

ANTHROPOLOGY (ANT) 3162 (Section 9583)
AZTEC CIVILIZATION

COURSE INFORMATION:

Class Meets: Tues. Per. 4 (10:40-11:30) and Thurs. Per. 4-5 (10:40-12:35) LIT 101
Gen. Ed. Categories: **H & N**

Spring 2013

3 Credits

Not a Gordon Rule Course

PREREQUISITES: Prior course work in anthropology or history is highly recommended.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON E-LEARNING: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Prof. Susan D. Gillespie

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www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sgillesp

Phone: 352-294-7595 (office, voicemail)

Office Hours: Tu 11:30am-12:30 pm, W 1-3 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines in detail the best known precolumbian civilization of the Americas: the Aztecs. A major goal is to demystify the Aztecs—to look beyond the exaggerations and place their “exotic” customs and beliefs in their proper cultural and historical contexts. We want to appreciate their unique place in history while underscoring their essential humanity with relevant comparisons to our own and other societies.

The first two-thirds of the semester is an in-depth study of Aztec culture and society at about AD 1500. This intensive investigation requires you to learn Aztec words and concepts, because an important objective is to understand a non-Western culture from their point of view, not just ours! For information, we utilize ethnohistory, showing how scholars interpret information from 16th century documents written by both Aztecs and Spaniards, and also archaeology, explaining how scarce surviving material remains are interpreted. Aspects of Aztec culture are examined beginning with daily life and the life cycle, and then moving beyond the individual to the larger world: the household, neighborhood, capital city, and the Basin of Mexico. Social, political, and economic structures are investigated at all these levels, the largest being the conquest empire that covered much of central Mexico. Aesthetic, intellectual, and religious concerns receive extensive coverage. The last third of the course is devoted to the lesser-known neighboring groups with whom the Aztecs traded, allied, and warred, as well as the Spanish Conquest, treated from the viewpoints of Europeans and Aztecs. In the final days we look at the Aztec legacy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT GOALS: In-depth understanding of the Aztecs as a major world civilization through the representations they and their conquerors created; appreciation of the problems of studying a past civilization through scarce, fragmentary, and biased documentary and archaeological records; learning how to compare and contrast Western and non-Western cultures in a non-judgmental way; reflections and insights into one’s own way of life and world view through such a comparison. Current controversies are examined to engage students in the intellectual process. The development of cross-cultural comparative knowledge, evaluative capabilities in examining evidence for the holistic study of culture, analytical reasoning and problem-solving, communication skills in writing papers, and self-reflections guided by group discussion are also important objectives of this course.

General Education Goals: To learn how to value and respect other ways of life, and in the process, have a more profound understanding of your own. Aztec representations of themselves— their histories, rituals, cosmologies, poetry, philosophy, artworks, architecture, city plans—are placed in context against 16th century Spanish and modern American representations of them. Students should begin to understand the critical roles played by creative expressions and the meaningfulness of the representations peoples like the Aztecs made of themselves, as well as the biased or unintentional misrepresentations that others make of them, influenced by their own point of view and sociohistorical contexts.

COURSE DESIGN: This course is designed primarily for Anthropology majors and minors and secondarily for students in Latin American Studies, History, Classics, Art History, Religion, and Native American Studies. While it is not designed for students in other majors, they are very welcome!

COURSE LEVEL: This is an upper-division undergraduate course. Success is based on **mastery** of the course information. Students should be experienced at listening to lectures and taking notes. They should know the difference between abstract or generalizing concepts and facts that illustrate those concepts. *Students are expected to review their lecture and reading notes each week.* There are no formal review sessions prior to exams, and exams are not reviewed in class afterwards. Success on exams requires critical thinking, not just the ability to memorize static “facts.”

E-LEARNING COMPONENT: Go to <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>. Log in with your Gator-link ID. All **lecture outlines** are posted as Word documents here. *Every* student is expected to have the lecture outline for each class. You can print it with additional spacing if you wish for note-taking. The outlines do not provide the entire lecture, but they show the organization of major and minor points and have all the important Aztec words. The website also has all handouts, exam rules, practice quizzes, project requirements, and assigned readings beyond the textbook. Check it regularly for announcements.

