Maya and Aztec Culture
ANT 382.001 (Fall 2017)
MW 1:00-2:15 p.m.
Human Services 314

Professor: Dr. Leslie G. Cecil
Department: Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology
Office: LAN 336
Phone: 468-3980
Email: cecillg@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:30-11:30 am, Tuesday and Thursday 3-4 pm, or by appointment

Course Description/Objective:
SFASU Bulletin Description: This course is an overview of the peoples, cultures, and heritage of Mesoamerica. Region varies/rotates by instructor. Topics include: social organization, gender relations, religion, economic strategies, and environment.

The Maya and the Aztec cultures of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras have been romanticized by Walt Disney and others through a focus on the spectacular and their different customs such as great pyramids, hidden tombs, warfare, and human sacrifice. While the spectacular and different customs do exist in Maya and Aztec cultures, archaeologists of the past and present have demanded a more scientific examination of these cultures and their practices. We seek to discover how these ancient cultures functioned socially and politically, how they developed, and how they adapted to their environment.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:
1) recognize the differences between the Classic Period Maya and the Aztec cultures.
2) understand the Maya and the Aztec predecessors, writing systems, calendrical systems, and origin myths.
3) locate some of their major cities.
4) critically evaluate the Hollywoodification of the Maya and the Aztec.

Required Text:
1) Coe, Michael

2) Townsend, Richard

3) Additional readings and packets for the projects can be accessed through D2L.

You are expected to have read all of the material assigned for the class period before you come to class. If you do not do the readings, class discussion will suffer as will your understanding of the material. If the class appears to not complete the readings, quizzes over the readings will be
implemented. Part of your professionalism grade depends on your effort in class discussion.

In addition to assigned readings, we will be viewing some films based on Maya and Aztec archaeology and culture. Each film will have a worksheet to make sure that you understand the more important aspects of the film and the information from the films will appear on exams. Therefore, films are a required part of the course. If you should miss a film, you must schedule a time with me to see it in the departmental office (no exceptions).

**Class Attendance:**

Class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. **If quizzes are implemented, they will be given between 1:00 and 1:10 p.m.** If you are late for class, you will have less time to finish the quiz. There are no make-up quizzes regardless of the reason for your absence. Class begins at 1:00 p.m. and you are expected to be on time. I will take attendance at 1:00 p.m. and if you are not in your seat, you will be counted as absent. Leaving class early without prior permission will result in you being counted as absent. If you fall asleep during class or do work from other courses in my class, you will be counted absent. You are allowed two absences for whatever reason. I do not need to see an excuse. After two absences, each time you are counted absent, two points will be deducted from your final point total.

**Assignments and Exams:**

There will be two projects and two in-class exams given during the semester. The exams (multiple choice and short answer) will test your general knowledge of the topics as well as your ability to critically evaluate what is currently known about the Maya and the Aztec. There will be a review sheet provided to you before each exam. The final exam will ask you to critically evaluate the film “Apocalypto.” This paper must be submitted to D2L by 3:00 p.m. on December 11th.

Project 1 will require you to take the knowledge that you have about Maya society and writing and create a Maya stela describing your rule of a site. This project will be due after we finish the section on Classic Maya society. Specific details will be provided in class at a later date.

Project 2 will require you to take the knowledge that you have about Aztec society and writing and create an Aztec codex page about the towns that you rule and the tribute that you require. This project will be due after we finish the section on Aztec society. Specific details will be provided in class at a later date.

If you miss an exam (not a project—no make ups for projects), you can take an essay make-up exam on Friday December 1, 2017 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. The exam will be given in LAN335. There are no exceptions to making up an exam—if you want to take it, you must take it on December 1, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.. You only will have one hour to complete the exam(s). If you are missing an exam grade after the make-up date and time, you will receive a 0 for that exam.

**Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apocalypto Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>25</td>
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Grades are posted on D2L so that you can always figure out your grade in the course. Letter grades are as follows: A (100-90%); B (89-80%); C (79-70%); D (69-60%); and F (59% and below).

