

Anthropology 162
47458

Inka, Aztec, Maya

Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:15
WSQ 004

Dr. Marco Meniketti
Department of Anthropology
Office Hours: T/Th 1:30-2:30
Wed 12:00-3:00 or by appointment.
404N Clark Hall
marco.meniketti@sjsu.edu
924-5787

Introduction: This course is an introduction to the great ancient civilizations of Mexico, Central America and the Andes. While tracing the interaction of these cultures with their environments, we will also examine the evolution of these complex societies and their technological and cultural achievements. Several lesser known neighboring cultures and those that preceded the Maya or Inka will also be investigated to illustrate how they collectively contributed to the rise of the great civilizations.

The objective of this course is to give students a broad understanding of social and cultural processes affecting New World civilizations before the arrival of Europeans. Developments in architecture, mathematics, science, art, and religion will be highlighted.

It is highly recommended that students come to class prepared to discuss the weekly topics by completing assigned readings in advance of lecture. Individual lectures complement the readings and will include extensive use of slides in support of discussion.

Required Texts:

Coe, Michael
2009 *The Maya*. Thames and Hudson, London.

Townsend, Richard
2009 *The Aztecs*. Thames and Hudson, London.

Moseley, Michael
2001 *Incas and Their Ancestors: The Archaeology of Peru*. Thames and Hudson, London.

Selected articles on related topics (provided as handouts or downloadable pdf documents (from the course webpage). These will be relevant to case studies. Case studies may also be downloadable.

Structure of the course

The course is structured chronologically and regionally, focusing first the Maya, then the Aztec, and finally the Inka. In each case specific themes will form the framework for discussion, such as, art, architecture, commerce, social structure and daily life. The pace is quick and students are strongly encouraged to keep up with readings.

Objectives

- Broad understanding of research in human cultural evolution, critical issues in environmental change, and the evidence from archaeological research.
- In depth understanding of the major New World civilizations before European contact.
- Broad understanding of the role of archaeological sciences in reconstructing past civilizations.

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- Broad understanding of multiple cultural and technological achievements of the Maya, Aztec and Inka.
- Knowledge of the contributions of New World civilizations to the modern world. Students will understand Native American perspectives on contact and the aftermath of conquest.

Outcomes

- Students will develop critical thinking skills in assessing behavioral/environmental practices from archaeological evidence.
- Students will become acquainted with professional resource materials relevant to topics covered during the course through completion of independent research projects.
- Students will demonstrate mastery of geographic knowledge of New World civilizations.
- Students will recognize and identify the major cities and monuments of the Maya and Inka.

<u>Major Themes</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assessments</u>
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Week One Aug 25

The End of The World 2012 and other nonsense.

Mayan mathematics

handouts

Unit One: Early Formative Mexico

Week Two Aug 30, Sept 1

Formative period

Early complex societies

Ecology

Agriculture

Week Three Sept 6, 8

Olmec

Proto-Urbanism

Highlands

Coe introduction

Week Four Sept 13, 15

Maya origins

Highlands

Coe chp 2, 3

Unit Two: Classic Mayan Civilization

Week Five Sept 20, 22

Maya connections

Coe chp 4, 5

Selected readings pdf

Topical paper 1 due

Week Six Sept 27, 29

Early Classic Maya

Trade

Coe chp 6,

practice architectural exam

Week Seven Oct 4, 6

Special Topics

readings pdf

Week Eight Oct 11, 13

Classic Maya collapse (various hypotheses)

Environmental controversy

Coe chp 7, 8

Selected readings pdf

Unit Three: Rise of the Aztec

Week Nine Oct 18, 20

Unit Exam 1

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Teotihuacan
Political unity and Empire
Tribute

Townsend introduction and chp 1, 2

Week Ten Oct 25, 27

The Triple Alliance
War and sacrifice

Townsend chp 3, 4, 5
selected readings pdf

Week Eleven Nov 1, 3

Social institutions
Societal roles

Townsend chp 6, 7, 8

Topical paper 2 due

Week Twelve Nov 8, 10

Special topics
On the eve of conquest

Townsend chp 9

Unit Four: Peruvian Development

Week Thirteen Nov 15, 17

Maritime hypothesis
Peru and Andean geography
El Pariso
Chuavin

Mosely chp 1-3

Unit Exam 2

Week Fourteen Nov 22 (Thanksgiving 24)

Moche
Chan Chan
Tiwanaku

Mosely chp 4-6

Week Fifteen Nov 29, Dec 1

Inka conquest and achievements
Kingdom of the Sun

Mosely chp 7, 8

practice architectural
exam

Week Sixteen Dec 6, 8

Empire on the eve of conquest
Inka resistance

Mosely chp 9

Final exams week

Final Exam

Assessments:

There will be two unit exams and a final exam. Each interim exam covers only the material presented since the previous exam. However, the final exam is comprehensive, covering all course material, with emphasis on material from the concluding unit of the course. The exams will include a visual component assessing archaeological site knowledge. In addition, each student will complete two topical papers (4 pages) exploring specific aspects of Mexican or Peruvian civilizations.

Topical papers (50 pts each) 100pts.

2 Unit Exams 50 pts (100 pts)

Final exam 100 points

Total: 300 pts

Grades will be based on score percentages. 92-100% 4.0; 87-13% 3.5; 80-86% 3.0; 75-79% 2.5; 70-74% 2.0; 64-69% 1.5; 57-63% 1.0; <56% 0.

