

ANTHROPOLOGY 162 (Code: 25164)
Inca, Aztec and Maya Civilization

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is intended as a general overview and survey of the archaeology and prehistory of complex societies in the New World. The emphasis of the course will be on the origins and development of the cultures which flourished in the region that is now Mexico, Guatemala and Belize: the Olmec, Zapotec, Teotihuacan, Maya, Mixtec, Toltec, Huastec, Totónac, Tarascan and Aztec (Mexíca) peoples. In addition to Mesoamerica, we will also spend a briefer time discussing the Chavin, Moche and Inca cultures of Andean South America. Our exposure to the various cultures discussed will be largely chronological, and an attempt will be made to elucidate those attributes which link most, though not all, of these cultures into a single culture area.

In addition to the cultural survey, students will learn (or re-learn) basic culture theory regarding the evolution of social complexity, as well as the theoretical underpinnings of plant and animal domestication, and the correlation between subsistence patterns and forms of human social organization. We will also consider geographical and ecological constraints and realities that helped shape the civilizations that developed in these regions. There will be a number of theoretical approaches considered in this course, and students will apprehend the role of theory in shaping our understanding of the social world.

LECTURES:

M: 3-5:45 pm in Washington Square Hall, Room 4

There will also be an optional review session before each exam.

OFFICE HOURS, PHONE AND EMAIL:

M: 10:30 am-12:30 pm **and by appointment in CL 404J**. You may also leave messages for me in my mailbox in CL 469 (the Anthro Dept) or at my office in CL 404J (924-5721), or by email: (Jonathan.Karpf@sjsu.edu). The departmental FAX is 924-5348. Students are **encouraged** to attend office hours; if you are unable to attend, please let me know and we can try to arrange alternative times and days

TEXTBOOKS:

- 1). Prehistoric Mesoamerica (3rd edition), Richard E.W. Adams; University of Oklahoma Press (2005). **Note: This is the primary text for the course.**
- 2) The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico, (2nd ed.) Ed.: Miguel Leon-Portilla; Beacon Press (1990).
- 3) The Cities of the Ancient Andes, Adriana Von Hagen & Craig Morris; Thames & Hudson (1998). **Find this out of print text on Amazon.com.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The final grade will be based on a possible **485 points**. The bulk of your final grade will be determined by your performance on **5** quizzes worth 125 points in all, a single midterm worth 100 points, and a final exam worth 150 points. In addition, there will be 3 in-class geography quizzes worth a total of 110 points.

EXAMS:

There will be 5 take-home **quizzes** worth 25 pts. each, that will be handed out every two weeks at the end of lecture on Thursday and due at 10:30 am sharp the following Tuesday. Quizzes #1-3 will be a combination of my True/False, matching, and short answer. Quizzes #4 & 5 will be scantron multiple choice, for which you will

need to purchase 2 **T&E 0200 scantron forms**. There will also be 3 in-class **geography quizzes** on worth a total of 110 points The single in-class **midterm** exam will cover lectures 1 through 8 and the associated reading, and is on **Monday, 4/6**. This exam is worth 100 points, and will consist of a combination of objective questions (T/F, multiple choice, matching, short answer) and some short essay questions. You will **not** need a blue book or scantron form for this exam. The **final** exam will be minimally cumulative, with an emphasis on the last 14-15 lectures and associated reading, and will be held on **Wednesday, May 21** from **9:45-noon**. The final will be worth 150 points, and will consist of 150 multiple choice questions. You will need to purchase a **3rd T&E 0200** scantron form for the final exam.

To summarize, your final semester grade in this course will be based on the following:

• Take-home quizzes: 5 X 25 pts. =	125 (25.5%)
• Geography quizzes: 35 + 30 + 50 pts. =	115 (23.5%)
• Midterm exam: 1 X 100 pts. =	100 (20.4%)
• Final exam: 1 X 150 pts. =	150 (30.6%)
TOTAL POINTS:	490 (100%)

GRADING:

Grading will be based on percent mastery, with 88-100% = A, 78-87% = B, 65-77% = C, 50-64% = D, and lower than 50% = F. However, should the performance of the class fall below these arbitrary grade cutoffs, then students will be ranked according to the total points accrued and the course grade will be assigned according to a normal distribution, with the average performance given a middle "C" and the grade ranges determined by the standard deviation (i.e., a **curve**). Therefore, only A's and B's will be awarded if no class member receives less than 78% of the total points, and students will not be competing with each other. However, even if no one receives 88% of the total possible points, the highest ~10-15% will still receive A's. Plus grades are given to those within 1% point of a major grade change, while minus grades are only given to students bumped up to a higher grade based on improvement on the final exam.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

Make-up exams will **not** be given unless 1) a **phone** message AND an **email** are left before the scheduled time of the exam, 2) the reason for missing the exam is **important, beyond your control** and 3) is **verifiable by a reliable source**. In the case of illness, an official note from a physician or nurse-practitioner is required. There will only be **one** make-up exam given, and it will be different than the original exam. If you are going to hand written work in late, you must also notify the instructor **before** the due date of the written assignment. There will be a penalty for written work handed in late if the reason is not important, beyond your control and verifiable by a reliable source.

