Syllabus

ANT 3163: Mesoamerican Archaeology
Dr. Amanda Groff
Syllabus

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	ANT 3163- Mesoamerican Archaeology
Credit Hours	3 hrs
Semester/Year	Fall 2018
Location	100% Online

Course Description

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the prehistory of the peoples of Mesoamerica, a culture area that includes all of Guatemala and Belize and parts of Mexico, El Salvador, and Honduras. We will explore the entire span of human occupation in this region, from its first settlement over 13,000 years ago to the arrival of the Spanish. We will focus in more detail on five of the most significant Pre-Columbian societies in a roughly chronological perspective: the great Olmec tradition of the Gulf coast, the Zapotec kingdom of the Valley of Oaxaca, the great metropolis of Teotihuacan in central Mexico, lowland Maya civilization in Central America and the Yucatan Peninsula, and the Aztec Empire of central Mexico. In examining these societies, we will discuss the interactions of these Pre-Columbian peoples, their worldviews and belief systems, their relationships with the environment, and their economic systems. Emphasis will be placed on the nature of the archaeological interpretation of these cultures

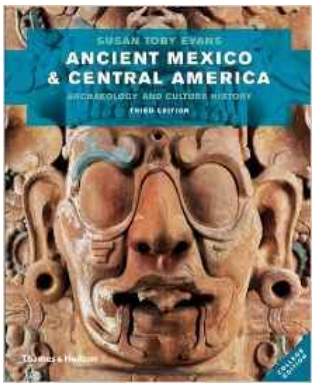
Course Objectives

The specific objectives for this course are that students:

- develop a geographic understanding of Mesoamerica,
- learn the temporal diversity of Mesoamerica,
- understand the various different cultures that comprise Mesoamerica, and
- understand the dynamic field of Mesoamerican archaeology, especially how archaeologists gather information and interpret the past.

Required Text

(available at the bookstore & used copies may be available at Amazon.com):



Title: *Ancient Mexico and Central America: Archaeology and Culture History* ***3rd edition***
Publisher: Thames and Hudson
Year: 2013 ISBN: 978-0500290651

Course Requirements

This course begins on August 20th, 2018 and ends on December 7th, 2018. **This course is a self paced course, so you may go at your own speed; however, modules are due on specific dates throughout the course (see schedule below)**. **This is to stop students from doing all the modules at the last minute and expecting to have all their work graded before final grades are due.** There will also be a deadline for the last modules (once again, to curb students from handing in everything at the last moment). Please note the module closing

dates below (all Modules close at 11:59PM on their respective due date)… **I will not, under any circumstances, open a module for students because they missed the closing date**. This is something that all students are advised of since the beginning of the course. **You will only be able to advance to the next module once you have completed all the requirements for the preceding module.** You begin the course by clicking on the "modules" button on the main page. Each individual module, as well as the getting started module, is available from this page.

Schedule and Total Points

Module #	Chapter Readings	# of Quiz Points	Assignment Points	Closing Date for Module
Getting Started Module	-	10	5	August 24
1	1 & 2	5	10	September 2
2	3 & 4	5	10	September 9
Exam 1	-	100	-	September 16
3	5 & 6	5	10	September 23
4	7 & 8	5	25	September 30
5	9	5	15	October 7
Exam 2	-	100	-	October 14
6	10	5	10	October 21
7	11 & 12	5	10	October 28
8	13 & 14	5	10	November 4
Exam 3	-	100	-	November 11
9	15	5	15	November 18
10	16 & 17	5	15	November 25
11	18 & 19	5	10	December 2
Exam 4 (Final)	-	100	-	December 7

You must first achieve a perfect score of "10" on the Getting Started Quiz in the Getting Started Module before you will have access to Module 1.

Each module ends with a timed quiz and you will only see one question at a time. **Once a quiz is opened, it is your ONLY chance to complete the quiz** – there is no second chance! Any quiz problems that are the result of you waiting until the last minute to take the quiz will result in a "0" for the quiz. Also, you will receive a "0" for any assignment that is not completed by the time the module is closed such as discussions, internet assignments, and exercises.

It is your responsibility to check on your grades. Automatically graded quizzes should be available immediately after you submit them. If you check your grades and your quiz has not been graded please email me and I will manually grade it.

Grading Scheme

This course weights grades to emphasize your writing accomplishments.

Assignment Group	Percentage of your Final Grade
Exams	40%
Mini-Quizzes	10%
Written assignments	50%

How do I calculate my weighted grade? Well, webcourses does it for you. However, if you would like to understand how it works, here's an example. In this class we have three assignment groups (A, B, and C) weighted at 40%, 10%, and 50%, respectively. The total score equation for a course with three assignment groups would be (percentage A x weight A) + (percentage B x weight B) + (percentage C x weight C) =

final course percentage. If a student scores 75% in Group A, 86% in Group B, and 94% in Group C, the final score would be calculated as (.75 x .40) + (.86 x .10) + (.94 x .50) = .856, or 85.6%.

The +/- system will be used in this course. These percentages correspond to the following letter grades

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	92.5-100%
A-	89.5-92%
B+	86.5-89%
B	82.5-86%
B-	79.5-82%
C+	76.5-79%
C	69.5-76%
D+	66.5-69%
D	62.5-66%
D-	59.5-62%
F	<59

Under no exception will I make individual allowances for anyone in this course in terms of grading. Since you have the whole term to complete the course at your own pace, I will not allow anyone to make up missed assignments at the end of the course - do not wait until the last minute complete assignments. In addition, I will not curve anyone's final grade nor will I provide extra credit for anyone that is unhappy with their final course grade. Please do not ask! (I do round up scores, anything .5 or higher. For example, a percentage of 89.5 would be rounded to an A-)

Reviewing Quiz/Assignment Questions

I am happy to address any questions you have concerning a grade. But please know you have up to 1 week after the closing of a quiz to bring up these questions or discrepancies concerning your score. After 1 week, I will no longer address these concerns. This is to prevent students from waiting until they see their final grade to address any issues in an effort to get their score bumped up. Please be sure to review your grade as soon as you submit and be sure to bring up any questions to me immediately!

