



Northern Illinois University

Study Abroad Office

NIU ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL IN SICILY

JUNE 1 - 28, 2015

This program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Division of International Programs' Study Abroad Office (SAO), in cooperation with the NIU Department of Anthropology and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

PROGRAM DATES: The overseas component of the program will officially begin in Sicily on Monday, June 1 and will end on Sunday, June 28, 2015. Students should plan to depart from the USA on Saturday, May 30 and arrive on Sunday, May 31 in order to be there when the program begins on June 1.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS: Michael J. Kolb, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology in the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, taught Old World archaeology at NIU for many years, and has directed NIU field schools in Hawai'i, and field schools in Sicily.



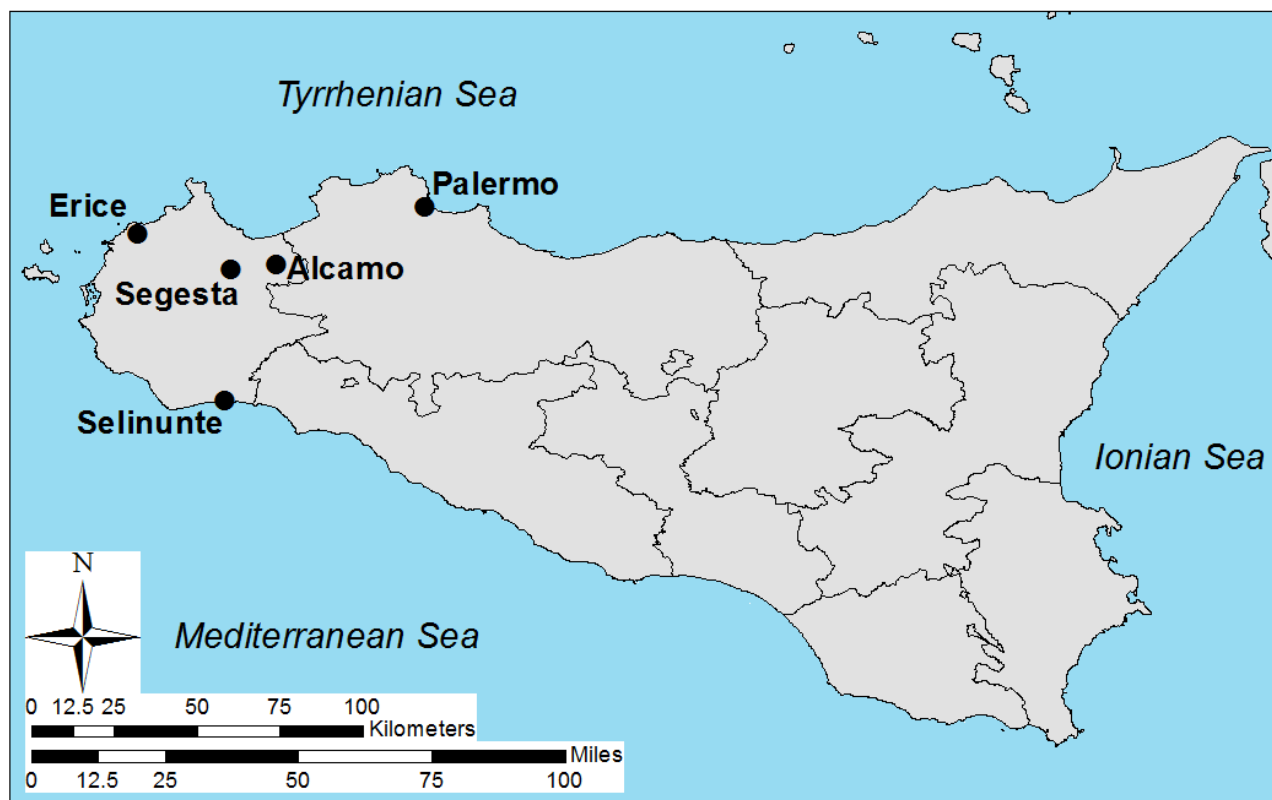
William M. Balco, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has taught Old World archaeology for several years and has been a staff member of the NIU Archaeological Field School in Sicily for over a decade.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: The primary goal of this program is to teach practical archaeological skills in a research environment. The field school is part of the Monte Polizzo Archaeological Project, a multinational Sicilian, Scandinavian, and American project focusing on the site of Monte Polizzo and the surrounding Belice Valley in the western-central portion of the Sicily. Monte Polizzo is a proto-urban hill top site used for nearly 1200 years and encompasses the Bronze, Early Iron, Elymian, and Hellenistic periods in the island's history. The surrounding valley settlement system is filled with additional Neolithic, Hellenistic and Roman sites. The valley's long occupation period, coupled with the diversity of archaeological cultures present in the area, make it an ideal training ground in archaeological methodology and provide ample evidence for introducing participants to the fascinating aspects of both classical and prehistoric archaeology. This field school is undertaken in conjunction with the universities of Gothenburg, Oslo, Palermo, Stanford, and Northern Iowa.

