

The 2017 Field School in Midwestern Archaeology

Belleville, Illinois

21 May 2017 - 1 July 2017

Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(6 credit hours: ANTH 454 & ANTH 455)

Instructor: Erin Benson (ebensn@illinois.edu)

Around AD 1050, Cahokia, North America's first city north of Mexico, was built just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Missouri, but after only 300 years, the city was abandoned. Ever since Cahokia was rediscovered by European explorers, the question has remained: What happened? This 6-week field school will dig into a site located in Cahokia's hinterlands that was occupied just as the city began to decline in the late 12th century. We will seek to answer questions about how everyday life was changing for Cahokia's hinterland inhabitants, and what that meant for the city's eventual abandonment.

This field school is a scientific expedition, and students will learn the standard archaeological techniques necessary to become professional archaeologists; from survey and mapping to excavation and interpretation of the houses, pits, features, and artifacts they encounter.

We will stay just 15 minutes from Cahokia Mounds, and 20 minutes from downtown St. Louis, which has lots of restaurants, museums, and other (mostly free) attractions to offer. Weekends will be yours to explore the city! We will also take one mandatory weekend camping trip into the St. Francois Mountains in SE Missouri, learning about Southern Illinois/Missouri history along the way!

**Non-Anthropology
Majors welcome!**

Applications are due by **March 31** to:
Erin Benson, Department of Anthropology
109 Davenport Hall, 607 S. Mathews Ave.
Urbana IL 61801

Successful applicants will be contacted by **April 7** with registration information.

There is a \$800 non-refundable fee, in addition to the cost of UIUC tuition. You will be responsible for paying for your own breakfasts and lunches, and we will have communal weekday dinners (~\$30 a week).

Applications, funding opportunities, and other information available at the UIUC Anthropology website: www.anthro.illinois.edu

Please contact **Erin Benson** at
ebensn@illinois.edu with any questions

