Course Syllabus
Aztec and Maya Cultures
ANTH4377
Fall 2020
Online

Professor: Dr. Leslie Cecil
Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology
Office: LAN 329
Phone: 468-3980
Email: cecillg@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: Virtual Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 12-1 and Wednesday 11-12 via Zoom (link will be provided on course homepage)

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.

Credit Hour Justification:
ANTH 4377 “Aztec and Maya Cultures” (3 hours) meets online Monday-Friday for 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Modules open at 5 am on Mondays and close at 11:59 p.m. CST on Fridays. All module work is due on a Friday. Students have significant daily reading assignments, are expected to complete a Maya stela and Aztec codex page assignment, have four exams (including the final), and in module assignments. These activities average a minimum of 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of the classroom hours.

Course Requirements/Structure
The online class meets Mondays through Fridays. There is no make-up work regardless of the reason. All of the deadlines and assignments are outlined in the Timeline.

Assignments/Exams:
There will be two projects and four online 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. They will be open note and open book, but do not let that fool you. You will only have 75 minutes to take the exams and that will not be enough time to look everything up and there are many videos in the modules that you will not have time to view during the exam period. There is a folder with exam review sheets.

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.

Finally, there are five assignments embedded in different modules. The due dates
are on the timeline. These assignments are designed to get you started on the
projects.

If you miss an exam, you can take an essay make-up exam on Friday December 4,
2020 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. (online). There are no exceptions to making up an
exam—if you want to take it, you must take it on December 4th at 4:00 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:

By completing assignments, you are EARNING points. The total number of
points that you earn will be your grade. There are no free points to be given
out at will by the professor. There will be no rounding up of grades. The
number of points that you earn is the grade that you will have in this class.
THERE WILL BE NO BEGGING OR BARTERING FOR POINTS THAT
YOU DID NOT EARN.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 4</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Module Assignments 5 assignments @ 10 points each
Maya Stela 50 points
Aztec Tribute Page 50 points

Grades are posted on D2L so that you can always figure out your grade in the course.

Attendance and Excused absences
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class_attendance_excused_abs.asp

You are expected to keep up with the modules and laboratory exercises. If you do not, your grade will be adversely affected.

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 D-34.1). 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.

YELLING AT ME WILL NOT BE TOLERATED (that is an example of yelling at me).
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/academic_integrity.asp

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.

Add/Drop Policy:  http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/add_drop.asp

Withheld Grades:

http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp

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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLOs</th>
<th>Supported Course Objective</th>
<th>Skill Level</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLO1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO2</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO3</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLO4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLO5</td>
<td>2, 4</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO6</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLO7</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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Course Timeline

Dates may change at the discretion of the instructor. Should a date change be required, it will be announced in the course news or on the discussion board. All times listed are Central Standard Time.

I will work in some Zoom help sessions and discussions. Dates and Times, TBD.

Coe=Michael Coe  The Maya
Townsend=Richard Townsend  The Aztec

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of August 24</td>
<td>Getting to Know You and</td>
<td>Read Get Started module content, notably syllabus and Semester Timeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of August 31</td>
<td>Module 1: Introduction to the Maya</td>
<td>Take Get Started Quiz and Cheating &amp; Plagiarism Quiz. Read module content, readings, and watch embedded video.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of Sept 7</td>
<td>Modules 2 (Predecessors) and 3 (Origin Story)</td>
<td>Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                   | Module 4: The Calendar            | Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos.  
Assignment: Birthday Long Count Date  
Due date for all assigned work is September 11, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., CST |
| Week of Sept 14   | Module 5: Maya Hieroglyphs        | Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos.  
Assignment: Your Name in Mayan  
Due date for all assigned work is September 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., CST |
| Sept 18           | Exam I                            | Exam is open from 5:00 am-11:59 pm |
| Week of Sept 21   | Module 6: Maya Deities            | Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos. |
| Week of Sept 28   | Module 7: Maya Social and Political Organization | Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos.  
Assignment: Your Royal Title  
Due date for all assigned work is October 2, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., CST |
<p>| October 5         | Maya Stela Project Due            | Due by 11:59 pm, CST |
| Week of October 5 | Module 8: Maya Warfare and Module 9: Maya Collapse | Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos. |
| October 9         | EXAM 2                             | Exam is open from 5:00 am-11:59 pm |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of October 12</th>
<th>Module 10: Aztec Environment and Module 11: Aztec Predecessors</th>
<th>Read module content, assigned readings and embedded video.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of October 19</td>
<td>Module 12: Aztec Origin Story</td>
<td>Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of October 26</td>
<td>Module 13: Aztec Calendars and Rituals</td>
<td>Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos. Assignment: What is wrong here? Due date for all assigned work is October 30, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., CST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of November 2</td>
<td>Module 14: Aztec Writing and Module 15: Aztec Deities</td>
<td>Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos. Assignment: Aztec Town Names Due date for all assigned work is November 6, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., CST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**November 6**

| Exam 3 | Exam is open from 5:00 am-11:59 pm, CST |

**Week of November 9**

| Module 16: Aztec Social and Political Organization | Read module content and assigned reading. |

**Week of November 16**

| Module 17: Triple Alliance, Warfare, and Human Sacrifice | Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos. |

**November 20**

| Aztec Tribute Page | Due by 11:59 pm, CST |

**Week of November 30**

| Module 18: Conquest of the Aztec | Read module content, assigned readings and embedded videos. |

**December 7**

| Final Exam | Exam is open from 5:00 am-11:59 pm, CST |