

**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

**ARKY 345 The Legacy of Mesoamerica**

**Winter 2016**

**Dr. Alejandra Alonso**

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**Office Hours:** Thursdays 12:30 to 1:30 pm

**Phone** (403) 629.1234

**Class schedule:** Tuesday-Thursdays 11:00 – 12:15 pm. - AD142

**Office:**

**Course Description**

The course the Legacy of Mesoamerica focuses in the traditional cultures of Mexico from Pre-Columbian times to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The course includes a review of the most important native cultures of the Mesoamerican region, and their most prominent cultural traits such as language, architecture, historical records, religious ideology, political economy systems, and rules of social interactions. Transformations that followed the conquest period and the imposition of the colonial system are also reviewed in this course, as many of the traditional cultural traits were altered or transformed in a process of acculturation and miscegenation. Cultural resistance movements to fight oppressive systems are also considered as an important part of the history of the region, and such cultural expressions in the form of non-violent actions such as literature, religion, art, ethnic and revitalization movements; and violent events such as guerrilla and political conflicts are revised and discussed. Archaeology and ethnographic analogy are the theoretical and methodological tools to understand culture change this cultural and geographical region has experienced through different times.

**Objectives of the course.**

1. Identify the most characteristic traits of Mesoamerican cultures: languages, historical records, cultural history, architectural and art styles.

2. Understanding of the variety of religious, socio political, and economic systems that Mesoamerican cultures had through history.
3. Identify the cultural geographic areas where different Mesoamerican cultures developed.
4. Students will be able to differentiate Mesoamerican cultural traits in different time periods.
5. Students will learn what changes in Mesoamerican cultures were produced by the Spanish Conquest and the Colonial system imposed.
6. Students will learn cultural changes that followed Independence and modern times.
7. Students will get familiar with resistance, revitalization processes, and cultural politics that encourage heritage preservation and empowerment of traditional cultures in modern times.

### **Textbook and Readings**

2007 Carmack Robert M., Janine L. Gasco, Gary H. Gossen. *The Legacy of Mesoamerica. History and Culture of a Native American Civilization.* Pearson-Prentice Hall. New Jersey.

Selective readings will be posted in D2L.

### **Course requirements**

Student will be responsible for textbook reading and selected readings, and documentary films to be shown in class. The use of cell phones is not allowed in class.

The course will be conducted as a lecture, with the expectation that students will participate in discussions of the films and readings.

### **Assignments and evaluations**

- First midterm exam 25%
  - Second Midterm exam or Research paper 25%
- A short research paper 6-8 pages maybe be substituted in place of a mid-term exam. Paper topics should be cleared with the professor in advance, but may include such themes as cultures or cultural practices. A good place to look for topics is in the textbook, readings, 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 of American Antiquity.
- Two article summaries 5%
  - Two film summaries 5%
  - Final exam 40%

Student interested in writing a research paper, worth 25% can substitute that for the second midterm exam. Individual grades will be based on percentages received.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes**

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

The exam is closed-book.

**Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

**Grading System**

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

**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, instructors can

and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

### **Student Accessibility Services Accommodations**

Student Accommodations. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-foraccommodations-for-students-with-disabilities\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-foraccommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf).

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at (403)220-8237.

Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students are also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are strongly advised to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are:

Presenting another student's work as your own

Presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing

Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

### **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>

## **USRI**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) 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/>

## **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/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

***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 alternate 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.