

The Maya and Their Neighbors

ANT 3163-001, CRN #15631, Fall 2018, 3 credit hrs., No prerequisites, Room SO 190, 12:30-1:50 pm
Boca Campus. Professor Clifford T. Brown, Department of Anthropology

Contact information for Dr. Brown: Office: SO172, Phone: (561) 297-3232, E-mail: ctbrown@fau.edu,
Office hours: 9:00 am-12:00 pm Wednesdays & Fridays and by appointment.

Course Description: In this course, we will investigate the ancient cultures of Mexico and northern Central America with an emphasis on Maya civilization. We will study the art, archaeology, prehistory, economics, and politics of the Olmec, Maya, Zapotec, Mixtec, Teotihuacano, Toltec, Aztec, and other cultures of the region called Mesoamerica. The course can be counted toward the Certificate in Caribbean and Latin American Studies (<https://www.fau.edu/artsandletters/clas/>). This class can be used to partially fulfill the archaeology distributional requirement in the Anthropology major. See the Catalog for more information.

Objectives: Students will learn about:

- The definition of Mesoamerica, its culture, its significance, and its physical and historical geography;
- The evolution of civilization in Mesoamerica, including the Agricultural Revolution and the rise of the state, and the roles played by the Olmec, Maya, Zapotec, and Teotihuacan peoples;
- The origin and development of the Mesoamerican writings systems and calendar, especially the Maya calendar and hieroglyphs.
- The art and architectural history of the complex societies comprising Mesoamerica.

General goals for course: Develop critical thinking skills; improve writing skills; understand the application of scientific methods to archaeological problems and data; improve scientific literacy and reasoning.

Textbooks: Recent editions of *The Maya*, by Michael D. Coe, Thames and Hudson. 2011 and *Mexico: From the Olmecs to the Aztecs*, by Michael D. Coe and Rex Koontz, Thames and Hudson. 2013. Additional readings may be assigned.

Accessibility Statement: “In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU’s campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.”

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>.

Assignments: There will be a geography quiz near the beginning of the course, midterm and final exams, and a term paper assignment. I will distribute a separate description of the term paper assignment.

Grading: The two tests and the paper are each worth 30% of the final grade. The geography quiz will be worth 10% of the final grade. The grading scale will be the one used by the University registrar, that is, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F.

Policies: Class attendance is mandatory and counts toward your grade. I reserve the right to reduce grades because of absences. I may make exceptions, at my discretion, in individual cases for reasonable cause if you contact me in advance. I will not penalize you, of course, for officially excused or legally permitted absences, but you are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences

include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, debate activities, and religious observances. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. If you are absent for a University-approved reason, I will afford you the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in your final course grade as a direct result of such absence. You should attend the lectures because I use them to share with you significant information that does not appear in the texts. My lectures will also highlight the most important ideas for you. Classes are also your best opportunities to ask questions. Poor attendance will affect your grade. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings and ask questions.

The grades of papers turned in late may be reduced. Make-up exams for missed tests will not normally be given except in exceptional circumstances that can be clearly documented. Incomplete ("I") grades are reserved for students who are passing a course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances.

Please comply with the University policy on the use of electronic devices, which states: "In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions."

Code of Academic Integrity policy statement. Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Course outline and reading assignments:

Week of August 20: Course introduction and scope, archaeological methods, definition of Mesoamerica, physical geography of Mesoamerica. Readings: *Mexico*: Preface and Chapter 1, *The Maya*: Preface and Chapter 1.

Week of August 27: Cultural geography of Mesoamerica, languages of Mesoamerica, Paleolithic archaeology of Mesoamerica. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapter 2, *The Maya*: Chapter 2.

Week of September 3: Geography quiz, Archaic period in Mesoamerica. Neolithic Revolution. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapters 3 and 4.

Week of September 10: The Early Formative and Olmec origins. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapter 5.

Week of September 17: The Olmec. Readings: *The Maya*: Chapter 3.

Week of September 24: The Late Formative. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapter 6 and *The Maya*: Chapter 4.

Week of October 1: Early Classic Mexico. Midterm. Readings: *The Maya*: Chapter 5.

Week of October 8: Maya Calendar and Hieroglyphs. Readings: *The Maya*: Chapter 9.

Week of October 15: Early Classic Maya. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapter 7, *The Maya*: Chapter 6.

Week of October 22: Late Classic Mexico. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapter 8

Week of October 29: Late Classic Maya. Readings: *The Maya*: Chapter 7.

Week of November 5: Early Postclassic Mexico. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapters 9 and 10.

Week of November 12: Postclassic Central Mexico. Readings: *The Maya*: Chapters 8 and 10.

Week of November 19: The Postclassic and modern Maya. Thanksgiving recess.

Week of November 26: Conclusion and Review for final.

Papers due Friday, November 30th, the last day of classes, not at the final exam.

Friday, December 7th, 10:30- am – 1:00 pm, in SO190.