Through participation in this program, participants will gain the following:

- 1) An introduction and practical application of archaeological sampling and field methodology.
- 2) Field experience in archaeological survey techniques.
- 3) Field experience in archaeological excavation techniques.
- 4) Laboratory experience in pottery analysis.
- 5) Exposure to a broad range of artifacts (Neolithic through Medieval).
- 6) A multi-cultural experience with other international students and exposure to a new culture.

HIGHLIGHTS: Alcamo is located less than 30 miles away from 15 ancient and medieval archaeological sites, and six outstanding beaches. The project team makes bi-weekly excursions to these locales. Historically, program participants and administrators have had an excellent rapport with the local community.



Map of Sicily showing key sites surrounding the project at Alcamo

THE SITE OF THE PROGRAM: Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, and is separated from mainland Italy by the Strait of Messina. The island is roughly triangular in shape and with several adjacent small islands that form a region of Italy.

Alcamo, Sicily: Alcamo is located in the province of Trapani in western Sicily. It faces the Gulf of Castellamare to the north, the Palermo mountains to the east, Monte Inici to the west, and the rolling mountains of central western Sicily to the south. Alcamo is a large modern city home to 45,095 inhabitants. The primary economy is agriculture and commerce. Alcamo is situated on the north slope of Monte Bonifato. Reaching a maximum height of 826 meters above sea level, Monte Bonifato is one of the tallest mountains in western Sicily. The mountain and its surrounding territory have a rich history of cultural occupation and is ideal for an archaeological expedition. Previous archaeological explorations at Monte Bonifato have attested occupation by diverse populations from the Paleolithic to the Modern periods.

During the Iron Age, it was one location occupied by the ancient Elymi, an indigenous population who inhabited hilltops throughout western Sicily. Its strategic position on the Gulf of Castellamare and its commanding views of other indigenous Iron Age sites at Eryx, Segesta, Halicyae (Salemi),

Monte Polizzo, Monte Finestrelle, Monte Castellazzo di Poggioreale, and the numerous mountains surrounding Palermo to the east elevated its importance as an indigenous Iron Age population center.

PROGRAM AUDIENCE: Students from all majors and colleges are welcome especially those seeking practical experience in archaeology or anthropology. Non-NIU students are also welcome to participate in this program. This program should have particular appeal to students in archaeology, classics, museum studies, art history, and history, as well as students in the humanities, social sciences, and Mediterranean studies. Maximum enrollment is 12 students. Space is limited and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis.

PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive **3 or 6** semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit in one of the following NIU courses. The courses taken while participating in this program *cannot* be audited. Applicants must participate in and complete the *entire* program and satisfy NIU admission and course requirements.

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT:

ANTH 490C Anthropological Research Training: Archaeology	3 semester hours
Description: Training and experience in field and/or laboratory research. Students participate, under supervision, in basic research projects. Any lettered section may be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours. Total credit may not exceed 6 semester hours. Prerequisite: Consent of department.	
AND/OR	
ANTH 493C Anthropology Field Study: Archaeology	3 semester hours
Description: Directed field study or field school. Each topic may be repeated to a maximum of 12 semester hours. Prerequisite: Consent of department.	

GRADUATE CREDIT:

ANTH 593C Anthropology Field School: Archaeology	3 semester hours
Description: Directed field study or field school. Each topic may be repeated to a maximum of 12 semester hours. Prerequisite: Consent of department.	
ADDITIONAL CREDIT OPTION	
ANTH 590C Anthropological Research Training: Archaeology	3 semester hours
Description: Training and experience in field and/or laboratory research. Students will participate, under supervision, in basic projects. Any lettered section may be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours. Total credit may not exceed 6 semester hours. Prerequisite: Consent of department.	

OR	
ANTH 690C Independent Study: Archaeology	3 semester hours
Description: Supervised readings or research in specialized areas, topics, or problems in anthropology. Any one course may be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours. Prerequisite: Written permission of the department.	

HONORS CREDIT: Qualified undergraduate students may also elect to receive Honors credit for any course(s). For more information please contact the University Honors Office.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: The Study Abroad Office will handle obtaining course prerequisite approvals from Professor Kolb or Balco and Professor Kendall Thu, Chair of the NIU Department of Anthropology.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Brief essay questions on the field school application will ask you to outline your background in archaeology, your interest in this program, as well as how the program will assist you academically and in the future.
- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Approval from Professor Kolb or Balco and the chair of the Department of Anthropology.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS: General good health is required for this rigorous program, which includes a large amount of walking over very hard and frequently irregular surfaces. The weather will be hot, so endurance is a plus.

