



ANCIENT MEXICO

ARKY 341
Winter 2022

Dr. Elizabeth Paris
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

TR 9:30-10:45
ST 132

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, Cholutecas, Teotihuacanos, Maya, Zapotecs, Mixtecs, Toltecs, and Aztecs. Information about these cultures is available through archaeological remains, as well as ethnohistorical accounts recorded by Spanish chroniclers and by the indigenous peoples themselves. 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 surviving documentary and oral history sources.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Develop a basic understanding of the traditional cultures of Mesoamerica through 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.

Lectures: In-person, TR 9:30-10:15.

Office Hours: By appointment

EMAIL: ELIZABETH.PARIS@UCALGARY.CA

TAs: Miranda George, Megan Williams

TA EMAILS: miranda.george@ucalgary.ca,
ashleywilliams1@ucalgary.ca

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. Emergency circumstances do not include questions regarding course assignments; please make sure to ask questions in advance of due dates. Please include "ARKY 341" in the email subject line of all emails sent to the professor and TAs.

REQUIRED READINGS

Course textbook:

MEXICO: FROM THE OLMECS TO THE AZTECS, by Michael D. Coe, Rex Koontz, and Javier Urcid, 8th edition, 2019. Thames and Hudson.

Additional assigned articles, book chapters, websites and videos are listed on the Schedule of Lectures and Assignments.

Links to articles, book chapters and videos will be posted on D2L in modules that correspond to the week in which they are due.

All readings and videos are required!

COURSE STRUCTURE

Lectures are presented every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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. Ideally, 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 of the material.

Segments of class time each week will be focused on learning through classroom discussion and other participatory activities. Students are expected to be active participants in these activities and involved in their own learning in order to achieve success in the class. A respectful and safe environment for students to participate is considered a priority; disrespectful or condescending behaviours towards other students will not be tolerated.

This is a synchronous and in-person class taking place during the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We will adhere to all university regulations, yet our classroom is not designed to perfectly facilitate physical distancing. Please do everything possible to ensure the safety of your fellow students--if you are feeling unwell, please do not attend class and seek testing. Due to the synchronous nature of the class, lectures will not be recorded. Students experiencing illness or other emergency circumstances should consult the Notes pages posted on D2L, make sure to complete any assigned readings or videos, and contact the teaching assistants and confer with their classmates as soon as possible. At the same time, attendance is important. After-the-fact consultations cannot replicate in-person lectures, discussion and participation in activities missed in class. Please consult the Late Policy below.

Grades will be based on the following course activities:

1.	Map/Chronology Quiz	15%	75 marks	Tuesday, Feb. 8
2.	Midterm 1	25%	125 marks	Thursday, Feb. 17
3.	Midterm 2	25%	125 marks	Thursday, Mar. 24
4.	Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project	25%	125 marks	Friday, April 15
5.	Final Quiz	10%	50 marks	Tuesday, April 12

NOTE: There is no registrar-scheduled final examination for this course. It is not necessary to pass individual course components in order to receive a passing grade in the class.

In this class, grades are assigned according to the following chart:

Percentages	Letter grade	Interpretation
96-100%	A+	<i>The A range denotes excellent performance.</i>
90-95.9%	A	
86-89.9%	A-	
82-85.9%	B+	<i>The B range denotes good performance.</i>
78-81.9%	B	
74-77.9%	B-	
70-73.9%	C+	<i>The C range denotes satisfactory performance.</i>

66-69.9%	C	
62-65.9%	C-	
56-61.9%	D+	<i>The D range denotes unsatisfactory performance.</i>
50-55.9%	D	
<50%	F	<i>An F denotes failing performance.</i>

EVALUATION METHODS

1. 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 focus on material from Weeks 1-6, while Exam 2 will focus on material from Weeks 6-12, but will be cumulative. ~~The exams will be closed-book: text book and notes are not permitted during the examinations, nor are students permitted to communicate with others.~~ Questions may include multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank and/or short answer 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.

Midterm Exam 1 will be given online via D2L. Midterm 1 will be available on D2L at the beginning of class on February 17th at 9:30 am and will be available for 24 hours. The exam is designed to take 75 minutes to complete, and students will receive 50% extra time for issues with technology, caregiving responsibilities, or distractions within your test-taking environment (as directed by the Provost), for a total of 113 minutes total in which to complete the quiz.

During the quiz, students may only use their textbook, the study materials provided on D2L, and individual notes. However, the quiz is designed such that you must study in-depth prior to taking the quiz. Otherwise, it is very likely that you will run out of time. Extensions will not be given if you run out of time.

