



IDH3931: **Past Indigenous Cities of the Midcontinent**



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2024 (1 credit hour)

Instructor: Anthony P. Farace

Overview

This Uncommon Classroom focuses on archaeological cultures of the midcontinental United States during the emergence of cities and complexity during Mississippian period (AD 900–1500). During the course, students will explore and conduct experiential investigations of archaeological sites documenting how the sites have been used in the past and the histories of past inhabitants of North America. The course includes trips to three archaeological sites: Cahokia Mounds State Historic site, the largest pre-columbian archaeological site north of Mexico outside of present-day St. Louis, MO; Dickson Mounds, a major archaeological site in Lewistown, IL, and Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site, a smaller regional archaeological site overlooking the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Through comparing these archaeological sites, students will be able to see differences in community organization and lifestyles from the big city (Cahokia) when compared to how people's lifeways are influenced and negotiated outside of the city center.

Course Specifics



Photograph of St. Louis on top of Monk's Mound at Cahokia (Credit: Adam Zoph)

Course Instructor

Anthony P. Farace

Office: Turlington B355

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: afarace@ufl.edu

Course Dates

March 11th–14th (UF's spring break week)

Course Location

The course takes place in St. Louis, MO. The honors college has booked the Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch in the center of downtown. The hotel provides free breakfast in the morning. The closest airport to fly into is Lambert Airport.

Course Textbook

There is no textbook required for this course.

Course Fees

The total fees for the course are projected to be \$1,000 which includes a double occupancy hotel room, transportation to course activities, entrance to dig sites, breakfast, and lunch. Wentworth Travel Scholarships are available to support costs, up to \$500. Students that provide proof of financial need as part of the application may be eligible for additional funding.

Course Learning Objectives

Objective 1

Describe how archaeologists document and preserve the past.

During the course, we will discuss how archaeologists produce information about the past through the analysis of material culture. The course will feature trips to archaeological sites and museums demonstrating the importance of preserving past cultures.

Objective 2

Identify and recall the diversity of traits that archaeologists label as "Mississippian". Compare Cahokia to other Mississippian people in the hinterland.

Class discussions will explore how archaeologists have traditionally labeled cultures as "Mississippian". Our field trips will ask you to critically examine these categories as we encounter more variation in the hinterland as locals negotiate aspects of their lives influenced by Cahokia and local tradition.

Learning Method and Requirements

Grading Specifications

- Letter grades are assigned based on total percent of points seen in the chart below.
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- **UF's Grading policy:** <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grading Scale

Grade Percent	Passing Grade	Grade Points
93.0 or above	A	4.00
92.9 - 90.0	A-	3.67
89.9 - 87.0	B+	3.33
86.9 - 83.0	B	3.00
82.9 - 80.0	B-	2.67
79.9 - 77.0	C+	2.33
76.9 - 73.0	C	2.00
72.9 - 70.0	C-	1.67
69.9 - 67.0	D+	1.33
66.9 - 63.0	D	1.00
62.9 - 60.0	D-	0.67
<59.9	E	0.00

Grading Breakdown



- Photo Blog Entries (25%)
- Being Prepared (25%)
- Participation/Activities (50...)

Photo Blog Entries (25%)

(CLOs 1 & 2)

Each day students will submit 3-5 photos from the day's activities and 2-3 sentences per photo giving context and importance to the photo. It will be uploaded to the course photo blog: <https://sites.google.com/view/idh3931photoblog>. (25 points)

Participation and Activities (50%)

(CLOs 1 & 2)

You will be graded on your participation during our discussions and activities for the four day period. (25 points)

Being Prepared (25%)

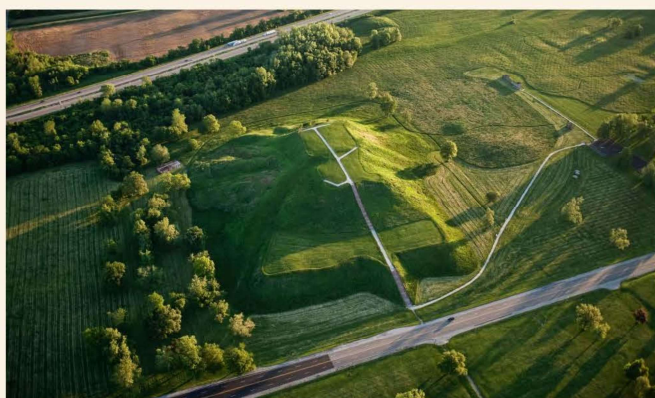
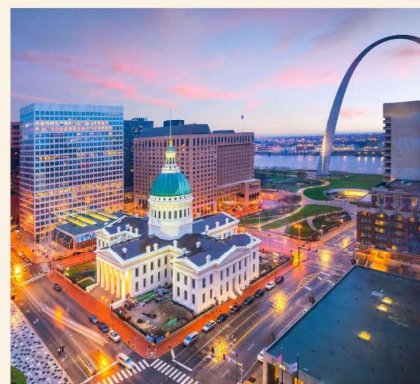
(CLOs 1 & 2)

