Join us for UNC’s 2012 summer field school in North American archaeology. This year’s field school, led by Prof. Vin Steponaitis, will take place during Summer Session 1 (May 15-June 19, 2012) and will be based in the beautiful and historic town of Natchez on the Mississippi River. We will excavate the Feltus Mounds, a Late Woodland ceremonial center which dates ca. AD 700-1000.

Students will earn 6 credit hours that fulfill the UNC Experiential Education, Historical Analysis, North Atlantic World, and World Before 1750 general education requirements and the Archaeology major/minor requirements for a field school. This summer’s excavation will focus on the summit of Mound B. We expect to uncover a burned building as well as associated pottery, stone, and food remains. Understanding how the mound summits were used will allow us to make interpretations about the people who built the site as well as the ceremonies that took place there.

Topics will include the techniques of archaeological excavation, as well as mapping, photography, and artifact identification. Although some classroom and laboratory instruction will be given, most of the students’ time will be spent excavating. Those who successfully complete the course will be prepared for a variety of future research and employment opportunities, including positions on other archaeological projects.

Enrollment. The course is open to undergraduate students and anyone with a college degree. Enrollment is limited to 12, and students must apply in advance (by March 15, 2012) and obtain permission to register. Applications are available from the Research Laboratories of Archaeology (108 Alumni Building) or http://rla.unc.edu/teaching/fieldschool2012.

Tuition and Housing Costs. Participants will enroll in Anthropology 451 for 6 credit hours. The following tuition and fees apply for undergraduates: $1,260 for North Carolina residents; $3,180 for out-of-state residents. (These estimates may change by the time of registration.) Arrangements for student housing in Natchez will be made by the instructors. A fee (amount to be determined) will be required to cover housing and food.

For more information, call or write Dr. Vin Steponaitis, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, 108 Alumni Building, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120 (tel. 919-962-3845; email: vin@unc.edu).