

The Maya and Their Neighbors (ANT 3163-001, Call #94844) 3 credit hrs., no prerequisites
Department of Anthropology, Professor Clifford T. Brown **Term:** 2014, **Time:** Monday and
Wednesday, 2:00-3:20 pm., **Place:** Room SO 190, Boca Raton Campus

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ctbrown@fau.edu, Office hours: 3:20 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and by appointment

Course Description: In this course, we will investigate the ancient cultures of Mexico and 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.

Objectives: Students will learn about:

- The cultural definition of Mesoamerica, its significance, and its physical and historical geography;
- Mesoamerica's role in the Agricultural and Neolithic Revolutions;
- The development of ancient civilization in Mesoamerica, including 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.

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

Textbooks: *The Maya*, Eighth edition, by Michael D. Coe, Thames and Hudson. 2011. *Mexico: From the Olmecs to the Aztecs*, Seventh edition, 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 (ADA), students who, due to a disability, require special accommodation to properly execute course work must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 240 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8010) -- and follow all OSD procedures."

Assignments: There will be a geography quiz near the beginning of the course, midterm and final exams, and each student will write a term paper approximately 10-15 pages long.

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.

Policies: Class attendance is mandatory, and 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 absences. 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 extraordinary circumstances that can be clearly documented.

University policy on the use of electronic devices 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."

No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. All work must be your own original work. 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 the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations: http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

Use APA style in writing the paper for the citations and references. Please feel free to contact me for help in using references in your papers. All factual statements in your papers should have citations indicating their source.

Course outline and reading assignments:

Week of August 18: 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 25: Cultural geography of Mesoamerica, languages of Mesoamerica, Paleolithic archaeology of Mesoamerica. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapter 2, *The Maya*: Chapter 2.

Week of September 1: (Monday is Labor Day holiday). Geography quiz, Archaic period in Mesoamerica. Neolithic Revolution. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapters 3 and 4.

Week of September 8: The Early Formative and Olmec origins. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapter 5.

Week of September 15: The Olmec. Readings: *The Maya*: Chapter 3.

Week of September 22: The Late Formative. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapter 6 and *The Maya*: Chapter 4.

Week of September 29: Early Classic Mexico. Midterm. Readings: *The Maya*: Chapter 5.

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

Week of October 13: Late Classic Mexico. Readings: *Mexico*: Chapter 8

Week of October 20: Late Classic Maya. Readings: *The Maya*: Chapter 7.

Week of October 27: Maya Calendar and Hieroglyphs. Readings: *The Maya*: Chapter 9.

Week of November 3: Early Postclassic Mexico (Veteran's Day holiday). Readings: *Mexico*: Chapters 9 and 10.

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

Week of November 17: The Postclassic and modern Maya (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Week of November 24: Conclusion and Review for final. *Papers due* Wednesday, Nov. 26, not at the final exam.

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 10th, 1:15pm - 3:45pm., in Room SO190