



**ARKY 341 (LEC01)**  
**Ancient Mexico**  
**GFC Hours 3-0**  
**Fall 2023**

<b>Professor:</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Paris	<b>Lecture/Lab Location:</b>	ST 139
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-7765	<b>Days/Time:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	Elizabeth.paris@ucalgary.ca	<b>Lecture:</b>	<b>TR 14:00 - 15:15</b>
<b>Office:</b>	ES 818		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment		
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**Prerequisite(s):** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In Ancient Mexico, we examine the traditional cultures of Mesoamerica from ancient times through contact with Colonial European cultures in 1519. Ancient Mexico and northern Central America featured numerous highly complex cultures, including the Olmecs, Teotihuacanos, Maya, Zapotecs, Mixtecs, Cholultecas, Toltecs, and Aztecs. Information about these cultures is available through archaeological remains, as well as documentary sources from Indigenous authors and Spanish chroniclers. This class will survey the achievements of Mesoamerican cultures, including the art and architecture of the ancient civilizations, the geographies and histories of important ties, and information from the fields of archaeology, bioarchaeology, art history, epigraphy, and historical sources.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Develop a basic understanding of the traditional cultures of Mesoamerica though

contact with Colonial European cultures.

- Understand the ways in which scholars utilize archaeology and scientific methods, epigraphy, documentary sources, oral traditions, and ethnoarchaeology, to understand Mesoamerican cultures through time.
- Employ critical thinking skills in evaluating different sources of data about ancient Mesoamerican lifeways and events.
- Develop cross-cultural sensitivity with regard to the management of, and research into, material remains and cultural heritage of Mesoamerican peoples.

### **READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS**

- MEXICO: FROM THE OLMECS TO THE AZTECS, by Michael D. Coe, Rex Koontz, and Javier Urcid, 8th edition, 2019. Thames and Hudson.
- Readings from the relevant literature and digital videos, as indicated in the Course Schedule (see below). Links are provided on D2L in modules that correspond to the week in which they are due.
- All readings and videos are required, unless otherwise indicated.

### **REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT**

In order to successfully engage in online assignments for this course, please make sure that you have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- A current and updated web browser
- Word processing software (Instruction will be given using MS Word; Google Docs will also be accepted)
- PDF viewer
- D2L

### **SUPPLEMENTARY FEES**

None

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT**

1.	Map Quiz	15%	75 marks	Tuesday, Oct. 3
2.	Midterm 1	25%	125 marks	Tuesday, Oct. 17
3.	Midterm 2	25%	125 marks	Thursday, Nov. 23
4.	Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project	30%	150 marks	Thursday, Dec. 7 (D2L)
5.	News article assignment	5%	25 marks	Portions due Nov. 30 and Dec. 5

**NOTE: There is no registrar-scheduled final examination for this course. Students do not need to pass each individual course component in order to pass the course as a whole.**

#### 1. MAP QUIZ (15%)

There will be one in-class map quiz. This quiz will test your knowledge of important locations such as archaeological sites and geographic zones. For archaeological sites and cities, you will be expected to know the chronological period with which they are most strongly associated. You will be expected to know the countries that constitute Mesoamerica, as well as the modern states/departments in Mexico and Guatemala. The exam will be closed-book. Study materials are provided on D2L.

#### 2. MIDTERM EXAMS (25% EACH)

There will be two in-class mid-term exams. Exams will include material from the book, lectures, articles, films (in-class and on D2L), and websites. Exam 1 will include material from Weeks 1-6, while Exam 2 will be cumulative with emphasis on Weeks 7-12. The exams will be closed-book: text book and notes are not permitted during the examinations, nor are students permitted to communicate with others. The exam will be Scantron-based and questions may include multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or fill in the blank questions. Opportunities for a make-up exam will not be offered unless valid documentation is provided (see below). Classroom guidelines for the examination will be posted on D2L.

#### 3. MESOAMERICAN OBJECT BIOGRAPHIES PROJECT (30%)

In this project, students will explore the ancient past of Mesoamerica through the histories of archaeological objects. Students will use techniques from archaeology and art history to consider the entire history of particular objects, including when and where they were made, by whom, for what purpose, and what happened to them at various points in their "use-lives." Students will choose four objects all from the same archaeological site (or attributed to a particular site) using peer-reviewed publications, reports, and online exhibitions. At least three of the objects must have documented archaeological provenience. The fourth object may be an object from a museum collection, with a particular focus on its history of export, acquisition and display. This assignment will encourage you to gain in-depth knowledge of a particular area of Mesoamerica, and to think critically and creatively about the ways that artifacts shape, and are shaped by, our knowledge of Mesoamerica's past. Please see the Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project Description and rubric for details.

Students are responsible for turning in original work for their assignment, for knowing and following university standards for academic integrity, and for avoiding academic misconduct and plagiarism in their assignments (see below). ChatGPT and other AI-based writing aids are strictly prohibited for this assignment, and use of these aids will constitute academic misconduct in this course.

