



THE LEGACY OF MESOAMERICA

ARKY 345
Winter 2022

Dr. Elizabeth Paris
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

TR 14:00-15:15
ST 132

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In The Legacy of Mesoamerica, we examine the traditional cultures of Mexico and Central America prior to contact with Colonial European cultures, as they engaged with and resisted conquest during the Colonial period, and their diverse, modern ethnographic present. Course discussions will include the diverse of indigenous cultures that still thrive in Mesoamerica: the Maya, Nahua, Huichol, Mixtec, Zapotec, and more, as well as Mestizo, Afro-Mexican, and recent immigrant groups. Understandings of traditional lifeways and activities will be contextualized with regard to both continuity, change, resistance and activism in the face of Colonial and modern-day pressures. Students will gain an appreciation of the traditional peoples of Mesoamerica through many different sources of information, including archaeology, epigraphy, ethnohistory, and ethnography.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Develop a basic understanding of the pre-history and history of Mesoamerica from ancient times to the present day.
- Understand the ways in which scholars utilize archaeology and scientific methods, epigraphy, ethnohistoric documents, oral traditions, and ethnography to understand Mesoamerican cultures through time.
- Employ critical thinking skills in evaluating different sources of data about ancient and modern Mesoamerican lifeways and events.
- Develop cross-cultural sensitivity with regard to the management of, and research into, material remains and cultural heritage of Mesoamerican peoples.

Lectures: In-person, TR 14:00-15:15.

Office Hours: By appointment

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Please expect 48 hours for a response. If more than 48 hours have passed with no reply, check the email address and re-send. Please use your UCalgary email address for course business, and expect responses to emails during business hours (9 AM to 5 PM MT). Weekend responses will be limited to emergency circumstances. Emergency circumstances do not include questions regarding course assignments; please make sure to ask questions in advance of due dates. Please include "ARKY 345" in the email subject line of all emails sent to the professor and TAs.

REQUIRED READINGS

Course textbook:

The Legacy of Mesoamerica: History and Culture of a Native American Civilization, by Robert M. Carmack, Janine Gasco, and Gary H. Gossen. 2nd edition, 2007. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ

Additional assigned articles, book chapters, websites and videos are listed on the Schedule of Lectures and Assignments.

Links to articles, book chapters and videos will be posted on D2L in modules that correspond to the week in which they are due.

All readings and videos are required!

COURSE STRUCTURE

Lectures are presented every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The course will follow an interactive lecture-discussion style format. Students are responsible for all materials covered in the required readings and the lectures, including films and videos. Ideally, students should read the assigned materials for each week's lecture ahead of time. Lectures are designed to augment material in the text and will not repeat or cover all material in the text, but will elaborate on selected topics to provide a deeper understanding of the material.

Segments of class time each week will be focused on learning through classroom discussion and other participatory activities. Students are expected to be active participants in these activities and involved in their own learning in order to achieve success in the class. A respectful and safe environment for students to participate is considered a priority; disrespectful or condescending behaviours towards other students will not be tolerated.

This is a synchronous and in-person class taking place during the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We will adhere to all university regulations, yet our classroom is not designed to perfectly facilitate physical distancing. Please do everything possible to ensure the safety of your fellow students--if you are feeling unwell, please do not attend class and seek testing. Due to the synchronous nature of the class, lectures will not be recorded. Students experiencing illness or other emergency circumstances should consult the Notes pages posted on D2L, make sure to complete any assigned readings or videos, and contact the teaching assistants and confer with their classmates as soon as possible. At the same time, attendance is important. After-the-fact consultations cannot replicate in-person lectures, discussion and participation in activities missed in class. Please consult the Late Policy below.

Grades will be based on the following course activities:

1.	Map/Chronology Quiz	15%	75 marks	Thursday, Feb. 10
2.	Midterm 1	25%	125 marks	Thursday, Mar. 3
3.	Midterm 2	25%	125 marks	Tuesday, Mar. 29
4.	Peoples of Mesoamerica Project	30%	150 marks	Thursday, April 14
5.	News article assignment	5%	25 marks	Thursday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 12

NOTE: There is no registrar-scheduled final examination for this course. It is not necessary to pass individual course components in order to receive a passing grade in the class.

