Field School in North American Archaeology  
Anthropology 451  
Summer 2018

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Course Description: In this course you will learn basic archaeological field procedures in a “hands-on” fashion, by actually excavating an ancient site.

Course Structure: We will generally work in the field five days each week, Monday through Friday, although the schedule may vary depending on weather and other circumstances. We will do additional lab work two nights a week. On a typical day we will leave for the site at 7:45 am sharp, and we will return to our quarters about 4:15 pm. On rainy days we will work in the lab or take field trips to nearby sites. Weekend field trips may also be scheduled, but these are optional.

Required Readings: Occasional readings will be posted on the course web site (see below).

Course Requirements: Grading is based on participation, performance, a journal, and a final exam.

* Participation (30%) involves being at the site each day (unless there is an acceptable excuse) and being mentally engaged in the various day-to-day activities at the site.

* Performance (30%) involves how well a student progresses in mastering the various archaeological tasks, including (but not limited to) digging levels with a shovel, screening, troweling, excavating features, drawing plans and profiles, and taking field notes. Performance also involves how well a student is able to excavate and record data independently (once those skills have been mastered) and how the student contributes generally to the overall success of the excavation (that is, helping out wherever needed).

* The journal (30%) comprises the written component of the course and is designed both as an exercise in descriptive observation and documentation, and as a means for staff to gauge how well a student understands the process of data recovery.

* A final exam (10%) will focus on the readings and general concepts.

Course Web Site: The course web site contains not only the information in this syllabus, but also the readings and a variety of supplemental materials. It will be updated throughout the semester. The course web site can be found at <http://rla.unc.edu/courses/anth451/>.

Honor Code: Students are expected to adhere to UNC’s Honor Code <https://studentconduct.unc.edu/>.

Overall Schedule:
- Tue 5/15 Students arrive in Natchez.
- Wed 5/16 Course begins; orientation day.
- Thu 5/17 Begin work at the site.
- Mon 5/28 Holiday (Memorial Day).
- Tue 6/19 Finish work at site.
- Wed 6/20 Final exam; clean-up day.
- Thu 6/21 Students depart for home.
Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


[Revised 5/11/18]