#### 4. NEWS ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT (5%)

For this assignment, you will contribute a news story or academic article on Mexican archaeology (within the last 3 years). You will be asked to post a link to your chosen article to a D2L discussion forum by Thursday, November 30th. No two links can be the same,

and preference will be given to the student who posts first. Articles must come from a peer-reviewed journal or from main-stream media outlets that engage in fact-checking practices, and should be a factual piece about a new discovery rather than opinion pieces. You will be asked to read five of your classmate's news stories prior to class on Tuesday, December 5th, when we will have group discussions about current discoveries events in Mesoamerica, and what the future holds. Marks will be given both for the article submission and participation in the group discussion.

## **MAKEUP POLICY**

Assignments may only be deferred in the case of serious illness or medical emergency, religious observance, or domestic affliction. Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

If you fall ill with COVID19, RSV, or another serious contagious illness, please follow all university and AHS guidelines with regard to isolation and testing recommendations: <https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx>. Please do not attend in-person classes until your recommended isolation period is complete, and follow any masking recommendations. Please contact Dr. Paris by email within 24 hours to report the situation. Deferred exams/assignments, make-up activities and/or grade redistribution will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Should the need for a deferral arise, students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with regulations under the Deferral of Term Work section of the university calendar.

**Midterm Exams and the Map Quiz:** Missed exams and quizzes can only be made up with instructor approval. Deferred exams and quizzes will only be approved for the following reasons: serious illness, religious conviction, or domestic affliction. If there are ongoing emergency circumstances that result in missing a midterm assessment, the student should notify Dr. Paris within 48 hours. Please be prepared to explain the circumstances and/or provide documentation (see above). If an exemption is granted, further instructions will be provided regarding a make-up exam. Make-up exams may differ significantly in content from the regularly scheduled exam. Students who miss exams or quizzes without legitimate documentation for medical/emergency circumstances will receive a grade of zero marks for that exam.

**News Article Assignment:** If the assignment is missed for an approved medical/emergency circumstance, the weight of the assignment will be transferred to the Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project.

**Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project:** As it is possible to turn in written assignments prior to the due date, foreseen schedule conflicts resulting from university athletic competitions, religious observances, etc. must be arranged individually with the professor in advance. If there are ongoing medical/emergency circumstances that result in a late assignment, please notify Dr. Paris within 48 hours. Please be prepared to explain the circumstances and/or provide documentation (see above). If the situation does not meet the criteria for medical/emergency circumstances, late submissions will be assessed a 5% penalty per day. All assignments must be submitted to the Dropbox on D2L.

**Reappraisal of Graded Term Work:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

**Reappraisal of Final Grade:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:**

A+	95 – 100%	B+	80 – 84.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B	75 – 79.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%	F	< 50%

No 'make up' work is available in this class. There is one guaranteed extra credit opportunity, worth 10 points, associated with the Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project (see assignment sheet). Additional extra credit opportunities are not guaranteed, and in the case that they are made available, they will be announced in class to all students present. You do not need to pass each course component to earn a passing grade in the class.

**Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

**Acknowledgment and Respect for Diversity**

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology views diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Course email policy:** Please expect 48 hours for a response. If more than 48 hours have passed with no reply, check the email address and re-send. Please use your UCalgary email address for course business, and expect responses to emails during business hours (9 AM to 5 PM MT). Weekend responses will be limited to emergency circumstances. Please include “ARKY 341” in the email subject line

**Course Format:** The course will follow an interactive lecture-discussion style format. Students are responsible for all materials covered in the required readings and the lectures, including films and videos. Students should read the assigned materials for each week’s lecture ahead of time. Lectures are designed to augment material in the text and will not repeat or cover all material in the text, but will elaborate on selected topics to provide a deeper understanding. Classroom materials missed due to absenteeism are the sole responsibility of the student. Segments of class time will be focused on learning through discussion and other participatory activities. Students are expected to be active participants in these activities and involved in their own learning. Active participation will help you achieve success. A respectful and safe environment for students to participate is considered a priority; disrespectful or condescending behaviours towards other students will not be tolerated.

### Classroom Etiquette:

- Please make this class a scheduling priority. It is important to arrive on time. Please only leave class before the end of the period if there is an emergency, in which case, please notify the professor as soon as possible. If there is an emergency, please exit quietly and discretely. However, you may not leave the room during a scheduled exam or quiz, for academic honesty reasons.
- Treat everyone in the class as a colleague—show respect to both your fellow students and the professors, even if you strongly disagree with someone’s opinion. Be friendly, courteous and kind during discussions and in email communications. Do not talk over or interrupt the professor or other students.
- Silence and stow your phones, and do not use them during class. They are distracting to everyone.
- Only use laptops and tablets for note-taking purposes. Using them for other activities is highly distracting. If your laptop or tablet is distracting the professor or your fellow students, you will be asked to place it on the podium for the remainder of the class period, and you will lose participation points for that day.
- You may not make photo, video and audio recordings of lectures and review sessions without the explicit consent of the professor, nor transfer them to another student, whether or not that student is enrolled in the course. Please see the statement on Professor Intellectual Property below.

