

ARKY 341: Ancient Mexico
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
University of Calgary
Fall 2015

Time & Days: 3-3:50 MWF
Location: ST 127

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Chmilar
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Office Hours: 4-5 Monday & by
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Course Description

This course concentrates on the cultural areas of Mesoamerica before European contact in 1519. Ancient Mexico and northern Central America featured numerous highly complex cultures, including the Olmecs, Cholultecas, 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, featuring lectures illustrating the art, architecture, and environmental engineering of the ancient civilizations.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- **Recognize and identify** cultural groups and regions within Mexico
- **Summarize** the history of Mexico before 1519
- **Critique and revise** popular and sensationalist interpretations of Mexican history and culture

Readings

Students are expected to consult assigned readings in preparation for each class. The text is available through the University of Calgary Bookstore or students may acquire it through other means. Additional readings, including articles and portions of electronic books, are accessible free of charge via library links provided on D2L.

In the Bookstore:

1. **Coe, Michael D. and Rex Koontz. (2013) *Mexico: From the Olmecs to the Aztecs, 7th edition.* Thames and Hudson.**

Online Links:

2. Links to articles can be found in the appropriate weekly folders within the D2L page. A valid U of C library account will be needed to sign in and follow the links.

Please consult the course outline and reading list, available on D2L, for daily topics, reading requirements, assignment and exam due dates.

Format

The course will progress according to the detailed outline provided at the beginning of term and posted on D2L. Students are expected to arrive to class with required texts already read. Classes will consist of a lecture/discussion led by the professor on issues arising from daily topics, but not strictly mirroring material in required readings. Lectures will be supplemented by occasional guest lectures, videos and other media sources. Students are encouraged to pose relevant questions and participate with appropriate and respectful commentary. All material presented in lectures, including by guest speakers and in videos, and all assigned readings are testable.

Assessment

Final grade will be based on two midterm exams and a final exam, a quiz on the syllabus, a map quiz, and a short term paper. It is not required to complete all coursework in order to calculate the final grade. Opportunities for bonus points **may** be made available during the semester. The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Syllabus Quiz (Week 1&2, by Fri. Sept.18)	5%
Map Quiz (Week 3 - Fri. Sept. 25)	10%
Exam # 1 (Week 5 - Fri. Oct. 9)	20%
Exam # 2 (Week 9 - Mon. Nov. 2)	20%
Paper (Week 12 - Wed. Nov. 25)	20%
Final Exam (Exam week)	25%

Grading scheme:

A+	94.9–100	A	89.9–94.8%	A-	84.9–89.8 %
B+	79.9–84.8 %	B	74.9–79.8 %	B-	70.9–74.8 %
C+	66.9–70.8 %	C	62.9–66.8 %	C-	58.9–62.8 %
D+	54.9 %– 58.8%	D	49.9–54.8 %	F	49.8 and below

Accommodations:

In keeping with a philosophy of universal access to education, students may register with Student Accessibility Services located in MacEwan Hall room 452, or by phone (403) 220-8237, to arrange for academic accommodations. Those not registered are not eligible for such accommodations. See: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

Absences:

Absence from the in-class exams and tests, as well as the non-submission of assignments, must be justified with relevant documentation. Official requests must be made in person or in writing to the professor no later than one class prior to the scheduled deadline / exam and accompanied by valid documentation.

Late Submissions:

All late submissions may be penalized 5% per day, except possibly in the case of medical or family emergencies for which documentation must be provided. Given ample access to university facilities, computer or printing problems are not acceptable. Please remember to back up files of assignments and print hard copies at various stages. All late submissions should be presented either in person to the professor or to Monika Davidson in the Department of Anthropology office, 6th floor, Earth Sciences. **DO NOT SLIP ANY ASSIGNMENTS UNDER AN OFFICE DOOR (Professor's or Department's), as they will be dated whenever encountered and are at risk of loss.** A yellow drop box on the table outside the Anthropology Department office door is for use after office hours, all assignments found within are date stamped at 4:30PM daily. It is recommended to retain an electronic copy of all submissions until the course is completed and final grade assigned.

Exam Reassessment

Students have two weeks after exam grades are posted to appeal their grade. Students will need to make an appointment with the TA to review the exam and compare it to the answer key. Any discrepancies are to be addressed in a written document as per the "Reassessment Instructions" posted on D2L. Note that this is not an opportunity to critique the answer key and any reevaluation may result in a lower grade.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also they will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam. For more information see also: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Plagiarism:

In written work, when a piece of information or a quote is used from another person (author, filmmaker, guest speaker), due credit is required. Failure to attribute the source of ideas and to pass them off as one's own is called plagiarism and is grounds for sanctions as imposed by the university. Please review the University guidelines for Intellectual Honesty here: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/plagiarismcheating>.

Policies

Note-taking and Instructor Availability:

It is not the instructor's policy to provide lecture notes and/or Powerpoint presentations on D2L. Although it may be done as a means of assistance, it should not be treated as an alternative to note-taking, as it will occur only at the instructor's timing and discretion. Students are expected to take their own notes and consult with peers over missed lectures. They are also encouraged to consult with the professor during office hours. Please regularly consult the course D2L page for news on classes, questions relating to readings, discussion points, and other useful information.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

All cellular phones are expected to be turned off during class-time. Laptops may be used for note-taking by those sitting along the walls and at the back of the classroom. Should laptops become used for purposes not related to course material or in the designated areas of the classroom, this privilege may be removed for all class members.

Office Hours

To arrange a meeting during (or out of) office hours, send a request via email indicating the desired day and time as well as a brief reason. *Please note that although the professor is available, they may not always be present in the office during office hours.*

Email Etiquette

Please use your ucalgary.ca email address, or another email with an *appropriate* name. Include the class and a brief reason for your email in the subject line (when emailing from D2L the class is already included). Open your email with a salutation directed to me (for example, 'Dear Professor Chmilar'), do not use 'Hey'. If you have multiple questions, separate each into its own paragraph so all can be easily identified. Write in full sentences. Do not use abbreviations (for example, 'lol') or emoticons. Close your email by signing your name.

All email will be replied to in a prompt fashion. Students can expect a reply within 48 hours (not including weekends or holidays), *provided the email etiquette has been followed.*

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof, please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services, formerly the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly Points

There are primary and alternative evacuation points for this particular classroom. The primary evacuation point in case of an emergency is in the Professional Faculties Food Court. Please gather in these locations in cases of evacuation, so that you may be accounted for.

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

The Student Union website can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact these if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns. For your student ombudsman, please see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881, look through their offerings on their website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/>) or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block, MLB 117.