

ANTHROPOLOGY (ANT) 4168 MAYA CIVILIZATION

Class Meets: Tuesday Per. 3-4, Thursday Per. 4 only in B357 Turlington (Archaeology Lab)

Fall 2009

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3 Credits

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***COURSE PREREQUISITE:* ANT 2140 (Intro World Arch) or 3141, or permission of instructor
NOT OPEN TO STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED ANT 3163 (Maya & Aztec Civilization)**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an in-depth study of the Maya civilization, located in the region stretching from southern Mexico to Honduras. Emphasis is given to Maya social, cultural, and historical features as determined from archaeological investigations of their extensive material remains as well as decipherment of their hieroglyphic writing and analyses of their artworks and architecture, especially during the Classic Period. The course follows a chronological framework tracing 3000 years of history beginning with the first settlements of Maya-speaking peoples in the area during the first millennium BC up to the Spanish invasion and conquest. Topics include social and political organization; economic systems based on agriculture, manufacturing, and exchange; settlement patterns and ecology; warfare and other competitive interactions; religion, calendars, worldview, and writing systems; and aspects of daily life such as family organization, diet, and gender roles. Maya interactions with neighboring peoples are also considered. Coverage is limited to the prehispanic period.

Because this is an archaeology course, as we study each of these topics we examine the various sources of information and methods for constructing knowledge of the prehispanic Maya and how that knowledge has changed over time. In the process we contrast up-to-date archaeological knowledge with popular notions of the “mysterious Maya,” including the so-called Maya “collapse,” the stereotyping of Maya peoples as violent, as unwitting destroyers of their environment, and as a fatalistic people who placed too much faith in their cyclical calendar (the “2012 phenomenon”).

COURSE DESIGN: This course has been designed for *advanced* undergraduate students who have a keen interest in preColumbian peoples and cultures, and more specifically for majors and minors in Anthropology, Latin American Studies, History, Art History, Classics, Religion, and Native American Studies. Because this course deals almost exclusively with archaeological evidence, students should have a prior course in archaeology (ANT 2140 or 3141) or obtain the instructor’s permission to substitute another course(s) for the stated prerequisite. This course integrates with ANT 3162 Aztec Civilization, ANT 4323 Peoples of Mexico and Central America, and ANT 3332 Peoples of Latin America.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT GOALS: All students are expected to gain knowledge of the Maya civilization within a holistic and historical perspective. Examination of nonwestern value systems enables students to appreciate and understand lifeways, beliefs, and expressions alien or similar to their own, and therefore to better understand their own through that comparison. Students will gain familiarity with different methods for evaluating information from a variety of sources. Current controversies are examined in order to engage students in the intellectual process. Cross-cultural comparison, evaluative and analytical skills in examining evidence for the holistic study of culture, and communicative skills in writing papers and in discussion contribute to success in many career fields.

COURSE LEVEL: This is an upper division undergraduate course. Success is based on **mastery** of the information. Students should be experienced at listening to lectures and taking notes. They should know the difference between abstract or generalizing concepts (important) and facts that illustrate those concepts (less important). They should be prepared to review their notes each week. There are *no* review sessions prior to exams, and exams are not gone over in class afterwards. Exams require the ability to critically evaluate, synthesize, and analyze information, and not merely memorize isolated “facts.”

REQUIRED READINGS: The two required textbooks available at the book stores are:

1) *Ancient Maya: The Rise and Fall of a Rainforest Civilization* (2004) by Arthur Demarest

2) *Reading the Past: Maya Glyphs* (1989) by Stephen Houston

These books are also on reserve in the library, as are many other books that may be of use. Additional readings are posted on the E-Learning site by week. Assigned readings should be done *each week*.

E-LEARNING COMPONENT: Go to <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>. Log in with your Gator-link ID. If you haven't used E-Learning before, run the tutorial. All **lecture outlines, assignments, and extra readings** are posted here. Every student is expected to download the lecture outline, print it out (you can add additional spacing if you wish), and bring it to class. The outlines do not provide the entire lecture, but they show the organization of major and subsidiary points and have all the important proper names and technical terms. Check the website regularly for announcements and added handouts and readings.