The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community

are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/)

**Policy on Digital Devices:** You may use computers in class to take notes, engage with course activities, and consult D2L resources, except during exams and quizzes, where they must be stowed for the duration of the exam. Please do not engage in non-course activities on your electronic devices. Please be courteous to your fellow students and remember that those behind you can see your screen. Display of highly distracting materials may rise to the level of Non-Academic Misconduct and referred to the Dean. Please keep all electronic devices silenced or muted for the duration of the lecture period. If emergency circumstances arise requiring you to answer a phone call, please leave the lecture hall prior to answering.

All course content, including lectures and recorded meetings, may not be shared with anyone. Only students enrolled in the course may participate in the course.

All course content is the intellectual property of the professor, with the exception of external links, unless indicated otherwise. You may not make or duplicate photo, video and/or audio recordings of synchronous sessions without the explicit consent of the professor, nor transfer them to another student, whether or not that student is enrolled in the course. Please see the Statement on Instructor Intellectual Property below.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to professors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Professor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at:

[www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html). Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

### **PROFESSOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Professor Intellectual Property can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of

the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including professor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

### SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY

Please visit the Registrar's website at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

### TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Students should do all readings and assignments by the date of the course meeting for which they are assigned.

\*\*Note that the topics and readings are subject to change at any time at the professor's discretion.

Week	DUE DATE	TOPICS AND READINGS
<b>Week 1</b>	T Sep 5	<b>Topic: Introduction to the course</b>
	R Sep 7	<b>Topic: What is Mesoamerica?</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 1
<b>Week 2</b>	T Sep 12	<b>Topic: Studying Ancient Mesoamerica</b> Review: Coe and Koontz Chapter 1
	R Sep 14	<b>Topic: Early Hunter-Foragers</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 2 Scheffler et al. 2012 (D2L)
<b>Week 3</b>	T Sep 19	<b>Topic: The Archaic Period</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 3
	R Sep 21	<b>Topic: Formative Period village life</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 4 Hill and Clark 2001 (D2L)
<b>Week 4</b>	T Sep 26	<b>Topic: The Olmecs</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 5
	R Sep 28	<b>Topic: The Late Formative Maya</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 5 Inomata et al. 2020 (D2L)
<b>Week 5</b>	T Oct 3	<b>MAP QUIZ</b> <b>Topic: The Rise of Monte Albán</b>

		Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 5
	R Oct 5	<b>Topic: Teotihuacan</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 6 Optional: Nichols 2016 (D2L)
<b>Week 6</b>	T Oct 10	<b>Topic: The Maya and Teotihuacan</b> Review: Coe and Koontz Chapter 6 Sugiyama and Sugiyama 2020 (D2L)
	R Oct 12	<b>Topic: The Late Classic Period Maya</b> Watch: Video: The Popol Vuh (D2L)
<b>Week 7</b>	T Oct 17	<b>MIDTERM 1</b>
	R Oct 19	<b>Topic: The “Maya Collapse”</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 7 Aimers 2007 (D2L)
<b>Week 8</b>	T Oct 24	<b>Topic: The Epiclassic period in Central Mexico</b> Read: Hirth 1984
	R Oct 26	<b>Topic: Tula and Chichen Itza</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 8 Hoggarth et al. 2016 (D2L)
<b>Week 9</b>	T Oct 31	<b>Topic: The Early Postclassic period</b> Read: McCafferty 1994 (D2L)
	R Nov 2	<b>Topic: The Late Postclassic period Maya</b> Read: Paris et al. 2017 (D2L)
<b>Week 10</b>	T Nov 7	<b>Topic: The Late Postclassic period in Central Mexico</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 9
	R Nov 9	<b>Topic: The Rise of Aztec Empire</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Chapter 10 Smith 2001 (D2L)
<b>Week 11</b>	T Nov 14	<b>READING WEEK</b>
	R Nov 16	<b>READING WEEK</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	T Nov 21	<b>Topic: The Aztec Empire</b> Review: Coe and Koontz Chapter 10 The Codex Mendoza (D2L) Video: The Fifth Sun (D2L)
	R Nov 23	<b>MIDTERM 2</b>
<b>Week 13</b>	T Nov 28	<b>Topic: The Conquest of Tenochtitlan</b> Read: Coe and Koontz Epilogue Oudijk and Castaneda de la Paz 2017 (D2L)
	R Nov 30	<b>Topic: Colonialism and Mesoamerican traditions</b> Read: Rodriguez-Alegria 2017 (D2L) <b>News article due (D2L)</b>
<b>Week 14</b>	T Dec 5	<b>Topic: Recent Discoveries</b> <b>News article activity (In-Class)</b>
	W, Dec. 6	<b>Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project DUE on D2L by 11:59 pm</b>

## IMPORTANT DATES

M Sept 4	Labour Day, No Classes
T Sept 5	Start of Classes
R Sept 14	Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty
F Sept 15	Last day to add or swap a course
F Sept 22	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
S Sept 30	National Truth and Reconciliation Day
M Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day, No Classes.
M Nov 13	Remembrance Day Observance
Nov 12-18	Reading Break. No classes.
W Dec 6	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 9-20	Fall Final Exam Period.
Dec 25-31	Holiday Observance, University Closed.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017>