APPLICATION: Click [NIU Archaeological Field School in Sicily](https://niu.studioabroad.com) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at <https://niu.studioabroad.com> (and search for “Sicily” or the *NIU Archaeological Field School in Sicily* program) to begin the online application process for this program. The online process provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found on the <https://niu.studioabroad.com> website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or niuabroad@niu.edu.

\$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: A \$200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The \$200 is broken down into \$100 for the non-refundable application fee and \$100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The \$100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline.

The \$200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students’ NIU Bursar’s account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of \$200. More detailed instructions regarding the application fee/deposit can be found on the application website.

IMPORTANT – All applications will be categorized as “Pending – No Deposit” until the \$200 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the \$200 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the \$200 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days, applications without a deposit will be inactivated.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 1, 2015.

It should be noted that space in this program is limited, so early application is recommended.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES: The program is open to individuals who have an interest in the areas of archaeology and anthropology. Currently enrolled students must meet NIU Office of Admission or Graduate School, as well as Department of Anthropology and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences course and GPA requirements. Students must be in good academic standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic probation are not eligible to participate. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU undergraduate admission and course requirements.**

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant's official transcript must be on file in the Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have **not** previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not **currently** enrolled at NIU, should ask the registrar at their home institution to forward an official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued and photocopied transcripts are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the NIU Study Abroad Office.

Students who desire to obtain graduate credit must either be admitted to a graduate program within the NIU Graduate School, or be admitted to the status of a "student-at-large" (SAL) within NIU's Graduate School. For students to be admitted to the program for graduate credit, the applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript. However, students who will participate in the program in order to earn academic credit as an SAL (students who have not currently enrolled nor previously enrolled at NIU) must provide a transcript from the baccalaureate institution and from any institution at which graduate credit has been earned. This document must be provided to the SAO before a student can be admitted as an SAL to the program. (Student issued and photocopied transcripts are not acceptable.)

NIU students cannot have any encumbrances against their records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

NIU UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEE (Applies to Non-NIU students only): There is a \$40 non-refundable Undergraduate Application fee for students applying to NIU for the first time.

If you are currently enrolled at NIU as a degree-seeking undergraduate student, you are not required to submit this payment.

If you are applying to NIU for the first time you will be provided with a link in your acceptance packet that will guide you to the online NIU Undergraduate Application. In the online application you will be asked to pay the \$40 application fee by credit card or check.

NIU PROGRAM COST: The program cost pays for the following cost related services:

- 1) Dormitory style accommodations in Sicily from June 1 – 28.
- 2) 17 meals per week.
- 3) Program-related land transportation in Sicily.
- 4) Admission fees to cultural and historical sites visited as part of the daily schedule.
- 5) Fee for acquiring a visa to work in Sicily.
- 6) NIU undergraduate or graduate credit for 3 or 6 hours.
- 7) International Student I.D. Card.
- 8) NIU major medical insurance for the duration of the program.

PROGRAM COST: \$3995

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:

- Airfare
- Required books
- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$135, including 2 passport pictures).
- Two passport size photos (must accompany program application).
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa for non-U.S. passport holders.
- Immunization fees (*if immunizations are required*)
- \$40 Undergraduate application fee for non-NIU undergraduate students.
- Independent travel and visa costs associated with independent travel.
- Expenses for free-time pursuits.
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature.

HOUSING AND MEALS: Students will reside in a dormitory with four to six students per room, along with shared bath and toilet facilities. Meals per week are provided throughout the period of residency (outstanding evening meals provided by Sicilian cooks). Bottled water is provided in the program cost, but other beverages including alcohol, soft drinks, etc. are not.

LAND TRANSPORTATION: The group will travel by vehicle to and from the project each day. This transportation is provided as part of the NIU program cost.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Individuals will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements between the U.S. and Palermo, Italy (Airport Code PMO), and for purchasing their tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. (Travel insurance is recommended). Participants should plan to depart from the USA on Saturday, May 30 and arrive on Sunday, May 31 at Palermo (airport code PMO) in order to be there when the program begins on June 1. NIU Field School staff will pick students up at the airport (PMO) on Sunday, May 31.

Important - The Study Abroad Office advises all participants that flight reservations for this program should not be booked until:

- a. After the April 1, 2015 application deadline
AND
- b. The SAO has accepted the minimum number of participants needed to operate this program.

