

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: ANTHRO 31 Title: MESOAMERICAN ORIGINS
Full Title: Mesoamerican Origins of Latino Culture
Last Reviewed: 4/25/2022

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable
Grading: Grade or P/NP
Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:
Formerly:

Catalog Description:
This class examines the origin and evolution of the ancient societies of Mesoamerica through the anthropological perspective. Archaeological, cultural, and ethnohistoric evidence is used to examine such aspects of Mesoamerican life as religion, politics, economics, art and architecture, and social organization.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: This class examines the origin and evolution of the ancient societies of Mesoamerica through the anthropological perspective. Archaeological, cultural, and ethnohistoric evidence is used to examine such aspects of Mesoamerican life as religion, politics, economics, art and architecture, and social organization. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent
 Limits on Enrollment:
 Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
 Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	
	G	American Cultures/Ethnic Studies		
CSU GE:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities	Fall 2009	
	C1	Arts	Fall 2007	Fall 2009
	C2	Humanities		
	C1	Arts	Fall 1988	Fall 2007
IGETC:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1981	
CSU Transfer: Transferable		Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
UC Transfer: Transferable		Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:
 Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Utilize the basic anthropological concepts, terms, and theories used in the study of human culture and apply them to the ancient Mesoamerican way of life.
2. Demonstrate basic knowledge of cultural evolution as applied to the origin, development, and collapse of the ancient societies of Mesoamerica.
3. Identify the contribution of ancient Mesoamerican cultural traditions to contemporary societies today.

Objectives:

1. Illustrate and evaluate the foundational artistic, architectural, political, and philosophical achievements of the indigenous cultures of Mesoamerica.
2. Discuss the complex relationships between the environment and society formation in Mesoamerica.
3. Construct a general chronology and recognize patterns of urban development throughout Mesoamerica.
4. Describe and analyze the interactions among diverse cultures and societies in ancient Mesoamerica.
5. Identify and assess the extent of cultural transformations and continuities of Mesoamerican societies with the advent of the Spanish invasion.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Anthropological approaches to the study of human culture using multiple lines of evidences
 - A. Material Culture
 - B. Ethnohistoric
 - C. Historic
 - D. Linguistic
 - E. Bioarchaeological
- II. Anthropological concepts of culture areas, fluctuating borders and social geography of Mesoamerica
- III. Archaeological evidences of hunters and gatherers: The first human settlers in Mesoamerica
- IV. Agriculture and food: The impact of changing subsistence practices on the development of village life in Mesoamerica
- V. Pan Mesoamerican Culture: shared cultural traits which may include subsistence practices, technologies such as calendar and writing systems, solar observation, ball court and deities and ritual practices
- VI. Archaeological evidences of "The Preclassic Period": The foundations of urbanization and centralized power, including the Olmec influence
- VII. "The Classic Period": city formation, stratified society, and the rise of the state, utilizing, for example, archaeological sites with monumental architecture and material culture such as:
 - A. Teotihuacan
 - B. Monte Alban
 - C. Tajin
 - D. Mayan City States
- VIII. "The Post classic Period": Empires and conquest. The Toltecs, Mexican Aztecs, and collapse of the Maya kingdoms
- IX. Spanish contact and indigenous entanglements with the resulting syncretism of cultural traditions
- X. Mesoamerican legacies: influences, contributions, and symbols in the contemporary cultures of Mexico, Central America and the United States

Assignment:

1. Students will read and study assignments in textbooks for each class meeting, approximately 20 pages per week.
2. Students will write one or more papers, ranging from 1000 – 1500 words each, on assigned topics which may include book and article response papers, summaries and/or critical-thought essays.
3. Students will complete 2-4 exams during the semester, which may include multiple choice questions, true/false completion, identification, map, short answer and essay questions.
4. Optional assignments may include assigned map tests, other types of homework, presentations, attendance, and in-class participation.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Written homework, Reading reports, Term papers
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Writing 20 - 40%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving
0 - 0%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations
0 - 0%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, True/false, Matching items, Completion, Geography/Identification, Essay exams

Exams
50 - 75%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Presentations, Projects, Group Work, Participation

Other Category
5 - 20%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

The Ancient Maya. Sharer, Robert and Traxler, Loa P. Stanford University Press, Palo Alto: 2006 (classic).

Ancient Mexico and Central America. 3rd Edition. Evans, Susan Toby. Thames and Hudson, New York: 2013.

The Maya. Coe, Michael. Thames and Hudson, New York: 2015.

Mexico. Coe, Michael and Koontz, Rex. Thames and Hudson, New York: 2013.

Mexico's Indigenous Past. Austin, Alfredo Lopez and Lujan, Leonardo Lopez. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma: 2005 (classic).