Being prepared is pivotal for your success in this short course so this section is separated from participation. Students are expected to stick to the schedule, be ready to discuss course topics, and are prepared to create an inclusive environment for other students and speakers during the course. (25 points)

Tenative Schedule

March 11th: Making Mississippian

- Arrive in St. Louis
- Opening lecture ("A Greater Mississippian World")
- Welcome dinner

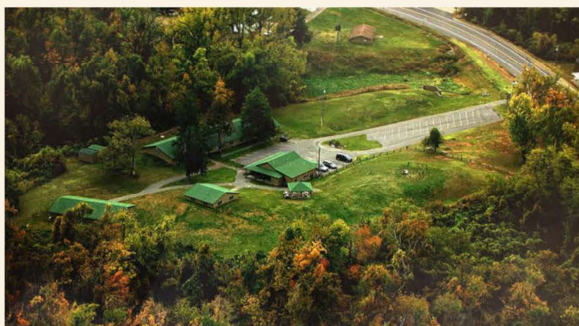


March 12th: Preserving Cahokia

- Leave hotel at 8:30 AM
- Tour of Cahokia Mounds at 9 AM by Lori Belknamp, site superintendent
- Cahokia Seek and Find Activity
- Lunch
- Tour of Missouri History Museum's Collections Center 2 PM

March 13th: Dickson Mounds

- Leave hotel at 8:00 AM
- Arrive at Dickson Mounds at 10:30 AM
- Tour of Dickson Mounds
- Lunch
- Activity at Dickson Mounds
- Head back to St. Louis 2:30 PM



Day 4: Wickliffe Mounds

- Leave hotel at 8:00 AM
- Arrive at Dickson Mounds at 10:40 AM
- Tour of Wickliffe Mounds by Carla Hildebrand
- Lunch
- Making native pottery at Wickliffe
- Head back to St. Louis 2:30 PM

Course Policies

Accommodations

If you require an accommodation for the course, you should connect with the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible to enroll by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. If you feel that you would like to use your accommodations for this course, please view the guidelines here: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/accommodations/accommodation-letters/>. Accommodations should be submitted to the professor as soon as possible to prevent any delays in your progression in the course. Ideally, these should be sent to the instructor before the end of the first month of classes.

Campus Resources

Students experiencing personal problems that are interfering with their academic performance are encouraged to contact Student Affairs, DRC, and/or the Counseling and Wellness Center.

- UF Student Affairs: <https://ufsa.ufl.edu/> or <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/>
- Disability Resource Center (DRC): www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575
- Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student

Library Resources

The UF Libraries provide access to numerous resources and services that will help you pursue the information from this course further. Access thousands of online databases, books, and articles or visit one of the branch locations for additional resources, services, and study spaces. Further, as this class requires students to complete a bibliography and research paper, both the Anthropology Library Guide and the Anthropology Assignment Guide may be of assistance. You can also contact the Anthropology Librarian directly for help with developing your research topic/question, searching for sources, and evaluating information. And you can also Ask A Librarian for help by email, chat, text, or phone.

There is a Library Guide for archaeology: <https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/anthropology/archaeology>

- GiNESSa Mahar (Anthropology Librarian): gjmahar@ufl.edu, office: Library West 500

Cheating and/or Plagiarism

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click [here](#) to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

If you cheat or plagiarize any assignment, you will automatically receive a 0 on the assignment. Any alleged violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Please review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code at www.sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/.

GatorEvals

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Harassment and Discrimination

"Harassment" is defined as conduct that (1) is of any type (written, oral, graphic, or physical), (2) is directed towards or against a person because of their personal status (i.e., race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy or others), and that (3) unreasonably interferes with the individual's work, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF or creates a working or learning environment that a reasonable person would find threatening. "Discrimination" is defined as a conduct that (1) adversely affects any aspect of an individual's employment, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF, and (2) is based on one or more personal characteristics listed above. Any student who feels that his/her rights have been violated may speak to the instructor who will direct the complaint through the proper university channels, or the student may directly file a complaint with UF Department of Human Resources.