FORMAT: The course format is lecture, illustrated with slides. There are some formal discussions, and questions are always encouraged. Every student is expected to **bring the lecture outline** and any handouts to each class. Nothing is written on the board. Talking amongst yourselves is disruptive and demonstrates a lack of respect for classmates. Those who continue to show disrespect will be asked to move their seats. On Thursday the professor will call for a 10-minute break between the two lectures.

PERSONAL DEVICES: *Turn off cell phones.* All cell phones, PDAs, iPods, iPads, and other tablets, e-readers, and portable devices must be stowed away. Notebook computers are allowed *only* for taking notes; any other use is strictly prohibited because it is distracting to other students trying to listen to the lecture. Newspapers and other reading materials not relevant to the class should be put away out of sight when class begins because they pose a distraction and show a lack of respect for fellow class members.

ASSIGNED SEATING: At the fifth class meeting a seating chart will be distributed. On that day you may choose where to sit (within limits), and this will become your assigned seat—you should always sit there. *Students will be seated in groups* for discussion purposes—become friends with your group to help one another with notes. Put your seat number on all assignments to facilitate returning them to you.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: All students are expected to be in their seats and ready to listen at **10:40**. Although attendance is not taken every day, class discussions with written assignments are part of the final grade. Class meetings are the only opportunity to “download” the lecture; thus, regular attendance is required for success in this course. If you miss any class, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes from a classmate. Assignments begin with the first day of class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Some class periods have short written assignments to be completed in small group discussion. These are graded for effort and comprise 5% of the final grade.

Make-up policy for Class Participation: Even students with an excusable absence for a class period that has a written group participation assignment are nevertheless responsible for those lost points and should make them up in other ways—See the next item:

EXTRA CREDIT: One way to earn extra credit is by submitting *thoughtful* written questions by email. This option is available to every student. Questions may refer to something in the lecture, readings, or any other source. One point per week may be earned, with a cap of 10 points for the entire semester. Additional extra credit can be earned at the end of the semester by students who complete both projects.

REQUIRED READINGS: There is ONE required textbook available for purchase: BUY IT USED!

Smith, Michael E. *The Aztecs* 2012 (revised, 3rd edition) AND on Reserve in Library West
All **other required readings** are available as pdf files on the e-learning website. Alternatively, they may be purchased as a single **packet** at OBT on 13th St. Assigned readings should be done *each week* to keep up. It is useful to bring handouts (e.g., maps) and project assignments to class. Smith (2012) is the best available textbook, but his order of presentation does not match the lectures, so carefully note the assigned page numbers. The professor does not use the textbook as the source for her lectures; it provides supplementary information beyond the lecture topics. The lectures provide a great deal of information not found in the textbook and may contradict the textbook.

EXAMS: Multiple choice exams are used to gauge your **mastery** of the course material. Exams cover lectures, readings, and visual information from slides and maps. *There are 4 exams*; none is cumulative. Each is 60 points or 20% of your final grade. Exams are machine-scored and are not returned; a key is posted. All students seeking to improve their subsequent exam score should meet with the professor to go over the exam taken. If you don't, the professor assumes you are satisfied with a poor grade. **Make-up Policy for Exams:** Missed exams may be made up if you have a valid excuse for an *involuntary* absence according to University Policy (e.g., documented illness, religious holiday) during the scheduled exam period AND if you (or someone on your behalf) informs the Professor *before* the exam begins. Missed exams should be made up within one week at the instructor's convenience. See **exam rules** in the Resources folder on the E-Learning site for information about studying and taking the exams.

PROJECTS: Two short writing projects make up 15% of the final grade; see assignments in the Projects folder under Resources on E-Learning. The projects constitute a "research-based" form of learning whereby you discover information yourself, reading 16th century documents instead of someone else's analysis. You will take on an elite occupational role in Aztec society: a fortune-teller and a tax-collector. The Projects folder explains the **requirements and expectations** for each project. **Make-up Policy for Projects:** Late projects lose 2 points for every day that lapses after the due date until the project is *received* by the professor.

SUMMARY OF GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

class participation	15 points	(5% of final grade)
4 exams (60 pts each)	240 points	(80%)
Project 1	20 points	(7%)
Project 2	25 points	(8%)

GRADES: All grades in this course are *earned* throughout the semester, not negotiated individually at the end of the semester. Do *not* request a grade adjustment based on work other than what is described in this syllabus. Letter grades are assigned at the end of the semester, based on a total of 300 points, according to the grading scale below. See University policy:
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Important: If a minimum grade of **C** is required to fulfill certain graduation requirements, C- does **not** fulfill those requirements. Note GPA points for each letter grade in the bottom line of the chart below.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
270-300	264-269	255-263	240-254	234-239	225-233	210-224	204-209	195-203	180-194	174-179	173 or lower
4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00

Any overdue or redone assignments must be received by the last day of class. The gradebook is "closed" on the date of the university-scheduled final exam period (May 2 at 7:30 am).

