



# CENTER FOR AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY

## Adult Field School Syllabus

July 7-August 3, 2019

**Course Meetings:** Monday-Friday

**Instructor:** Jason L. King, PhD  
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Office Hours: by appointment

### Course Description

The CAA Adult Field School offers a unique, intensive experience for anyone 18-years or older of all skill and experience levels to engage in real archaeological field and laboratory work. Stationed at the Center for American Archeology in Kampsville, IL, students gain experience in field archeology, archeological lab work, archaeological theory, and research design while engaging in problem-oriented research at Lower Illinois River Valley archaeological sites. Course activities include excavation and laboratory methods, including shoveling, troweling, mapping, soil description, artifact and debris processing, water flotation sample collection and processing, and curation. Practical experiences are supplement by reading assignments and lectures by field school staff and guest lectures.

Students may enroll for one to four weeks of field school. Please note: topics covered will differ based on number of weeks enrolled.

### Course Goals

The goal of the field archeology course is to teach students the skills necessary to participate in archaeological field and laboratory work in any context and to prepare them to undertake future archaeological research.

### Learning Outcomes

- Understand the basic logic of excavation strategies and how decisions are made to excavate specific contexts
- Successfully setup an excavation unit
- Successfully excavate levels to correct dimensions
- Develop a vertical unit profile
- Measure and map accurately
- Adequately document excavation of their assigned unit
- Properly collect, identify, and process archaeological artifacts and debris
- Properly collect and process flotation samples
- Adequately understand the cultural implications of excavated soils, material culture and their contexts, both within the unit and in relation concurrent and previous excavation units
- Complete an independent archaeological research project

**Pre-requisites/Co-requisites/Anti-requisites:** None

### **Readings**

The following readings are provided via Dropbox for all participants. You are not *required* to read all of these, but they will provide you with important background information to contextualize your experience. **Bolded** references are those that will be most useful.

**Buikstra, J. E.**

**1988** *The Mound-Builders of Eastern North American: A Regional Perspective.* Elfde Kroon-Voordracht Stichting Nederlands Museum Voor Anthropologie en Prehistorie, Amsterdam.

Buikstra, J. E. and D. K. Charles

1999 "Centering the Ancestors: Cemeteries, Mounds, and Sacred Landscapes of the Ancient North American Midcontinent." In *Archaeologies of Landscape*, edited by W. Ashmore and A. B. Knapp, pp. 201-228. Blackwell Publishers, Malden, MA.

Chapman, R. C.

1977 "Analysis of Lithic Assemblages." In *Settlement and Subsistence Along the Lower Chaco River: The CGP Survey*, edited by C. Reher, pp. 371-452. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Charles, D. K. and J. E. Buikstra

2002 "Siting, Sighting, and Citing the Dead." In *The Space and Place of Death*, edited by H. Silverman and D. B. Small, pp. 13-26. Archeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association No. 11, J. K. Johnson, general editor. American Anthropological Association, Arlington.

**Charles, D. K., J. Van Nest and J. E. Buikstra**

**2004** "From the Earth: Minerals and Meaning in the Hopewellian World." In *Soils, Stones and Symbols: Cultural Perceptions of the Mineral World*, edited by N. Boivin and M. A. Owoc, pp. 43-70. UCL Press, London.

Griffin, J. B.

1952 "Some Early and Middle Woodland Pottery Types in Illinois." In *Hopewellian Communities in Illinois*, edited by T. Deuel, pp. 83-129. Illinois State Museum, Springfield.

**Herrmann, J. T., J. L. King, and J. E. Buikstra**

**2014** "Mapping the Internal Structure of Hopewell Tumuli in the Lower Illinois River Valley through Archaeological Geophysics." *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 2(3):164-179.

**King, J. L., J. E. Buikstra and D. K. Charles**

**2011** "Time and Archaeological Traditions in the Lower Illinois Valley." *American Antiquity* 76(3):500-528.

King, J. L., Duncan P. McKinnon, Jason T. Herrmann, Jane E. Buikstra, and Taylor H. Thornton

2017 **The Role of Remote Sensing in Evaluating Structural Variation in Middle Woodland Mounds in the Lower Illinois River Valley.** In *Archaeological Remote Sensing: Applications in North America*, Duncan McKinnon and Bryan Haley, eds. University of Alabama Press

Montet-White, A.

1968 *The Lithic Industries of the Illinois Valley in the Early and Middle Woodland Period.* Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, No. 35. The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Morgan, D. T.

1985 "Ceramic Analysis." In *Smiling Dan: Structure and Function at a Middle Woodland Settlement in the Lower Illinois Valley*, edited by B. D. Stafford and M. B. Sant, pp. 183-257. Center for American Archaeology, Kampsville.

Ruby, B. J., C. Carr and D. K. Charles

2005 "Community Organizations in the Scioto, Mann, and Havana Hopewellian Regions: A Comparative Perspective." In *Gathering Hopewell: Society, Ritual, and Ritual Interaction*, edited by C. Carr and D. T. Case, pp. 119-176. Kluwer Academic, New York.

Scarry, C. M. and R. A. Yarnell.

2011 "Native American Domestication and Husbandry of Plants In Eastern North America." In *Subsistence Economies of Indigenous North American Societies: A Handbook*, edited by B. D. Smith., pp. 483-501. Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press.

Styles, B.

2011 "Animal use by Holocene Aboriginal Societies of the Northeast." In *Subsistence Economies of Indigenous North American Societies: A Handbook.*, edited by B. D. Smith., pp. 483-501. Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press.

### Course Schedule

Attendance is required for all class meetings, meals, and lectures. A typical day in the Adult Field School runs as follows (subject to change):

6:15 am	Meet for Breakfast
8:00-10:00 am	Fieldwork
10:00-10:15 am	Break
10:15 am-12:30 pm	Fieldwork
12:30-1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15-4:30 pm	Fieldwork
5:00-5:30 pm	Dinner
6:00-7:00 pm	Break
7:00-9:00 pm	Labwork, Lecture, or other activity

Fieldwork start and end times will vary depending on travel time. Labwork will be substituted for fieldwork on rain days.