JOIN OUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO EXPLORE SILVIES CAVE
AUGUST 3-28 Students register for ANTH 438 (12 credits) or ANTH 538 (9 credits)

Learn state of the art archaeological excavation methods as we study the long record of human occupation held in the Silvies Cave site, located in the Silvies River Valley of Oregon’s Northern Great Basin. Students can earn undergraduate credits (12) or graduate level credits (9) by enrolling in ANTH 438/538. As part of this course, students also learn geoarchaeological field methods, including approaches to recording site stratigraphy and interpreting site formation processes. Students also receive instruction in zooarchaeology and will learn to make and study stone tools.

For more information about this field course, contact Dr. Loren Davis (loren.davis@oregonstate.edu) or visit the Silvies Cave field school website at: liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/field-schools

THE RESEARCH PROJECT:
The earliest archaeological period in western North America is represented by what is known as the Western Stemmed Tradition (WST) and the Clovis Paleoindian Tradition (called Clovis). These two archaeological patterns are identified by signature stone tool technologies that suggest they represent separate cultural traditions. We do not yet understand how these cultural patterns relate to one another because no archaeological site in western North America has yet provided a well-documented example of Clovis and WST assemblages together in undisturbed, datable stratigraphic contexts. Preliminary excavations conducted in 2015 at Silvies Cave, eastern Oregon led to the initial discovery of both fluted and stemmed projectile points in a buried stratigraphic sequence. We will continue the excavation of Silvies Cave in order to address these issues.

This course has no prerequisites and all OSU and non-OSU students are able to apply. Tuition and fee costs for ANTH 438 (12 credits) are $3324. For ANTH 538 (9 credits) tuition and fee costs are $5090.

Digital 3D rendering of the Silvies Cave fluted point base (top positions) in comparison to fluted point bases from the Dietz Site, which is located south of the Silvies River valley.