In this class, grades are assigned according to the following chart:

Percentages	Letter grade	Interpretation
96-100%	A+	<i>The A range denotes excellent performance.</i>
90-95.9%	A	
86-89.9%	A-	
82-85.9%	B+	<i>The B range denotes good performance.</i>
78-81.9%	B	
74-77.9%	B-	
70-73.9%	C+	<i>The C range denotes satisfactory performance.</i>
66-69.9%	C	

62-65.9%	C-	
56-61.9%	D+	<i>The D range denotes unsatisfactory performance.</i>
50-55.9%	D	
<50%	F	<i>An F denotes failing performance.</i>

EVALUATION METHODS

1. MIDTERM EXAMS (25% each)

There will be two in-class mid-term exams. Exams will include material from the book, lectures, articles, films (in-class and on D2L), and websites. Exam 1 will include material from Weeks 1-6, while Exam 2 will be cumulative. The exams will be closed-book: text book and notes are not permitted during the examinations, nor are students permitted to communicate with others. Questions may include multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank and/or short answer questions. Opportunities for a make-up exam will not be offered unless valid documentation is provided (see below). Classroom guidelines for the examination will be posted on D2L.

2. MAP/CHRONOLOGY QUIZ (15%)

There will be one **online** ~~in-class~~ map/chronology quiz. This quiz will test your knowledge of important locations such as archaeological sites, Colonial/modern cities, geographic zones, and important time periods. For archaeological sites and cities, you will be expected to know the chronological period with which they are most strongly associated. You will be expected to know the countries that constitute Mesoamerica, as well as the modern states/departments in Mexico and Guatemala. The exam will be closed-book.

The Map/Chronology quiz will be available on D2L at the beginning of class on February 10th at 9:30 am and will be available for 24 hours. The quiz is designed to take 30 minutes to complete, and students will receive 50% extra time for issues with technology, caregiving responsibilities, or distractions within your test-taking environment (as directed by the Provost), for a total of 45 minutes total in which to complete the quiz.

During the quiz, students may only use their textbook, the study materials provided on D2L, and individual notes. However, the quiz is designed such that you must study in-depth prior to taking the quiz. Otherwise, it is very likely that you will run out of time. Extensions will not be given if you run out of time.

Internet sources, group notes, Discord and similar sites, and/or information from other students in any format are forbidden and will be subject to Academic Misconduct policies (see below).

You are allowed ONE attempt to complete the quiz (so don't sign off or hit the end button before you are finished). Students with accommodations will be accommodated with their additional time.

3. PEOPLES OF MESOAMERICA PROJECT (30%)

In this project, you will explore the history of a particular place and people within Mesoamerica. This assignment will encourage you to gain in-depth knowledge of a particular area of Mesoamerica from the ancient past to the present day, and to think critically and creatively about the changes that its people have experienced over time. Please see the Peoples of Mesoamerica Project assignment sheet and rubric for details.

4. NEWS ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT (5%)

For this assignment, you will contribute a news story on modern Mesoamerica (within the last 3 years). You

will be asked to post a link to your chosen article to a D2L discussion forum by Thursday, April 7th. No two links can be the same, and preference will be given to the student who posts first. Articles must come from main-stream media outlets that engage in fact-checking practices, and should be news articles or digital essays rather than opinion pieces. You will be asked to read five of your classmate's news stories prior to class on Tuesday, April 12th, when we will have group discussions about current events in Mesoamerica, and what the future holds. Marks will be given for the article submission and the group discussion.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students should do all readings and assignments during the week before the course meeting for which they are assigned.

Note that this schedule is subject to change at any time at the professor's discretion.

***IMPORTANT:** A few of the videos in this course show difficult or disturbing content, including representations of human sacrifice in art, human skeletal remains, and individuals deceased in warfare. These are shown in the context of armed conflict, transnational migration, and traditional belief systems.