Policies:

- **Please turn off your cell phones as a courtesy and in respect for fellow students and the instructor. Zero tolerance for texting during lecture.**
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments to discuss topics of interest.
- The instructor will make every reasonable effort to provide timely and constructive feedback to students concerning performance throughout the semester.
- All lectures are copyrighted. The use of recording equipment of any kind; tape, film, or digital, is forbidden without written consent from the instructor. This is not usually a problem. Students must agree not to use lectures in unauthorized formats or non-educational purposes.
- **Assignments will not be accepted by email or after the last scheduled class.**
- **Late assignments will be given a one-day grace period with a 20% deduction. No assignments will be accepted later than one scheduled class.**
- Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success. Students are expected to attend class. Although no formal role will be taken, informal attendance records will be monitored. Students should expect to actively participate individually and through group work, discussions, as well in Q&A sessions. Discussions of controversial topics can occasionally become emotional. Such discussions demand respect and intellectual honesty toward fellow students, instructor, and from instructor toward students. The goal is to foster an atmosphere safe for the free exchange of ideas.
- Missed exams may be made-up if a student provides appropriate documentation for legitimate cause for missing scheduled exam dates (funeral, medical emergency, family crisis; *per university policy*). *Make-up exams will be by scheduled appointment in my office and will include oral discussion section.* Late research papers will be deducted 25pts/week. Late assignments will be reduced by 10%.
- You may not leave the room during an examination. This will be interpreted by the instructor that the student has finished and the exam will be collected without further opportunity to continue.
- Exam dates will not be altered. *If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam date please make arrangements at least four weeks in advance.*
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus content as deemed necessary to facilitate the highest achievement and performance of the class, but will consult with the class first.
- To receive a grade for this course you must complete and submit 70 % of assignments.*
- *Extra credit assignments will not be provided if a student is missing any regular assignments. There is enough to do already.*
- Academic integrity and ethics will be upheld at all times. Plagiarism is intellectually dishonest and a form of theft. It will not be tolerated.
- Students are expected to attend class. Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success.
- All lectures are copyrighted. The use of recording equipment of any kind; tape, film, or digital, is forbidden without written consent from the instructor. This is not usually a problem. Students must agree not to use lectures in unauthorized formats or non-educational purposes.

Concerning written assignments:

All written work should include appropriate citations in-text and in references. American Antiquity citation standards will be followed in this course and count for 20% of the grade of any assigned writing. Standards will be discussed and a procedural guideline is posted on the course web page associated with the course. You should write to an academic audience.

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments.

To earn an A: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate mastery of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful and critical analysis, effort at conceptual synthesis, and originality. Papers will be carefully proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit exemplary writing appropriate to the discipline. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Assignments must be of

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consistently high quality in terms of content and execution. Examinations will score in the range of 90% and above. Projects complete, original, or innovative.

To earn a B: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general comprehension of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful analysis and effort should be made at conceptual synthesis. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Papers will be carefully proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit very few writing problems. Assignments must be of good quality in terms of content and conform to standards appropriate to the discipline. Exams may score in the 80% and above range. Projects completed and original or innovative.

To earn a C: At least 80% of assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general understanding of critical content. Knowledge of basic conceptual material should be demonstrated. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful effort with few errors in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards incorrect. Exams may score in the 75% and above range. Final project completed at average level of competence.

To earn a D: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete more than 70% of assignments. Only basic knowledge of conceptual material demonstrated. Critical analysis not exhibited, suggesting minimal effort by student. Assignments lack careful or thoughtful effort and several errors in content. Failure to achieve seminar responsibilities or barely acceptable effort. Minimal engagement in class projects. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards ignored. Exams score below 75% range. Projects completed below standards.

To earn an F: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete and submit more than 50% of assignments. Basic knowledge of conceptual material and critical analysis not demonstrated. No evidence of general skills or course content provided. Assignments will exhibit a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and errors will be evident in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors along with general writing problems, especially in word usage. Citation standards incorrect. Exams may score below the 60% range. Projects incomplete or late. Or, failure to take the final exam.

Grade I: Special circumstances. In keeping with university policy you may not receive a Incomplete to avoid an F grade. Failure to complete and submit specific assignments or missing the final owing to extraordinary circumstances (documented per university policy). Removing the I for a letter grade will require an additional project at instructor's discretion and/or completion of missing work.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin a university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers.

We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial affairs for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San Jose State University.

Cheating

At SJSU, cheating is an act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

Copying in part or in whole from another's test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy; Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy; Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

Plagiarism

At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work; and representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own. In written works this may include the over use of quoted materials to build a paper that is otherwise lacking in original content.

Add/Drop Policy

The university has specific procedures for dropping a class. **It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. You are able to do this through My SJSU. Navigate to "Self Service>Student center>Drop a class"**

Check the schedule and be sure to drop prior to submitting fees to ensue your registration fees are properly assessed.

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, they are not required to do so. For students who wish to drop a course **it is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. For more information about "add" and "drop" deadlines go to:**

<http://info.sjsu.edu?web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-2.html>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student with a condition or situation that requires special accommodations must make arrangements through the Disability Resource center. This includes learning and physical disabilities that prevent you from fulfilling course requirements under expected conditions. If you feel you have a disability, you must go to the DRC and follow their guidelines in order to receive assistance. I will work with the DRC to assist you based on their recommendations. I am not authorized to make assessments of personal situations regarding disabilities, and request that you prepare well in advance for any special needs you may have, particularly for taking exams. You can find more information on SJSU's policy and the programs available as well as your rights at: <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>