

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	17.5	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0.50		Contact DHR	8.75
		Contact Total	3.50		Contact Total	61.25
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 166.25

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:**  
Ancient civilizations of Mesoamerica as the cultural foundation for Latino American peoples in the United States today. This class examines religious ideas, monumental architecture, art, writing systems, astronomy calendrics, the nature of city and social life, agricultural and food practices, the cultural and environmental impact of Spanish contact and colonial periods, and the distribution of Mesoamerican cultural traditions throughout much of the United States today.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**  
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100.

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: Ancient civilizations of Mesoamerica as the cultural foundation for Latino American peoples in the United States today. (Grade or P/NP)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100.

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

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

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Not Certificate/Major Applicable

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Comprehend and demonstrate knowledge of the basic terms and concepts used in the study of ancient and contemporary cultures.
2. Demonstrate basic knowledge of the origin and development of the ancient civilization of Mesoamerica and how that cultural tradition has influenced and contributed to contemporary Latino cultures in Mesoamerica and the United States.
3. Evaluate the early artistic, architectural, political, and philosophical achievements of the indigenous cultures of Mesoamerica.
4. Comprehend indigenous ecological adaptations and the environmental impact of the Spanish invasion.
5. Analyze and understand the interaction among diverse cultures in ancient Mesoamerica and their continued legacy for cultural patterns that extend into the United States today.
6. Comprehend how the impact of the Spanish invasion still relates to contemporary ethnic relations, especially regarding religion and class issues, in both the United States and Mesoamerica.
7. Discuss material, compose essays and respond to examinations regarding course content.

## Topics and Scope:

1. The Mesoamerican culture area and tradition.
2. Fluctuating borders and social geography of Mesoamerican/Latino-American culture in North America.
3. Hunters and gatherers: The first human settlers in Mesoamerica.
4. Agriculture and food: The development of the farming village way of life.
5. The Preclassic Period: The foundations of civilization; "Mother Culture" of the Olmecs.
6. The Classic Period: Great cities, stratified society, and the rise of the state. Teotihuacan, Monte Alban, Tajin, city states of the Maya.
7. The Post Classic Period: Empires and conquest. The Toltecs, Mexico Aztecs, and Post Classic Maya kingdoms.
8. The Spanish contact and invasion: Syncretism of cultural traditions.
9. Mesoamerican legacies: influences, contributions, and symbols in contemporary cultures of Mexico and Central America and the United States.

## Assignment:

1. Students will read and study assignments in textbooks for each class meeting.
2. Students will be expected to take extensive notes on lectures, slides, and class discussions.
3. Students will write one or more papers on assigned topics.
4. Students will visit the Jesse Peter Museum to complete 2 or 3 assignments based on exhibits of ancient and contemporary Mesoamerican cultural materials.
5. Students will prepare for scheduled quizzes and exams.
6. A series of assignments in the Jesse Peter Museum will be added in order to strengthen the writing component and enhance existing course content. A minimum of 8 hours per semester will be required.

## 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, Essay exams, Term papers

Writing  
25 - 33%

**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

Exams  
67 - 75%

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

None

Other Category  
0 - 0%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Michael Coe, MEXICO, 1994, Thames and Hudson, New York.

Michael Coe, THE MAYA, 1999, Thames and Hudson, New York.

Muriel Weaver, THE AZTECS, THE MAYA, AND THEIR PREDECESSORS, 1993, Academic Press, San Diego.

R. E. W. Adams, PREHISTORIC MESOAMERICA, 1991, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.