

# *The Archaeology of Walking: A Field Study*

**UHON 402-010 | W | 1:00-3:30 | SHC 28 | 37535**

**Fulfills Group IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Dr. Troy Lovata

Walking is a basic human act that drives human evolution and organization. This course is an archaeological study of how the pace of travel by foot shapes both the cultural and physical environment. Students will study the features of landscapes—like trails and traveler’s shrines—as well as the mobile and personal artifacts of walking—including footwear, maps and compasses, and companion animals—in order to understand how and why people walk and how researchers use walking in their work.

The course has two parts. The first is a culture history of walking. Topics include: bipedal evolution; the roles of companion animals; Prehistoric trails; walking in pilgrimages; the meaning of nature walks for philosophers such as Rousseau and Muir; the rise of recreational hiking; and the contentious relationships between walkers and cars in the modern, urbanized world.

The second half of the semester focuses on how scholars use walking in their research. Foot travel is not just a topic of study; it is recognized as a valuable tool that facilitates study. Archaeologists and Geographers walk the land to find artifacts and a sense of scale. Anthropologists walk to observe peoples at a human pace. Philosophers and Artists use walks to set the context of their explorations.

Much of the course will take place in the field rather than in the traditional classroom. There will be in- and out-of-class trips to study: Prehistoric and Historic roads; Albuquerque’s network of side-walks; recreational trails in the Bosque and Sandia Mountains; and the pilgrimage to Tome Hill and Chimayo. Students will also practice and gain skills in hiking, orienteering, route finding, map reading and navigation. Students will, of course, do a lot of walking.

## **Readings**

*‘Archaeology: The Basics’* by Clive Gamble

*‘Basic Illustrated Map and Compass’* by Cliff Jacobson

A course reader available from UNM’s eReserves that includes selections from:

*‘Ways of Walking: Ethnography and Practice on Foot’* by Tim Ingold and Jo Lee Vergunst; Joseph Amato’s *‘On Foot’*; Baker Morrow and V.B. Price’s *‘Anasazi Architecture’*; *‘Shoes: A History From Sandals to Sneakers’* by Giorgio Riello and Peter McNeil; and numerous academic research articles from the fields of Archaeology, Anthropology, Cultural Geography, History, Urban Design, and Natural Resource Management.

## **Requirements**

Students are expected to fully participate in seminar discussions and attend a half-dozen field trips across Albuquerque and the surrounding area that include both strolls across campus and hikes in the wilderness. Students will gain knowledge of navigation and route finding such as orienteering, compass use and map reading. They will also learn techniques of artifact analysis and ethnographic data collection. A series of short worksheets, journals, and data collection exercises will culminate in a large, collaborative research project/paper. There is a required \$60.00 course fee to cover the costs of field trips and supplies.

## **About the Instructor**

Troy Lovata is a tenured, Associate Professor in the University Honors Program. His courses explore our cultural relationship with the world around us and examine our connections to the past. Dr. Lovata holds a Doctorate in Anthropology, with a focus on Archaeology, from The University of Texas.