FORMAT: The course format is lecture. A 10-minute break is called on Tuesdays between lectures. Students are strongly encouraged to ask the professor questions at any time during the lectures, both to clarify what was said in class or in the readings, and to raise related issues. To supplement classroom face-time, students may submit *thoughtful* written questions (by email) to the professor and can earn up to 10 points of Extra Credit during the semester for doing so, 1 point per week.

ASSIGNED SEATING: At the 5th class meeting a seating chart will be distributed. On that day you may choose where to sit, and this will become your *assigned seat*—you should always sit there. Put your seat number on your papers to facilitate returning them to you. Seat number is also required on exams.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Most of the course material is presented only in the lectures, which are supplemented with powerpoint presentations. There is a high visual component to the study of the Maya civilization. Maya studies are in a volatile state, and only in the lectures will students receive updated information. Since class meetings provide the only opportunity to “download” the lecture, attendance is *not* optional. If you miss any class, it is your responsibility to obtain the lecture notes from a classmate.

PERSONAL DEVICES: All portable electronic devices must be *turned off and stowed away*. Notebook computers are allowed *only* for taking notes; any other use is prohibited. Newspapers and other reading materials not relevant to the class should be out of sight by the time class begins.

EXAMS: Your grade in this class is based primarily on your **mastery** of the course material as demonstrated on the exams, which cover lectures, readings, and visual information from slides and maps. Exams consist of objective, identification, and short essay questions.

Exam I	75 points	25% of the final grade
Exam II	75 points	25%
Exam III	75 points	25%

Missed Exams may be made up **ONLY** if you have a valid excuse for an *involuntary* absence during the scheduled exam period AND if you (or someone on your behalf) has informed the Professor before the exam begins that you have a valid excuse. Missed exams should be made up within one week of the original exam period at the professor's convenience.

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS: The remaining 25% of the final grade is based on four additional assignments: a timeline (3%), a map quiz (7%), a midterm project (5%), and a final powerpoint project (10%). The assignments are posted on the E-learning website. Every student is expected to do independent work. *No credit* will be given if there is evidence of collaboration or plagiarism, including unauthorized or unattributed use of internet sources (see below on plagiarism). E-mailed projects and those with many errors will *not* be graded. Late projects are severely penalized.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: The E-learning website has additional documents, including maps, a guide to hieroglyphs, and guide to well known royal dynasties. Links to useful websites with credible Maya research and images are also available there. Books on Maya writing and kingship are on reserve in the library. These resources are needed for the map quiz and to complete the other assignments.

GRADES: All grades in this course are *earned* throughout the semester, not negotiated individually at the end of the semester. Grading is based on **mastery** of the course material as determined from the exams and other assignments. Letter grades are assigned at the end of the semester, based on a total of 300 points, according to the grading scale below. **The gradebook is “closed” at the date of the scheduled final exam for the class;** any overdue work must be turned in by that date. For University policy on grades see <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

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	.67	0.00

Federal privacy regulations prohibit the release of scores and grades over the phone or by e-mail.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION: Lectures may not be tape-recorded without the prior express written permission of Susan D. Gillespie. The syllabus, lectures, lecture outlines, and handouts for this course are copyrighted, intended for the private use of students registered in ANT 4168. *They cannot legally be reproduced, in part or in whole, by any commercial enterprise or for any commercial purposes.*

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS (OR, How to Avoid Failure):

Every student is expected to:

Learn the Maya words, especially place names. Practice pronouncing them. Students who become familiar with the words tend to remember the material better than those who do not.

Use the lecture outlines to help you differentiate major from minor points of information, and to see how subsidiary information (1a, 1b, etc.) supports the major points (A, B, etc.). To study for exams make sure you can explain the 3-4 major ideas with supporting information for any single lecture.

Learn the maps and time charts. Knowing where places are located in space and time helps you to understand the course material. There will be a map quiz early in the semester.

Make time to do the reading assignments and review your notes *every week*. This is the most effective way to learn. Cramming right before the exam is a strategy for failure.

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.

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.

*All students must fill out and sign the questionnaire on the last page of the syllabus and return it to the Professor before the day of the first exam. **This is a course requirement.***

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS—subject to change

On Tuesdays (double-lecture) there are *two separate lecture outlines*.

