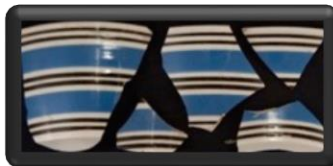




COLONIALISTS, PIRATES, SLAVES & OTHERS: PROVIDENCE ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOHISTORICAL PROJECT, COLOMBIA

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English settlers colonized Providencia in 1630 under the direction of the Providence Island Company. The colonists constructed a town, New Westminster, and several forts. Before the Spanish destroyed the colony in 1641, Providence Island was home to English indentured servants, African slaves sold or taken from Dutch and Spanish ships, Miskito Indians from the Spanish Main, Pequot Indians from Massachusetts, and English and Dutch pirates.

This archaeological project focuses on the **first-ever historical archaeological excavations** of New Westminster with the goal of discovering the material aspects of the multicultural interactions and exchanges between the different groups on this tiny Caribbean island.

The island's Puritan settlement is completely unknown archaeologically, though an extensive historical record exists. The paucity of archaeological research means that new information about the material culture, the settlement pattern, and the multicultural interactions will provide exciting fresh dimensions to understanding colonial lifeways in the 17th-century Caribbean.

The objectives of this field school are to enable students to understand how historical archaeology is practiced in the field, to explore the diverse lifestyles of peoples in the past, and to gain basic understanding of European colonialism and multicultural contact and interaction. To achieve these objectives, this course has two primary goals: (1) to provide students with a practical working knowledge of archaeological field methods, including excavation, laboratory analysis, and colonial-era artifact identification; and (2) to introduce students to the intellectual challenges presented by archaeological research, including research design, the interpretation of data, the integration of historical records with archaeological information, and the need to think creatively and flexibly as new information is recovered during excavation.