Internet sources, group notes, Discord and similar sites, and/or information from other students in any format are forbidden and will be subject to Academic Misconduct policies (see below).

You are allowed ONE attempt to complete the quiz (so don't sign off or hit the end button before you are finished). Students with accommodations will be accommodated with their additional time.

Midterm Exam 2 will be given in class on March 24th. The exam will be closed-book: text book and notes are not permitted during the exam, nor are students permitted to communicate with others.

2. MAP/CHRONOLOGY QUIZ (15%)

There will be one online ~~in-class~~ map/chronology quiz. This quiz will test your knowledge of important locations such as archaeological sites, Colonial/modern cities, geographic zones, and important time periods. 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.~~

The Map/Chronology quiz will be available on D2L at the beginning of class on February 8th at 9:30 am and will be available for 24 hours. The quiz is designed to take 30 minutes to complete, and students will receive 50% extra time for issues with technology, caregiving responsibilities, or distractions within your test-taking environment (as directed by the Provost), for a total of 45 minutes total in which to complete the quiz.

During the quiz, students may only use their textbook, the study materials provided on D2L, and individual notes. However, the quiz is designed such that you must study in-depth prior to taking the quiz. Otherwise, it is very likely that you will run out of time. Extensions will not be given if you run out of time.

Internet sources, group notes, Discord and similar sites, and/or information from other students in any format are forbidden and will be subject to Academic Misconduct policies (see below).

You are allowed ONE attempt to complete the quiz (so don't sign off or hit the end button before you are finished). Students with accommodations will be accommodated with their additional time.

3. MESOAMERICAN OBJECT BIOGRAPHIES PROJECT (25%)

In this project, you 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 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 assignment sheet and rubric for details.

4. FINAL QUIZ (10%)

The final quiz will take place in-person on the last day of class, Tuesday, April 12th. The quiz will focus on the last few weeks of class Weeks 12-14 but will be cumulative. Exams will include material from the book, lectures, articles, films (in-class and on D2L), and websites. The quiz will be closed-book: text book and notes are not permitted during the examinations, nor are students permitted to communicate with others. Questions may include multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank and/or short answer 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.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students should do all readings and assignments during the week before the course meeting for which they are assigned.

Note that this schedule is subject to change at any time at the professor's discretion.

***IMPORTANT:** A few of the videos in this course show content that includes representations of human sacrifice in art, human skeletal remains, and individuals deceased in warfare. These are shown in the context of archaeological findings, traditional belief systems, and depictions of armed conflict.

WEEK	DUE DATE	TOPICS AND READINGS
Week 1	T, Jan. 11	Topic: Introduction to the course
	R, Jan. 13	Topic: What is Mesoamerica? Coe and Koontz Chapter 1

Week 2	T, Jan. 18	Topic: Studying Ancient Mesoamerica Review: Coe and Koontz Chapter 1
	R, Jan. 20	Topic: Early Hunter-Foragers Coe and Koontz Chapter 2 Scheffler et al. 2012 (D2L)
Week 3	T, Jan. 25	Topic: The Archaic Period Coe and Koontz Chapter 3
	R, Jan. 27	Topic: Formative Period village life Coe and Koontz Chapter 4 Hill and Clark 2001 (D2L)
Week 4	T, Feb. 1	Topic: The Olmecs Coe and Koontz Chapter 5
	R, Feb. 3	Topic: The Late Formative Maya Coe and Koontz Chapter 5 Inomata et al. 2020 (D2L)
Week 5	T, Feb. 8	Topic: The Rise of Monte Albán Coe and Koontz Chapter 5 MAP/CHRONOLOGY QUIZ on Tuesday, Feb. 8
	R, Feb. 10	Topic: Teotihuacan Coe and Koontz Chapter 6 Nichols 2016 (D2L)
Week 6	T, Feb. 15	Topic: The Maya and Teotihuacan Coe and Koontz Chapter 6 Sugiyama and Sugiyama 2020 (D2L)
	R, Feb. 17	MIDTERM 1 on Thursday, February 17
Week 7	T, Feb. 22	Mid-Semester Break
	R, Feb. 24	Mid-Semester Break
Week 8	T, Mar. 1	Topic: The Late Classic Period Maya Video: The Popol Vuh (D2L)
	R, Mar. 3	Topic: The "Maya Collapse" Coe and Koontz Chapter 7 Aimers 2007 (D2L)
Week 9	T, Mar. 8	Topic: The Epiclassic period in Central Mexico Coe and Koontz Chapter 7
	R, Mar. 10	Topic: Tula and Chichen Itza Coe and Koontz Chapter 8 Hoggarth et al. 2016 (D2L)
Week 10	T, Mar. 15	Topic: The Early Postclassic period