	Date	Topic	Textbook	Other Assignments (on E-Learning)
1	8/25	Introduction Who Were the Maya?	Chapter 1	Maya Pronunciation Guide Orthography (from Who's Who) Hervik - "The Mysterious Maya of National Geographic"
	8/27	Discovering the Maya	Chapter 3	
2	9/1	Sources of Information Theories and Themes	Chap. 2, pp. 20-30	
	9/3	Mesoamerican Geography and Culture History	Chap. 2, pp. 8-20	Timeline Assigned Maps (study for quiz) in map folder
3	9/8	Mesoamerican Cosmology Mesoamerican Cosmogony	Ch 8, pp.175-193	Gossen - "Temporal and Spatial Equivalents in Chamula"
	9/10	Mesoamerican Calendars	Ch. 8 pp. 193-196	Timeline Due Calvin Calendar Pages
4	9/15	Origins to Early Preclassic Middle Preclassic Developments	Ch 4. pp.53-72	
	9/17	MAP QUIZ + video		
5	9/22	Late Preclassic Developments Highlands and Lowlands	Ch 4 pp. 72-end	Cival newspaper story
	9/24	Long Count Calendar	Ch. 8 pp. 196-201	Place notation handout Calvin Long Count symbols European-Maya Correlation handout
6	9/29	EXAM I		
	10/1	NO CLASS MEETING		
7	10/6	Maya Video		
	10/8	Intro: Maya Hieroglyphic Writing	Houston Ch. 1	San Bartolo Science article
8	10/13	Video: "Cracking the Maya Code" Advanced Aspects of Writing	Houston Ch. 2-5	
	10/15	Ecology and Subsistence	Ch. 6 pp. 120-end	
9	10/20	Settlement Patterns Early Classic Divine Kingship	Ch. 6 pp 113-120 Ch. 5	
	10/22	The Teotihuacan Connection?		Braswell "Reinterpreting Early Classic Interaction" Midterm Project Due

10	10/27	Social Organization Daily and Courtly Life		Gillespie - "Rethinking Maya Social Organization" Miller and Martin - "Life at the Maya Court"
	10/29	Gender Roles and Representations		Joyce - "Gender in Classic Maya Monuments"
11	11/3	EXAM II		
	11/5	Political Organization	Ch. 8 pp. 201-207	
12	11/10	State Political Cults Economy: Manufacture and Trade	Ch. 9 to p. 225 Ch. 7	Potter and King: "Heterarchical Approaches to Lowland Maya Socioeconomics"
	11/12	Warfare: Conquest and Sacrifice	Ch 9 pp. 226-235	
13	11/17	Warfare: Annihilation Late Classic in Northern Lowlands	Ch. 10 pp. 249-260 Ch. 9 pp. 235-239	
	11/19	Developments in Puuc Region	Ch. 10 pp. 268-271	
14	11/24	9 th Century Epiclassic Connections Collapse or Transformation?	Ch. 10 pp. 240-249, 260-268	Chase and Chase - "Transformations in Classic to Postclassic Maya Society"
	11/26	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING		
15	12/1	The Toltec Problem Chichen Itza: the cult of Tollan	Ch. 10 pp. 271-276	Gillespie - "Toltecs, Tula and Chichen Itza"
	12/3	Postclassic Yucatan and Guatemalan Highlands	Ch 11 and 12	
16	12/8	EXAM III		
	12/14	FINAL PROJECT DUE by 12:30 (via E-Learning)		

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 feel free to contact the Professor and request this modification.
- 2) Students seeking any classroom accommodation to facilitate their education must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Professor when requesting accommodation.
- 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. This refers to cheating, plagiarism, and unattributed or under-attributed use of internet sources. Students should consult the Student Guide at www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/ for information.

Please complete and return to this page to the Professor as soon as possible and no later than the meeting day before the first exam. *This is a course requirement for ANT 4168.* This information is kept confidential. It is used to correct the class roster and to help the professor assist students and accommodate their interests, wherever possible.

Name: _____

Preferred nickname?: _____

Local Phone #: _____

LEGIBLY PRINT your primary Email address: _____

Year in school: _____

Academic Major: _____

List titles of prior anthropology courses you have taken:

Please state your interest, whatever it might be, in taking this class:

Please **sign** here to indicate that you have read this syllabus and accept the stated course requirements:

_____ (signature)