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS: EVERY STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

Learn the important Aztec (Nahuatl) words. Practice pronouncing them. Students who become familiar with the words enough to say them out loud tend to comprehend and remember the material better than those who do not. If you are doing poorly on the exams, this is one way to help you do better.

Bring the lecture outline to every class. The lectures are fast-paced and no words are spelled on the board. Use the outline to differentiate major points of each lecture and to see how subsidiary information (1a, 1b, etc.) supports the major points (A, B, etc.). Make sure you can explain the 3-4 major ideas with supporting information for any single lecture as you study for the exams.

Attend every class, on time, to keep up with the visual material presented in slides.

Study the maps. Knowing where places are located in space helps you to understand the course material. Map questions appear on the exams.

Make time to do the reading assignments and *review your notes every week.* Cramming right before the exam or pulling an all-nighter are well-known strategies for failure.

Practice with the “do it yourself” weekly and pre-exam quizzes posted on E-learning.

Ask for help if you need assistance in taking notes, comprehending the readings, or studying for the exams. If you cannot come during office hours, make an appointment for a more convenient time. If you don’t ask for help after a poor exam performance, I assume you don’t want to improve your grade.

ACCEPTANCE OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS: By remaining registered in this class, you agree to accept the course requirements and expectations as stated in this syllabus. These are in addition to other general university requirements and codes of conduct as stated in official documents.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION: Lectures may not be tape-recorded without the prior express written permission of Dr. Susan D. Gillespie. The contents of the syllabus, lectures, lecture outlines, and handouts for this course are copyrighted, intended for the private use of students registered in ANT 3162. This means these materials *cannot legally be reproduced*, in part or in whole, by any commercial enterprise (like a note-taking service) or for any profit-making business. Doing so is a punishable breach of copyright protections, and students who do so will be subject to sanctions (see the UF code of ethics).

ANT 3162 WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS - SPRING 2013

Pay attention to the Thursday double lectures. They are listed separately, with separate assignments, even though both lectures are on the same date.

Anything marked “handout” in the E-Learning materials should be brought to class that day.

	Date	Topic	Smith Book	E-Learning/Packet
1	1/8	Introduction to the Course		
2	1/10	Why Study the Aztecs?	p 1-7	Pasztory reading
3	1/10	Anthropology, Culture, Civilization		
4	1/15	You Speak Nahuatl!		Pronunciation handout
5	1/17	Epistemology and Sources of Information	p 12-29	Anonymous Conqueror reading
6	1/17	Geography of Mesoamerica	p 7-12	geography map handouts
7	1/22	Culture History of Mesoamerica [<i>seats are assigned today</i>]	p 30-36, 40-45	

8	1/24	The Individual in the Cosmos: Souls and the Afterlife	p 211-216	López Austin reading (Animistic Centers)
9	1/24	Destiny: Tonalpohualli and Tonalamatl <i>PROJECT 1 ASSIGNED</i> (20 points)	p 249 252-259	tonalpohualli handouts Project 1 handout Durán reading
10	1/29	EXAM I		
11	1/31	Life Cycle	p 127-134	Mendoza reading
12	1/31	House and Big House: Calli and Calpulli	p 259-262	
13	2/5	Social Estates: Pilli and Macehualli	p 134-151	
14	2/7	Huey Altepēt̄l Tenochtitlan Project 1 Due at beginning of class (10:40)	Chap 8 p 179-196	Basin of Mexico map handout
15	2/7	Templo Mayor	p 225-235	Matos Moctezuma reading
16	2/12	Maize Agriculture: “Our Sustenance”	Chap 3 p 60-81	
17	2/14	Crafts & Market: Toltecatl, Tianquiztli	Chap 4 p 82- 107	
18	2/14	Philosophy, Poetry, Games	p 271-277 238-239	poetry handout
19	2/19	Writing: Tlilli, Tlapalli	p 244-251	writing handouts Dibble reading
20	2/21	Cosmology: Cemanauatl	p 197-201	
21	2/21	Cosmogony: World Creation (the Five Suns)		Sun Stone handout Sahagún reading
22	2/26	EXAM II		
23	2/28	Sacred History of the Mexica	p 36-39, 45- 46	Gillespie Tenochtitlan dynasty reading ethnic groups map handout
24	2/28	Religion: Teotl and Teopixqui	p 201-211, 217-219, 239- 243	deity pictures
		3/3-3/10 SPRING BREAK		
25	3/12	Ceremonies of the Xihuitl	p 235-236, reread 254-5	ceremonies map and list handouts
26	3/14	New Fire and Xiuhmolpilli	p 236-238	
27	3/14	Divine Kings: Huey Tlatoani	p 46-59	kings’ names handout Gillespie kings reading

