

Anthropology 475
Archaeological Field School

Department of Anthropology
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
Summer 2013

Instructor: Dr. Julie Zimmermann Holt

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Class time: M-F, 8-4:30

Office hours: M-F, 4:30-5:00

Course description. The purpose of this course is to teach the student basic archaeological field methods. Primarily, this will be done through experience: the student will participate in surveying and excavating actual archaeological sites. This summer we will survey and excavate on campus. Our research will be focused on a previously recorded site (site 11MS99, or the Gehring site), which is located on the floodplain north of the soccer fields (west of Stadium Drive). This site contains multiple components; the Middle Woodland (ca. 100 BC – AD 350) and Mississippian (ca. AD 1050 – 1400) components are potentially of great significance. Our research objectives are to document and help explain the co-evolution of subsistence and cultural complexity in the greater American Bottom. We are also interested in the relationships between people at this site and other sites in and around the American Bottom and the lower Illinois Valley.

We will spend rain days and the last week or two in the Anthropology Lab (Peck 0403) washing, cataloging, and making preliminary identification of the artifacts recovered. We will also process flotation samples in the lab. Our goal is to have all artifacts and flotation samples processed and ready for further analysis at the completion of the field school.

We will also take field trips to archaeological sites and museums in Illinois. The purpose of these field trips is to show the student alternative field methods, to educate the student about careers in archaeology, and to reinforce the student's understanding of local prehistory.

Students taking ANTH 475 for 3 credits will complete four weeks of field work; students taking ANTH 475 for 6 credits will complete eight weeks of field work. **Six credits of field school are required for the BS in anthropology.** Graduate students taking the course for graduate credit will also write a research paper. Note that a C or better in ANTH 111 and consent of instructor are prerequisites for ANTH 475.

Course readings: There are two required texts for this course, which are available at Textbook Service. They are:

Field Methods in Archaeology (2008), by Thomas R. Hester, Harry J. Shafer, and
Kenneth L. Feder

American Bottom Archaeology (1993), edited by Charles J. Bareis and James W. Porter

Additional readings will be found on Blackboard and include the following:

“Calibrating and Reassessing American Bottom Culture History,” by Andrew C. Fortier, Thomas E. Emerson, and Dale L. McElrath. *Southeastern Archaeology* 25(2):170-211.

The field report for the 2009 and 2010 field schools at the Gehring site can be found at the Anthropology website,

http://www.siue.edu/artsandsciences/anthropology/Field_School_main.shtml.

Course requirements: You are expected to show up for class *on time every day*, participate to the best of your abilities, and show some enthusiasm. You are also expected to acquire archaeological field skills, the most important of which is good note-taking. There will be a take-home final exam, and graduate students will write a research paper. The final grade will be broken down as follows:

	Undergraduates	Graduates
Attendance/participation	60% (60 points)	50 points
Archaeological skills	30% (30 points)	20 points
Final exam	10% (10 points)	5 points
Research paper	Not required	25 points

Class attendance and participation: I want you present in body and spirit. Arrive on site (or in the lab) on time and ready to get to work. If you have a task to do, do it. If you don't have a task to do, find one or ask me for one. Archaeological fieldwork is not for lazy people! One person will be needed to help me unload artifacts at the lab every evening. We will take turns at this.

*Each unexcused absence will result in the deduction of **10 points** from your final grade.*

Absences may be excused with a note from a doctor, judge, or coroner. Generally, I expect excused absences to be made up in the lab after the excavation.

Archaeological skills: As we excavate a site, we destroy it. When we are finished excavating, the records we make and the artifacts we collect will be all that is left of the site. Therefore, it is imperative that we excavate with precision and that we document what we find with precision. If you need help defining a feature, *ask me!* If you need help filling out the paperwork, *ask me!* If you need help identifying artifacts, *ask me!* If there is anything else that you are unsure of, *ask me!* You are here to learn to excavate and document an archaeological site properly. I am here to teach you and to ensure that the site is properly excavated and documented. This will all be accomplished in a mutually respectful environment, but we will do our best to get it right.

Final exam: The final exam will consist of short essay questions. This exam will be a take-home exam, handed out on June 28 and due on July 5.

Research paper (*for graduate students taking the course for graduate credit only*): You will pick

a topic relevant to the research we are conducting and conduct your own additional research into the topic. Topics must be approved by me by week two. Your paper will be ca. 10 pages with at least 10 published (non-internet) references. Your citations should be done in SAA style (follow examples in *American Antiquity* or see the complete style guide at www.saa.org).

Final course grades: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, <60% = F.

Course policies: Students with disabilities will be happily accommodated, but all arrangements must be made through Disability Support Services. Please show me your DSS ID card before the excavation begins so that I can determine how best to meet your needs.

Rain days: Rain days will be spent in the lab. If it is raining at start time, proceed directly to the lab (Peck 0403). If you are unsure where to go, call me at home or on my cell phone (numbers are at the top of the syllabus).

Safety: Your health and safety are top priority. Be careful lifting heavy objects. Wear a hat, appropriate footwear, and appropriate clothing. Wear sunscreen and bring plenty of water (one gallon per day is recommended). If you are feeling funny or bad, *tell me*. You will receive a Safety Plan with a longer list of precautions: you must detach and sign the last page and return it to me to indicate that you have received and read the Safety Plan.

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with following University policy (see the SIUE Student Academic Code for definitions and penalties). Given that I hate cheating, please know that I will fail you for the course and report you to the CAS Dean and Provost if I catch you engaging in any type of academic dishonesty.

Field/lab behavior: Please dress and behave in a professional manner. Please treat your fellow students, visitors, and me with respect. If you smoke, do it on the edge of the site (absolutely not near the excavation!). Do *not* discard cigarette butts, lunch trash, or any other trash on the site or anywhere outside of a trash receptacle. You may eat in the lab, but *clean up* all crumbs, etc. All food/food trash must be removed from the lab at night. Radios (CD players, etc.) are not allowed on site but are allowed in the lab at quiet levels. If there is conflict over music in the lab, I will choose what is listened to.

Schedule: Readings are scheduled as follows. Please note that week 8 will be spent in the lab and the take-home exam is due July 5. Field trips are to be announced.

Week 1 5/13-17	Read “Calibrating and Reassessing American Bottom Culture History.” Read <i>Field Methods in Archaeology</i> ch. 1-3. May 17: No class.
Week 2 5/20-24	Read <i>Field Methods in Archaeology</i> ch. 4-5. Read the 2009 Gehring Site Field Report. Recommended reading: <i>American Bottom Archaeology</i> ch. 1, 2, and 12. Field trip?
Week 3 5/27-31	Read <i>Field Methods in Archaeology</i> ch. 6-7. Recommended reading: <i>American Bottom Archaeology</i> ch. 3-4. Memorial Day (Monday): No class. Field trip?
Week 4 6/3-7	Read <i>Field Methods in Archaeology</i> ch. 8-9. Recommended reading: <i>American Bottom Archaeology</i> ch. 5-6. Field trip?
Week 5 6/10-14	Read <i>Field Methods in Archaeology</i> ch. 10-11. Recommended reading: <i>American Bottom Archaeology</i> ch. 7-8. Field trip?
Week 6 6/17-21	Read <i>Field Methods in Archaeology</i> ch. 12-14. Recommended reading: <i>American Bottom Archaeology</i> ch. 9-10. Field trip?
Week 7 6/24-28	Recommended reading: <i>American Bottom Archaeology</i> ch. 11. Field trip?
Week 8 7/1-7/5	In the lab. Field trip? All take-home exams and graduate student research papers due July 5.