This advisory is given so that participants do not find themselves financially responsible for airline tickets should it be necessary to cancel the program. (See section entitled, **CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM**)

PASSPORT: --IMPORTANT-- All participants must have a passport in order to participate in this program. *Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas.* Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately. Information on acquiring a passport is available at the U.S. State Department's Website: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html>. U.S. passport holders do not need special visas for this program. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel in Europe **and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.**



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD (ISIC): The ISIC is provided as part of the program cost. The International Student I.D. card can, among other things, provide discounts on international airfare. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.



More importantly, the International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

PASSPORT AND ISIC PHOTOS: You may have your passport and/or ISIC photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are \$3.00 for the first photo and \$2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.



HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS: Travelers entering Italy and Sicily are not required to have any particular vaccinations. However, if you have questions on this matter you can contact the NIU University Health Service Travel Clinic for information on what immunizations are required. The Travel Clinic can administer most immunizations to currently enrolled NIU students. Most immunizations require a fee. Consult the Travel Clinic several months before you travel.

NIU MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE: NIU Student health insurance is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program. Participants not currently enrolled in the NIU insurance plan will be enrolled in the NIU major medical Insurance Plan (comprehensive) that has a \$250 deductible clause. Students requiring medical attention will be expected to pay any related costs and then file a claim with the NIU Student Insurance Office after returning to the States. Receipts showing payment for all medical expenses are required for reimbursement.

FINANCIAL AID: As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or a privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply. Information is also available in the Study Abroad Office regarding scholarships and grants. Please contact the International Programs Business Manager, Pamela Rosenberg, Williston Hall 408, (815) 753-9530, prosenberg@niu.edu for more information.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM: Applicants withdrawing from the program after April 1, 2015 will not be refunded the \$100 program deposit. Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$100 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after April 1, 2015 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

- 1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician's letterhead; **and**
- 2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS: Inappropriate and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and could result in dismissal from the program.

CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM: The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Italy/Sicily, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Italy/Sicily, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER
OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!**

Archaeological Field School in Sicily Course Syllabus

**Professor Emeritus Michael J. Kolb
Visiting Assistant Professor William M. Balco**

Pre-Program Meeting:

Date and location to be determined.

Required Reading:

- 1) A packet of short reading materials will be provided at the organizational meeting in April.
- 2) These readings will be discussed during the program in Sicily.
- 3) Recommended reading: *Sicily Before History*, by Robert Leighton. Check <http://amazon.com>.

Physical Conditions:

- 1) Physical demands will vary from walking over rough terrain to digging.
- 2) Walking up steep hills and lifting will be the most strenuous tasks.
- 3) The Sicilian sun will be very hot, especially during field walking.
- 4) Expect the climate to vary from drizzly rain (in May) to hot temperatures (up to 100 F).

Housing:

- 1) The building is used to accommodate a multinational group of around 40 persons.
- 2) Participants are required to treat our hosts with respect.
- 3) Participants will be responsible for house cleaning and other domestic chores.
- 4) Dinners are prepared by local cooks. Breakfast is self-serve. Lunches are packed.

Required Personal Effects:

- 1) Bed sheets for a single bed and a bath towel.
- 2) Leather gloves, sunscreen, skin lotion, hat, insect-repellent, light rain gear.
- 3) Day pack and water bottle.
- 4) A compass (a Brunton compass with 2-degree measurements).

- 5) A line level, 12 foot (3.5 meter) metric tape measure, clipboard, notebook, and pencils.
- 6) Optional equipment includes a camera, binoculars, pillow, and bathing suit.

Work Schedule:

- 1) Work will be approximately six days a week, 8 hour days, starting at 7 am.
- 2) Saturdays are usually spent in the laboratory.
- 3) All tasks will be rotated among the participants so everyone gets a chance to learn.

Survey:

- 1) Participants will take part in pedestrian survey walking in agricultural fields to find archaeological sites.
- 2) Located sites will be surface collected for artifacts and mapped.
- 3) Detailed descriptions are also recorded for each survey sweep.

Excavations:

- 1) Participants will aid primarily in the excavation of residential and burial sites.
- 2) Participants will move dirt and stone, screen for artifacts, and make detailed maps.
- 3) Participants will also be responsible for cleaning and cataloging artifacts.
- 4) After excavation is complete, all excavation units will be back-filled.

Excursions:

- 1) Two project-sanctioned trips will be undertaken every week.
- 2) These trips will be to local archaeological sites or local tourist sites including the beach.

Grading and Field Journals:

- 1) Final grade will be based on participation in the program, three quizzes, and a field journal.
- 2) Quizzes will cover materials presented in weekly lectures on regional/site history, pottery identification, and mapping.
- 3) The field journal records daily survey, excavation, or laboratory activities, perceptions, and interpretations.
- 4) The field journal is evaluated weekly while in the field.