WEEK	DUE DATE	TOPICS AND READINGS
Week 1	T, Jan. 11	Topic: Introduction to the course
	R, Jan. 13	Topic: What is Mesoamerica? Legacy Introduction
Week 2	T, Jan. 18	Topic: Studying Mesoamerica Robin 2006 (D2L)
	R, Jan. 20	Topic: Origins and Development of Mesoamerican Civilization Legacy Chapter 1
Week 3	T, Jan. 25	Topic: Language and Languages of Mesoamerica Legacy Chapter 11
	R, Jan. 27	Topic: Classic Period Mesoamerica Review: Legacy Chapter 1 Canuto et al. 2018 (D2L) Video: The Popol Vuh (D2L)
Week 4	T, Feb. 1	Topic: Epiclassic and Early Postclassic Mesoamerica Jordan 2017 (D2L) Optional: Brittenham 2009 (D2L)
	R, Feb. 3	Topic: Late Postclassic Mesoamerica I Legacy Chapter 2 Article: The Flower Songs of Nezahualcoyotl, Ancient Nahua (Aztec) Poetry (D2L) Video: Poems by Hungry Coyote Nezahualcoyotl, poet of ancient Mexico (D2L)
Week 5	T, Feb. 8	Topic: Late Postclassic Mesoamerica II Review: Legacy Chapter 2

		Video: Calendars of Ancient Mexico 5: The Codices (D2L) Video: The Fifth Sun (D2L)
	R, Feb. 10	Topic: The Mesoamerican World at Spanish Contact Legacy Chapter 3 MAP/CHRONOLOGY QUIZ on Thursday, Feb. 10
Week 6	T, Feb. 15	Topic: Mesoamerica and Spain: The Conquest, Part 1 Legacy Chapter 4
	R, Feb. 17	Topic: Mesoamerica and Spain: The Conquest, Part 2 Review: Legacy Chapter 4
Week 7	T, Feb. 22	Mid-Semester Break
	R, Feb. 24	Mid-Semester Break
Week 8	T, Mar. 1	Topic: The Colonial Regime Legacy Chapter 5 Video: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, Mexico (D2L)
	R, Mar. 3	MIDTERM 1 on Thursday, March 3
Week 9	T, Mar. 8	Topic: Indigenous Literature From Colonial Mesoamerica Legacy Chapter 6
	R, Mar. 10	Topic: The Liberal Century Legacy Chapter 7
Week 10	T, Mar. 15	Topic: The Mexican Revolution and Central American Civil Wars Legacy Chapter 8 Video: Forensic Anthropology of mass graves of "the disappeared" from the Guatemalan civil war (D2L)
	R, Mar. 17	Topic: Development and Indigenous Mesoamerica Online article: Debt and Dispossession among Maya Peoples (D2L)
Week 11	T, Mar. 22	Topic: Transnationalism and the Political Economy of Mesoamerica Legacy Chapter 9 Video: Jason De León: Decoding Stories of Border Crossing (D2L) Video: Our food system hurts: living with migrant farmworkers by Seth M. Holmes (D2L)
	R, Mar. 24	Topic: The Mayan Zapatista Movement Legacy Chapter 10 Video: The Zapatista Uprising (20 years later) (D2L)
Week 12	T, Mar. 29	MIDTERM 2 on Tuesday, Mar. 29
	R, Mar. 31	Topic: Women and Gender in Mesoamerica Legacy Chapter 12 Video: Manuela & Esperanza: The Art of Maya Weaving (D2L) Video: Women's Collective in Mexico works to save bee species (D2L)
Week 13	T, Apr. 5	Topic: Indigenous Voices in Mesoamerican Literature and Art

		Legacy Chapter 13 Video: Slajem k'op Musta'k (Tzotzil rap) (D2L) Video: Svokol Ololetik by Yibel Jme'tik Banamil (Tzotzil rock) (D2L)
	R, Apr. 7	Topic: The Religious Traditions of Mesoamerica Legacy Chapter 14 Kingsbury 2021 (D2L) Online article: Ritual Huichol Art. The Drum Fiesta and The Use of Body Paint (D2L) Video: Wixarika: connecting with nature, spirit and higher world-Cilau Valadez (D2L) News article assignment DUE (D2L)
Week 14	T, Apr. 12	Topic: Mesoamerica Today News article activity
	R, Apr. 14	Peoples of Mesoamerica Project DUE on D2L by 11:59 pm

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

In order to successfully engage in this course, you are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Word processing software that can export files in .docx format, such as MS Word;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- A stable internet connection;
- Registration in the TopHat platform;

The TopHat platform will be used to facilitate participation during in-class activities. Rather than requiring students to purchase traditional classroom response systems, or “clickers,” TopHat leverages students' own smartphones, tablets, laptops or even SMS-based cell phones. TopHat will be used to conduct activities, facilitate discussions, and gauge student learning through polls and quick responses. Students can submit answers via text message or over WiFi. Additional information and access codes will be posted on D2L.