ATTENDANCE:

After the first two weeks, roll will not be called. Dropping the course is **your** responsibility, and I will not do it for you should you vanish during the semester. Attendance is both necessary and expected, and it is exceedingly unlikely that you will get anything out of the class - including a passing grade - should you miss many lectures. Class will begin on time and tardiness should be avoided, although you are strongly encouraged to attend lecture even if quite late: if unavoidable, then come in quietly and take a seat. Don't just blow off the class if you're late; in my classes even 5 minutes is better than nothing.

CAVEATS AND NOTES:

This is a very interesting course for which there are really no prerequisites other than a desire to learn about

some of the New World civilizations; their prehistories, their histories, their ecologies and their cultures. You will need to memorize a fair amount of specialized vocabulary - a great deal of it in foreign languages (i.e., Nahua, "Mayan", etc.), and to think about cultures, ideas, and world views which may be both unfamiliar to you as well as possibly off-putting; welcome to anthropology! Both of these activities require time and effort. You are expected to take notes in class and to do the reading on time, so that you can follow the development of ideas and information, and so that you can bring questions and comments to class and to the instructor's office hours in a timely fashion. It will not be an unduly challenging course for most of you, but neither is it a trivial one; it will require a motivation to study and to learn. The bulk of your exam questions will come from lecture; consequently, if you anticipate having to miss more than one or two lectures at most, you may want to reconsider taking this class. If you ever feel lost, confused or bewildered with the details or concepts in this course, please let me know. While I will not lower the course standards, I am more than happy to spend as much time as it takes to help you meet them.

Additionally, if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please see me after class, or make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours.

Cell Phones: Students will turn their cell phones off or put them on vibrate mode (set to "stun") before they enter class, and they will put them away. They will not answer their phones in class. Students whose phones disrupt the course and do not stop when requested by the instructor will be referred to the Judicial Affairs Officer of the University. Please be considerate folks...

Computer Use: In the classroom, faculty allow students to use computers **only** for class-related activities. These include activities such as taking notes on the lecture underway, and finding Web sites to which the instructor directs students during the lecture. Students who use their computers for any other activities will be asked to leave the class and will lose participation points for the day, and, at a maximum, will be referred to the Judicial Affairs Officer of the University for disrupting the course. (Such referral can lead to suspension from the University.) No other electronic devices are allowed in class; this mean no Ipods, Mp3 Players, sidekicks, PDAs, Blackberries, Raspberries, etc. Any student who has one of these devices out in class will be asked to leave the classroom.

Finally, in the 30 years that I have been teaching at the university level, I have cancelled class a total of **2** times. Therefore, if you come to class and see a door sign indicating that class is cancelled, you should **assume it is a hoax** and wait outside the class for a minimum of 15 minutes before leaving. This 15 minute rule is a general rule for **all** classes, as professors can also run late.

DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES

The department of Anthropology seeks to enhance student knowledge and skills in a number of areas. Each course offered by the department fulfills one or more of the following ten objectives. Anthropology 162 (Archaeology) fulfills all or part of the objectives listed below that are **boldfaced**.

- 1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationships of human biology and cultural processes in human behavior and evolution.**
- 2. Awareness of the diverse past and present human cultures in which humans have lived.**
- 3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity with the important issues in each sub-discipline.**
4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.

5. Comprehension of multiculturalism as a significant phenomenon shaping global society.

6. Familiarity with the forms of anthropological data and literature, and working knowledge of how to access such information.

7. Awareness of the importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.

8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.

9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

10. Awareness and utilization of departmental resources, such as advisement, services of department office, student organizations, and access to laboratories.

DROP POLICY AND THE “W” SYMBOL (action by the university president, 8/3/98)