**Professionalism:**
You are expected to act professionally at all times and to treat each other and me (the professor) with respect. Behaving unprofessionally will adversely affect your grade. You are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials and be prepared to discuss the content. **Class participation counts for 12 of the professionalism points.**

When you come to class, **please turn off and put away your cell phones and other electronics including computers.** There will be no text messaging or use of computers during class time. **If you use your cell phone or computer during class time, you will lose all of your professionalism points.** If you need to use a laptop computer, record the lectures, or need assistance with any disability, please see Disabilities Services for the required paperwork and I will be happy to accommodate your needs. Remember, if you are doing something other than paying attention in class you interfere with your classmate’s abilities to learn. Please be courteous to everyone in class.

**Acceptable Student Behavior:**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/ inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Students with Disabilities** [http://www2.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/].
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):**
[http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf]
Cheating and plagiarism on exams and projects will not be tolerated. Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited
to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.


Withheld Grades: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Topic/Readings outline**
(Please have the readings for the day read before the class for which they are assigned.)

Monday August 28
Introduction to the Maya and the Aztec and Cultural Time Periods

Wednesday August 30
Physical Environment
Read: Coe Chapter 1
Video: “Lost Kingdom of the Maya”

Monday September 4
Classic Maya Predecessors
Read: Coe Chapters 2 and 3

Wednesday September 6
Maya Origin Myth
Read: Coe pp. 67-68, 221-229
Film: “Popul Vuh”

Monday September 11
Maya Calendars
Read: Coe pp. 62-69, 231-237, Aveni reading (found on D2L)
Calendar packet on D2L, please print it off and bring to class
Wednesday September 13 and Monday September 18  
    Mayan Writing  
        Read: Coe pp. 219-222, 237-249  
        Writing packet on D2L, please print it off and bring to class  
        Film: “Cracking the Maya Code”

Wednesday September 20  
    Maya Gods  
        Read: Coe pp. 221-229  
        Bring Calendar packet to class today

Monday September 25 and Wednesday September 27  
    Classic Maya Social and Political Organization  
        Read: Coe Chapters 5 and 8

Monday October 2  
    Maya Warfare  
        Read: pp. Coe Chapter 5

Wednesday October 4  **Project 1 Due at Beginning of Class**  
    Classic Maya “Collapse”  
        Read: Coe Chapter 6

Monday October 9  
    **Exam 1**

Wednesday October 11  
    Introduction to the Aztec and their Physical Environment  
        Read: Townsend Introduction

Monday October 16  
    Aztec Predecessors  
        Read: Townsend Chapter 2

Wednesday October 18  
    Aztec Origin Myth  
        Read: Townsend pp. 121-127  
        Film “Five Suns”

Monday October 23  
    Aztec Calendars and Rituals  
        Read: Townsend pp. 127-148
Wednesday October 25 and Monday October 30  
Aztec Writing and Codices  
Read: Townsend pp. 82-86, Chapter 7, 206-212

Wednesday November 1  
Aztec Gods  
Read: Townsend pp. 112-120, 149-160, 203-206

Monday November 6 and Wednesday November 8  
Aztec Social and Political Organization  
Read: Townsend pp. 61-62, Chapters 4 and 8

Monday November 13 and Wednesday November 15  
Triple Alliance and Warfare  
Read: Townsend Chapters 3, 5 and 1 (read in that order, it is chronological), pp. 212-218

Monday November 27  
**Project 2 Due at the beginning of class**  
Conquest of the Aztec  
Read: Townsend Chapters 1, 10, and 11

Wednesday November 29  
**Exam 2**

Monday December 4 and Wednesday December 6  
Film for the Final Exam: “Apocalypto”

**Final Exam Papers due to D2L by Monday, December 11 by 3:00 p.m.**

**No Late Papers will be accepted!**
Program Learning Outcomes

The sociology program states the following items as Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) for sociology majors.

PLO1 The students will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.
PLO2 The student will be able to identify the principles of good social scientific research design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling methodology.
PLO3 The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.
PLO4 The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.
PLO5 The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.
PLO6 The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.
PLO7 The student will be able to analyze a data set using statistical techniques and draw conclusions from the results.

This course addresses the following of these objectives:

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<tr>
<th>PLOs</th>
<th>Supported Course Objective</th>
<th>Skill Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLO1</td>
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<td>PLO6</td>
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<td>PLO7</td>
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