		McCafferty 1994 (D2L)
	R, Mar. 17	Topic: The Late Postclassic period Maya Paris et al. 2017 (D2L)
Week 11	T, Mar. 22	Topic: The Late Postclassic period in Central Mexico Coe and Koontz Chapter 9
	R, Mar. 24	MIDTERM 2 on Tuesday, Mar. 24
Week 12	T, Mar. 29	Topic: The Rise of Aztec Empire Coe and Koontz Chapter 10 Smith 2001 (D2L)
	R, Mar. 31	Topic: The Aztec Empire Review: Coe and Koontz Chapter 10 The Codex Mendoza (D2L) Video: The Fifth Sun (D2L)
Week 13	T, Apr. 5	Topic: The Conquest of Tenochtitlan Coe and Koontz Epilogue Oudijk and Castaneda de la Paz 2017 (D2L)
	R, Apr. 7	Topic: Colonialism and Mesoamerican traditions Rodriguez-Alegria 2017 (D2L)
Week 14	T, Apr. 12	Final Quiz in class
	F, Apr. 15	Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project DUE on D2L by 11:59 pm

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

In order to successfully engage in this course, you are required to 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 that can export files in .docx format, such as MS Word;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- A stable internet connection;
- Registration in the TopHat platform;

The TopHat platform will be used to facilitate participation during in-class activities. Rather than requiring students to purchase traditional classroom response systems, or “clickers,” TopHat leverages students’ own smartphones, tablets, laptops or even SMS-based cell phones. TopHat will be used to conduct activities, facilitate discussions, and gauge student learning through polls and quick responses. Students can submit answers via text message or over WiFi. Additional information and access codes will be posted on D2L.

LATE/MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

We are in unique global circumstances due to COVID-19. If emergency circumstances arise, please contact Dr. Paris by email as soon as possible.

Late assignments associated with the Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project will be assessed a 5% penalty per day. Requests to waive the late penalty due to emergency/health circumstances must be accompanied by supporting documentation, as outlined in the University Calendar.

As per university policy, deferred exams or quizzes may be approved for the following reasons: illness, religious conviction, or domestic affliction. Usually, this will take the form of a makeup exam. If the Final Quiz is missed for a documented reason, the weight of the Final Quiz will be transferred to Midterm 2. Students who miss exams or quizzes without legitimate documentation for medical reasons or a family emergency will receive a grade of zero marks for that exam.

Students will need to provide supporting documentation for a missed exam or quiz, or in the case of an extension for the Mesoamerican Object Biographies Project. 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. In order to arrange a Statutory Declaration, please visit the Registrar's webpage (ucalgary.ca/registrar). 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.

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

CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE

- Please treat everyone in the class as a colleague—show respect to both your fellow students, teaching assistant and professor, even if you strongly disagree with someone's opinion. Be friendly, courteous and kind during online discussions and posted responses.
- You may use computers in class to take notes 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. You may not make or duplicate video and 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.

PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

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.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT, PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

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.

Please respect the integrity of the examination process. Sharing information during exams is strictly prohibited. It will automatically result in a grade of zero marks for the assignment for any student involved, and will be referred for disciplinary action. This includes any type of consultation with other students or other individuals, whether enrolled in the course or not, either in person or through digital communication, or through the use of any unauthorized notes or materials.

“Academic Misconduct” includes such things as cheating, falsification, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance, and failure to comply with exam regulations or an Instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of Students completing academic assessments. Students who participate in, or encourage the commission of, Academic Misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action which could include Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion from the University. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

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

STATEMENT ON INSTRUCTOR 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.

- The duplication of course material, creation of video or audio recordings, or transcriptions of any of these materials to another form by electronic or mechanical means by students, including the duplication of electronic versions of textbooks, is not permitted, except as a formal accommodation as assessed by the Student Accessibility Services, whereby it may be used only for individual private study, only at the discretion of the professor, and only with the written approval from the professor for any specific use proposed.
- Any use other than for individual private study (e.g. distributing, emailing or otherwise communicating these materials to any other person) constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Students are encouraged to make personal written notes of lectures, activities, demonstrations etc., but many not record and distribute the content under any circumstances. Recordings are

only permitted when made or shared by the professor, and remain the intellectual property of the professor.

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 instructor 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.

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 instructors. 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/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

REAPPRAISAL OF GRADED TERM WORK OR FINAL COURSE GRADE

Students seeking a reappraisal of Graded Term Work or their Final Course Grade may follow official university policies as outlined:

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>

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.

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance. Tutorials and appointments are available by visiting their website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

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