1. The consequences of dropping a course are to be determined by the following schedule:
 - Drop Deadline: Last day to drop a class without a “W” grade. **(Tuesday, 2/3)**
 - Add Deadline: Last day to add a class, make grading changes, submit academic renewals and instructor drops. **(Tuesday, 2/10)**
2. After Tuesday, 2/3, a student may withdraw from class only for “serious and compelling reasons” which shall be defined as circumstances and genuine emergencies beyond the student’s control.
3. These circumstances must be documented with such evidence as death certificates (or equivalent) of immediate family members, letters from employers, or notes from doctors. Failure, or anticipated failure, or non-attendance, is not a valid reason for withdrawing from a course.
4. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall develop a list of acceptable circumstances and guidelines for certification of said circumstances, petition forms to be issued to all colleges (which shall include space to state the reasons for the proposed withdrawal, and the current grade the student is earning), and appropriate sanctions for those submitting fraudulent certification.
5. The President shall appoint one individual (in accordance with Executive Order 268) to administer course and university withdrawals. This individual will be responsible for distributing and receiving petitions, verifying certification, and approving withdrawal from the University.
6. In the case of course withdrawals, students must first obtain the faculty member’s signature. This signature indicates that the student has been advised of his/her options regarding the course. Students will be advised about the possible negative impact of the “W” on their transcript and where appropriate, be encouraged to consult with the Student Resource Center. If a faculty member does not sign the petition, the matter will be resolved by the President’s appointee. The President’s appointee will verify the certification that the student uses to indicate “serious and compelling” reasons for needing to withdraw before signing the petition.
7. When a “W” appears on a student’s transcript, the transcript will contain a notice that withdrawals at San Jose State University are given only for circumstances beyond the student’s control, and not for any other reason, including academic performance. The “W” will remain uncounted in the student’s GPA, as before.

8. The option of the Incomplete remains, as before.
9. Nothing in the above prevents an instructor from dropping a student who has neither attended class nor contacted the instructor by the "Instructor Drop" deadline which is Census Day.
10. A "U" (as of F'02, a "WU") remains appropriate to assign when a student, who is enrolled on Census Day, does not successfully petition for a "W" but fails to complete course requirements, and those assignments which were completed were insufficient to make normal evaluation of academic performance possible.

COURSE OUTLINE

Session Date Topic Text

TE = Toby-Evans text

LP = Leon-Portilla text

HM = Hagen & Morris text

- 1 **M** 1/26 Introduction and course logistics
Human migration to the Americas & the "Holocene" boundary **A:** Ch. 1 (Intro)
- 2 **M** 2/2 Geography, topography and ecology of Mexico **A:** Appendix A&B
Origin of plant & animal domestication: horticulture & agriculture **A:** Ch. 2
Quiz #1 passed out
- **T** 2/3 **LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS!**
- 3 **M** 2/9 The evidence for the origin of plant domestication in Mesoamerica **A:** Ch. 3
and South America [class held over a late lunch at El Sabroso on
4th near Sta. Clara]
Quiz #1 DUE
- **T** 2/10 **LAST DAY TO ADD A CLASS OR CHANGE GRADE OPTIONS!**
- 4 **M** 2/16 The Olmecs **A:** Ch. 4
More Olmeca: La Venta, San Lorenzo and Tres Zapotes
Quiz#2 passed out
- 5 **M** 2/23 The Zapotecs: San José Mogote **A:** pp. 249-254
The Zapotecs: Monte Albán **A:** pp. 254-273
Geography Quiz #1
Quiz#2 DUE
- 6 **M** 3/2 More on the Zapotecs **A:** pp. 351-361
Quiz#3 passed out
- 7 **M** 3/9 Teotihuacan **A:** pp. 216-248
More on Teotihuacan **A:** pp. 274-284
Quiz #3 DUE
- 8 **M** 3/16 Geography, topography and ecology of Guatemala, Belize & Honduras **A:** Ch. 5
The Classic Maya: Introduction **A:** pp. 284-291
Geography Quiz #2

-- M 3/23 NO CLASS: **SPRING BREAK!** (Have fun, but be careful out there!)

Session Date Topic Text

9 M 3/30 The southern Maya lowland: **A:** pp. 292-293
The southern Maya lowland, continued **A:** pp. 293-322

-- **MIDTERM EXAM REVIEW SESSION : M-R: 3/30-4/2 (Time/Place TBA)**

10 M 4 /6 MIDTERM EXAM (No scantron necessary)

_____ The Terminal Classic (Puuc) Maya **A:** pp. 323-342

11 M 4 /13 The Post-Classic highland and Itzá Maya **LP:** BEGIN!

The end of the Classic: Cholula, the Mixtecs and Cacaxtla **A:** pp. 343-347

_____ **Quiz #4 passed out**

12 M 4 /20 The Postclassic: Tula and the Toltecs **LP:** read

Tenochtitlan and the Aztecs (Mexí cas) **A:** Ch. 9

Quiz #4 DUE

13 M 4 /27 The Aztec (Mexí ca) empire **LP:** read

More on the Aztecs

Quiz #5 passed out

14 M 5 /4 Huastecs, Totónacs, and Tlaxcalans **A:** pp. 377-386

The Tarascans **A:** pp. 347-351

Quiz #5 DUE

15 M 5 /11 Geography, topography and ecology of South America **HM:** 8-58, Chs:
Chavin, Moche, and Inca cultures 4-9, p. 220-233

-- **R 5/14 Review Session for Final Exam (Time/Place TBA)**

-- **W 5/20 FINAL EXAMINATION and final GEOGRAPHY QUIZ (12:15-2:30 pm)**