavating clandestine burials ➤ Informal BBQ
Day 5 Friday, July 28
<i>Transfer to the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visit to a regular archaeological excavation
Combining data in GIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visualisation of the crime scene • Using photogrammetry, Total Station data and evidence lists in GIS • Crime scene analysis using GIS ➤ Exercise in GIS
Course Evaluation

The Short Summer Course in Forensic Archaeology is limited to 16 participants in order of registration. Deadline for registration is June 30, 2017.

For registration and payment please contact Esther 't Gilde (e.t.gilde@arch.leidenuniv.nl) laboratory assistant at the Laboratory for Human Osteoarchaeology, Faculty of Archaeology. For additional information please contact Mike Groen (m.groen@nfi.minvenj.nl), forensic archaeologist at the NFI and Guest Staff Member at the Laboratory for Human Osteoarchaeology, Faculty of Archaeology.