

Solving the Mystery of Yankeetown AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDSCHOOL IN



IU Students on the floor of the house they excavated.

Illinois!!!!

Summer 2012

June 4 –July 14

6 credits



One of this summers field sites: the trees are concealing a large mound

Join a team of archaeologists this summer trying to solve an archaeological mystery and earn field school credit!

The Yankeetown people lived in SW Indiana 1000 years ago and are believed to be ancestral to the Mississippians who built Angel Mounds, but were they? Yankeetown material culture has also been recovered as far away as Cahokia Mounds near St. Louis Missouri. Did Yankeetown people move to Cahokia and then bring Mississippian ideas back to Indiana? Were the Yankeetown people part of creating the Mississippian civilization that swept across the Midwest and Southeast? These are some of the mysteries that we are working to solve.

This year the Solving the Mystery of Yankeetown project joins forces with the Discovering Cahokia's Religion project led by Dr. Timothy Pauketat of University of Illinois. You will work alongside a U of I field school to excavate at two Mississippian mound centers in St Clair County Illinois. These are mound centers that are related to Cahokia, the largest pre-Columbian city in North America and aside from being a few miles from Cahokia are located a short hop from St Louis Missouri. These centers have experienced serious damage and destruction from modern development and agriculture and are threatened by more destruction so our work will be focused on learning as much as we can about these places before more damage occurs.

Our part in the excavations this summer will be to discover Yankeetown people who moved to Illinois, and to try and determine if Yankeetown people were part of a political and religious movements in Illinois and beyond. **YOUR JOB** will be to help excavate houses and pits, and to learn about the role of material culture in piecing together particular histories so that we can begin to understand the place of Indiana people in the greater histories of the Midwest. Students will learn to manage their own excavation units and to assist in processing excavated materials. You will have training and practice in all basic field techniques plus students will also be introduced to state of the art techniques through integrated use of total station mapping, geophysical survey, GIS and GPS.

After the field work ends there will be opportunities for student excavators to follow-up and continue to study and earn course credit for lab analysis, student projects and honors projects. Student participation in professional presentations and public education will be encouraged.

Location: St Claire County Illinois
Housing Provided: Fee: \$600.00 MAX*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Susan Alt susalt@indiana.edu

See previous digs on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Solving-the-Mystery-of-Yankeetown-Fieldschool/90933020763>

*housing fee depends on availability, typically the fee has run closer to \$400 but has gone to 500.00. We will try to come in as cheap as possible on this!

Indiana University Bloomington
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF YANKEETOWN
Field School in Archaeology

Professor Susan M. Alt P 405 6 CREDITS

DIRECTIONS. This form can be completed and submitted in person to *Dr Susan Alt in SB 054 (lab)* by March 15 or Applicants may also send completed electronic versions to: susalt@indiana.edu.

Name _____

Street Address _____

Spring Semester Phone and E-mail _____

Academic Status (circle): freshman sophomore junior senior grad. Other _____

Major/Overall Grade Point Average _____

If below 3.0, please explain why _____

Relevant Archaeology Courses Taken / Background _____

Why take field school? _____

Extent of your past outdoor work experience _____

List abilities/qualities you can offer the Project _____

VERY IMPORTANT: YOU MUST BE COVERED BY HEALTH INSURANCE PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR THE FIELD.

What health insurance will cover you in the summer? _____

Identify any special considerations regarding your health, allergic conditions, and ability to engage in strenuous outdoor activity _____

Your signature here acknowledges your understanding that you will be an active participant in a special field course connected to a research project with goals above and beyond an ordinary on-campus college course. Field work can be strenuous, days are often long (> 8 hours), and you may be required to work under uncomfortable weather conditions. Transportation to and from field sites is the responsibility of the student (although carpooling is normal), as are the costs of all meals.

Signature: _____

*Please note that Students will be responsible for their own food and for purchasing personal excavation supplies totaling between 50 and 75 dollars to be used in the field. **A single non-refundable housing and materials fee of \$600.00 will required by May 1, 2012** (this is the maximum possible cost, we have been able to negotiate cheaper housing and lowered the fee, but it could be this high). Additional information will be distributed following acceptance into the field school during pre-field meeting.