LATE/MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

We are in unique global circumstances due to COVID-19. If emergency circumstances arise, please contact Dr. Paris by email as soon as possible.

Late written assignments such as the Peoples of Mesoamerica Project will be assessed a 5% penalty per day. Requests to waive the late penalty due to emergency/health circumstances must be accompanied by supporting documentation, as outlined in the University Calendar.

As per university policy, deferred exams or quizzes may be approved for the following reasons: illness, religious conviction, or domestic affliction. Usually, this will take the form of a makeup exam. If the News Article Assignment is missed for a documented reason, the weight of the assignment will be transferred to

Midterm 2. Students who miss exams or quizzes without legitimate documentation for medical reasons or a family emergency will receive a grade of zero marks for that exam.

Students will need to provide supporting documentation for a missed exam or quiz, or in the case of an extension for the Peoples of Mesoamerica Project. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note. In order to arrange a Statutory Declaration, please visit the Registrar's webpage (ucalgary.ca/registrar). Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Should the need for a deferral arise, often due to extended emergency circumstances, students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with regulations under the Deferral of Term Work section of the university calendar.

CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE

- Please treat everyone in the class as a colleague—show respect to both your fellow students, teaching assistant and professor, even if you strongly disagree with someone's opinion. Be friendly, courteous and kind during online discussions and posted responses.
- You may use computers in class to take notes and consult D2L resources, except during exams and quizzes, where they must be stowed for the duration of the exam. Please do not engage in non-course activities on your electronic devices. Please be courteous to your fellow students and remember that those behind you can see your screen. Display of highly distracting materials may rise to the level of Non-Academic Misconduct and referred to the Dean. Please keep all electronic devices silenced or muted for the duration of the lecture period. If emergency circumstances arise requiring you to answer a phone call, please leave the lecture hall prior to answering.
- All course content, including lectures and recorded meetings, may not be shared with anyone. Only students enrolled in the course may participate in the course.
- All course content is the intellectual property of the professor, with the exception of external links. You may not make or duplicate video and audio recordings of synchronous sessions without the explicit consent of the professor, nor transfer them to another student, whether or not that student is enrolled in the course. Please see the Statement on Instructor Intellectual Property below.

PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT, PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Please respect the integrity of the examination process. Sharing information during exams is strictly prohibited. It will automatically result in a grade of zero marks for the assignment for any student involved, and will be referred for disciplinary action. This includes any type of consultation with other students or other individuals, whether enrolled in the course or not, either in person or through digital communication, or through the use of any unauthorized notes or materials.

“Academic Misconduct” includes such things as cheating, falsification, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance, and failure to comply with exam regulations or an Instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of Students completing academic assessments. Students who participate in, or encourage the commission of, Academic Misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action which could include Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion from the University. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

STATEMENT ON INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

- The duplication of course material, creation of video or audio recordings, or transcriptions of any of these materials to another form by electronic or mechanical means by students, including the duplication of electronic versions of textbooks, is not permitted, except as a formal accommodation as assessed by the Student Accessibility Services, whereby it may be used only for individual private study, only at the discretion of the professor, and only with the written approval from the professor for any specific use proposed.
- Any use other than for individual private study (e.g. distributing, emailing or otherwise communicating these materials to any other person) constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Students are encouraged to make personal written notes of lectures, activities, demonstrations etc., but many not record and distribute the content under any circumstances. Recordings are only permitted when made or shared by the professor, and remain the intellectual property of the professor.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use->

material-protected-copyright-policy) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their professor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

REAPPRAISAL OF GRADED TERM WORK OR FINAL COURSE GRADE

Students seeking a reappraisal of Graded Term Work or their Final Course Grade may follow official university policies as outlined:

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

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. Tutorials and appointments are available by visiting their website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre,

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Safewalk