Pottery sherd that featured a face, from one of the Mississippian cultures

This course provides a broad overview of the Mississippian cultures that developed and flourished along the lower and central Mississippi Valley and elsewhere in what is now the eastern US from about 900 to 1600 CE. We will discuss environmental conditions within which Mississippian cultures developed and basic characteristics of these cultures.

We will survey important sites used to characterize the Mississippian. Its art and ceremonial complex will be highlighted, including discussion of cave art. We will discuss the transition from the Mississippian lifeways to those of the early historic period. Finally, we’ll draw some comparisons between Mississippian archaeology and that of the Hohokam/Salado in the Southwest.

$99 donation per participant is to benefit Old Pueblo’s education programs ($80 for members of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and members of Friends of Pueblo Grande Museum)*
Donations are due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 p.m. Friday September 2nd, whichever is earlier.

* Donation does not include cost of recommended text: Mound Sites of the Ancient South: A Guide to the Mississippian Chiefdoms by Eric E. Bowne (2013).

To register call 520-798-1201 or email info@oldpueblo.org
Topics included in the course:

- A Brief History of Mississippian Archaeological Investigations
- What Characterizes the Mississippian? . . .
  The Mississippian Cultural Suite . . .
  Was There Really a Mesoamerican Connection?
- The Mississippian Emergence
- Cahokia and Other Major Mound Centers
- Lamar Archaeology: Origins, Characteristics, and Revitalization?
- Mississippian Cosmos . . .
  The Art & Ceremonial Complex . . .
  Cave and Rock Art
- Mississippian Frontiers: Do Platform Mounds Equal the Mississippian?
- Spiro and Caddoan Archaeology
- What Happened “After” the Mississippian? Spanish Entradas
- Mississippian Archaeology Vis à Vis Hohokam and Salado Archaeology

Course Instructor Jay Franklin was awarded his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Tennessee in 2002 and served as a Professor of Anthropology for more than 15 years at East Tennessee State University before he retired in 2019. He is now Director of Cultural Resources and a Principal Investigator for the environmental and archaeological consulting firm EcoPlan Associates, Inc., in Tucson, Arizona.

Dr. Franklin’s primary research interests include precontact hunter-gatherers, cave and rock art, and precontact stone tools and pottery. He has more than 30 years of experience in academia and cultural resource management.

His archaeological experience spans the southeastern United States, Missouri, North Dakota, Texas, Arizona, and France from the Paleolithic to the historic era.