

**ANCIENT MEXICO**  
ARKY 341 - FALL 2018  
MWF 2-2:50 - SA 109  
Prof. Geoffrey McCafferty  
Office: ES 858, 220-6364, E-mail [mccaffer@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mccaffer@ucalgary.ca)  
Office Hours: MW 12-1 and by appointment  
Prerequisite: None

**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 and architecture of the ancient civilizations.

**PEDAGOGICAL EXPECTATIONS:**

Students will be presented with and expected to learn about the geography and chronology of important mortuary sites. Additional topics will include information on bioarchaeological analysis and a selection of mortuary practices from past civilizations. This information will embody multiple lines of evidence, including archaeology, bioarchaeology, art history, and ethnohistory.

**TEXTS:** *Mexico: From the Olmecs to the Aztecs.* Michael D. Coe and Rex Koontz. Thames and Hudson. 2008; Sixth Edition.  
Additional required readings will be available

**GRADING:**

Grades will be based on a map/chronology quiz (10 pts) (Sept. 21), article summaries (5 at 2 pts each = 10 pts), two midterm exams (25 pts each) (Oct 5 and Nov 9), and a final exam (30 pts) (Dec 10-20, exact date time and location TBA) totaling 100 points. A 5-7 page research paper may be substituted for the second midterm with permission of the instructor. Individual grades will be based on total points received:

97-100 = A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
93-96 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	60-66 = D
90-92 = A	80-82 = B	70-72 = C	Less than 60 points = F

**RESEARCH PAPERS**

A short research paper (5-7 pages) may be substituted in place of the second mid-term exam. Paper topics should be cleared with the professor in advance. A good place to look for topics is in the textbook, readings, the internet, or in anthropology/archaeology journals. A research paper should involve at least 5 published sources (not including the textbook), and at least one of those should be from a scholarly journal; web sources may be (cautiously!) included in addition to the 5 published sources. Referencing format should follow the example found in *American Antiquity*.

**IMPORTANT:** Plagiarism, defined as copying more than 5 words in succession or using information without adequate citation (i.e., reference and page number) of the original source, is a violation of academic integrity. Research papers that plagiarize will receive a score of 0, and the student may be turned in to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts (see the U of Calgary Calendar).

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

**WEEK 1 (9/6-7)** - Introduction: Mesoamerican geography and chronology

Reading: Coe and Koontz, chap. 1

**WEEK 2 (9/10-14)** - Early Hunters and the Archaic period

Reading: Coe and Koontz, chaps. 2 & 3

HACIENDA PLAIN exercise

**WEEK 3 (9/17-21)** - Preclassic village life

Reading: Coe and Koontz, chap. 4

Map Quiz (September 21)

**WEEK 4 (9/24-28)** - Olmec and beyond

Reading: Coe and Koontz, chaps. 5

**WEEK 5 (10/1-5)** - Monte Albán and the Late Formative

Reading:

MIDTERM EXAM #1 (October 5)

**WEEK 6 (10/8-12)** - Teotihuacan

Reading: Coe and Koontz, chap 6

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - October 8 (No class)

**WEEK 7 (10/15-19)** - Classic Maya

Reading:

**WEEK 8 (10/22-26)** -Epiclassic Period

Reading: Coe and Koontz, chap. 7; McCafferty and McCafferty 1994

**WEEK 9 (10/29-11/2)** -Tula and Chichen Itza

Reading: Coe and Koontz, chap. 8; McCafferty 2007

**WEEK 10 (11/5-9)** - CHOLULA

Reading: McCafferty 2000a, 2007b

MIDTERM EXAM #2 - November 9

**WEEK 11 (11/12-16): READING WEEK**

**WEEK 12 (11/19-23)** -The Postclassic World System and the Southern Frontier

Reading: McCafferty and McCafferty 2009

**WEEK 13 (11/26-30) -Late Postclassic Mexico**

Reading: Coe and Koontz, chap. 9; McCafferty and McCafferty 2003

**WEEK 14 (12/3-7) -The Aztecs and Spanish Conquest**

Reading: Coe and Koontz, chap. 10; McCafferty 2000b, 2012

**ADDITIONAL READINGS** (Available on D2L, additional readings will be added):

McCafferty, Geoffrey G.

- 2000a Tollan Cholollan and the Legacy of Legitimacy during the Classic/Postclassic Transition. In *Mesoamerica's Classic Heritage: From Teotihuacan to the Aztecs*, edited by D. Carrasco, L. Jones, and S. Sessions, pp. 341-367. University Press of Colorado, Boulder, CO.
- 2000b The Cholula Massacre: Factional Histories and Archaeology of the Spanish Conquest. To appear in the *Proceedings of the 1997 Chacmool Conference: The Entangled Past, Integrating History and Archaeology*, University of Calgary.
- 2001 Mountain of Heaven, Mountain of Earth: The Great Pyramid of Cholula as Sacred Landscape. In *Landscape and Power in Ancient Mesoamerica*, edited by Rex Koontz, Kathryn Reese-Taylor, and Annabeth Headrick, pp. 279-316. Westview Press, Boulder, CO.
- 2007a So What Else is New? A Cholula-centric Perspective on Lowland/Highland Interaction in the Classic/ Postclassic Transition. In *Twin Tollans: Chichen Itza, Tula, and the Epiclassic to Early Postclassic Mesoamerican World*, edited by Cynthia Kristan-Graham and Jeff Kowalski, pp. 449-479. Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.
- 2007b Altar Egos: Domestic Ritual and Social Identity in Postclassic Cholula, Mexico. In *Commoner Ritual and Ideology in Ancient Mesoamerica*, edited by Nancy Gonlin and Jon C. Lohse, pp. 213-250. University of Colorado Press, Boulder, CO.
- McCafferty, Geoffrey G. and Sharisse D. McCafferty
- 2003 Questioning a Queen? A Gender-Informed Evaluation of Monte Alban's Tomb 7. In *Ancient Queens: Archaeological Explorations*, edited by Sarah Nelson, pp. 41-58. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek, CA
- 2009 Crafting the Body Beautiful: Performing Social Identity at Santa Isabel, Nicaragua. In *Mesoamerican Figurines: Small-Scale Indices of Large-Scale Social Phenomena*, edited by Christina T. Halperin, Katherine A. Faust, Rhonda Taube, and Aurore Giguet, pp. 183-204. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- McCafferty, Sharisse D. and Geoffrey G. McCafferty
- 1994 The Conquered Women of Cacaxtla: Gender Identity or Gender Ideology? *Ancient Mesoamerica* 5(2): 159-172.

**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Plagiarism: “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own” (Webster’s).

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing will also be subject to additional University

sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's policy on intellectual honesty

#### **DEFERRED EXAMS:**

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. Documentation supporting the reason for missing an exam may be required. Deferred exams may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam, e.g. essay style questions instead of multiple choice questions. Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor of this course.

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

## **TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRIS (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRIS) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

## **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.

**Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:** In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

**Safewalk Information:** Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:** Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre

The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/)

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.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Ombudsman's office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>