28	3/19	State Artworks	p 263-271	pictures of artworks
29	3/21	Warfare (Yaoyotl) and Sacrifice	p 219-225	
30	3/21	Warfare for Conquest		Gillespie Triple Alliance reading
31	3/26	EXAM III		
32	3/28	Pochteca: Traders and Travelers	Chap 5, p 108-126	map with place names
33	3/28	Empire and Tribute <i>PROJECT 2 ASSIGNED (25 points)</i>	Chap 7, p 152-178	Aztec "provinces" map handout Project 2 handout Codex Mendoza pages Appendix E
34	4/2	Neighbors: Tarascans to the west	p 278-281	Mesoamerica map 2 Tarascan maps Rel. de Mich. pictures Pollard reading
35	4/4	Neighbors: Totonacs, Huastecs, Tlaxcaltecs, and Cholultecs to the east		Totonac map handout Tlaxcala maps handouts
36	4/4	Spanish Views of the Conquest, part 1	p 282-290	conquest map handout Lienzo de Tlaxcala
37	4/9	Spanish Conquest, part 2		León-Portilla reading
38	4/11	Aztecs Views of the Conquest: Omens?		Gillespie Blaming Moteuczoma reading
39	4/11	The Aztec Conquest as a Matter of Time		Gillespie Time reading
40	4/16	Colonialism and the Aztec Legacy PROJECT 2 DUE	p 290-304	
41	4/18	The Aztecs in Popular Imagery		
42	4/23	EXAM IV		

UNIVERSITY POLICY: The following information is included in conformance with University Policy:

1. Students seeking modification of due dates for assignments and exams for religious reasons (e.g., holiday observance) should contact the Professor and request this modification; it will then be granted.

2. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations to facilitate their education must first register with the Disability Resource Center (www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. The DRC will provide documentation to the student to give to the Professor supporting the request for accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow these procedures as early as possible in the semester.

3. The University reminds every student of the implied pledge of Academic Honesty: on any work submitted for credit the student has neither received nor given unauthorized aid. University policy will be enforced in any instance where cheating or plagiarism is suspected. This includes conducting unauthorized research on the internet and failing to cite sources of information on any work submitted, as well as collaborating with students or others to determine the answers on assignments and exams. Consult the Student Guide at www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/ for more information.

4. Counseling services are available at

- the University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
- Student Health Care Center, 392-1171
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601
- Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery and Education (CARE), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161

5. This course may utilize the electronic course reserve service offered by the George A. Smathers Libraries. Under the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities have the right to equal access, use and benefit of the course materials that have been placed on reserve in the Libraries.

Students who have registered with the University of Florida Disability Resource Center should initiate their request for assistance and accommodation in accessing these materials. The Center will work with the Libraries Course Reserve Unit to provide accessible course materials. All information submitted by the student to the Libraries in fulfilling the request for accommodation will be kept confidential. For more information on services for students with disabilities, contact the University of Florida Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565 or at accessuf@dso.ufl.edu. For general information on course reserves, please contact the Course Reserves Unit at 352-273-2520, or email at eres@uflib.ufl.edu.

It is best to use the UF VPN client when accessing electronic materials course reserve materials, e-books, databases, etc.) offered by the library. The VPN client is easily installed and configured, and provides easy access to electronic materials. For more information on using the VPN client, go to <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/login/vpn.html>.

6. All faculty, staff and student of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

7. **Make-up Policy:** Policies regarding justification and mechanisms for making up missed exams, assignments, and attendance are found in the relevant sections of this syllabus and are in accordance with University of Florida regulations.