Important Dates and Information

Add class deadline Friday, August 24 ; Drop class deadline: Thursday, August 23
Withdrawal deadline for this course: Friday, October 26
Final course closing date: Friday, December 7

First Assignment and Your Financial Aid

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Getting Started Quiz and Assignment by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than **August 24.** Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Make-ups/Excuses

There are NO make-ups in this course. As each set of modules closes every three weeks, you are provided plenty of time to complete modules prior to the deadline. However, I do understand that there are circumstances that can interrupt your ability to finish modules on time. Some of these valid excuses include a death in the family, family emergency, or you are personally injured or ill. Documentation (doctor's note

with dates, obituary) of these incidences MUST be provided in order for a make-up to be allowed. *** A broken computer is NOT a valid excuse.

Additionally, a written email or note from a parent, friend, or employer does NOT count as a valid excuse.

****If an error occurs while taking a quiz, or while attempting to upload a document, you MUST take a screen shot of your computer desktop which shows the error. IMPORTANT: Your screen shot must include proof of time/date. Without the date and time there is no way to prove that your issue occurred prior to the deadline. Screen shot directions: http://www.take-a-screenshot.org/ (http://www.take-a-screenshot.org/)**

Discussion Board Appropriateness

The discussion board is to be used by students to discuss topics concerning our class. Feel free to discuss topics covered in the class, articles you may have found online. As stated in the golden rule, please do not share or discuss specific quiz/exam answers or answers to assignments. Additionally, please do not use the discussion board to launch personal attacks against myself or fellow students. If there is an issue, please do not hesitate to contact me privately. I am happy to help in any way I can.

Student non-solicitation

Students have the right to privacy and non-solicitation in an online environment. Thus, students are NOT permitted to send out mass emails to the entire class via inbox or knights.ucf.edu without explicit permission from the professor. If a student wants to bring up a subject to the class, the student must use the Discussions and select the appropriate discussion thread for conversing. I have provided an area under Discussions for students to message and contact each other. I will not tolerate students harassing, spamming, or inciting each other when discussions can be handled and monitored in one location via the Discussions tab. If you are being spammed or bullied by a fellow student, please report to me and I will handle the issue. The Office of Student Conduct may be used if a solution cannot be found.

***This applies to mass emails, you are obviously more than welcome to email individual friends in the class

Email Appropriateness

Please address emails in a formal matter. Emails are the only correspondence I have with you, therefore, they are the only impression I get of your character. Sometimes emails that are blunt can come off as rude.

Online Technology

By signing up for an online class, students assume the responsibility for having a functioning computer and programs necessary for viewing videos or accessing websites. A broken computer or non-functioning software is not a valid excuse for missing a deadline. Additionally, if a student waits until after 5pm on the due date to work on an assignment and experiences an issue, they are responsible for finding a solution (Unless there is a mass issue that effects every student in the class...if this is the case the professor will produce a solution.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with **UCF's Rules of Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc)** . According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

- *Unauthorized assistance*: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
- *Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means*: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
- *Commercial Use of Academic Material*: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
- *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
- *Plagiarism*: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
- *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the

instructor.

- *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult **The Center for Academic Integrity.** **(http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/assets/FVProject.pdf)**

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "**Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices** **(http://wpacouncil.org/node/9)** ".

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, **The Golden Rule.** **(http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf)** UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see **http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade** **(http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade)** .

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with **Student Accessibility Services** **(http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/)** (Ferrell Commons 185, **sas@ucf.edu** **(mailto:sas@ucf.edu)** , phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

****If you are registered with SAS, please contact the professor immediately for information concerning extended quiz and assignment times**

*****Please note that if you are permitted extended quiz/exam times, it is your responsibility to begin quizzes, quiz-graded assignments, and exams with enough time prior to the deadline to fulfill that extension. Having extended quiz times DOES NOT give you permission to run beyond the deadline time of 11:59pm.**

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at **http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html** **(http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html)** .
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see **http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html** **(http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html)** (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to **my.ucf.edu** **(http://my.ucf.edu)** and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert," fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video. **You CAN Survive an Active Shooter** **(https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk)**

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Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

Copyright

This course contains copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, video lectures, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

According to the Academic Misconduct section of the UCF Golden Rule section C. states: "Commercial use of academic material: Selling notes, handouts, etc., without authorization or using them for any commercial purpose without the express written permission of the University and the instructor is a violation of this rule." Students cannot use any class materials for commercial purposes without instructor consent. If you do, it could result in disciplinary expulsion. All punitive sanctions can come with educational sanctions to help enforce the rules of conduct. In other words, we will file a lawsuit.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

My expectations of you for taking Mesoamerican Archaeology

- I expect you to do your work and not copy the work from others.
- When you take an online quiz, I expect you to complete the quiz by yourself.
- I expect you to treat all communications with me and your fellow students professionally and respectfully. I expect you to write using conventional rules of grammar, spelling, and paragraph formation. Please refrain from slang.
- I expect you to progress in a timely manner through the course. You are permitted to work at your own pace, however if you leave everything to the last minute it will be impossible to complete the course.
- I expect you to check your e-mail and participate in discussions. Only by doing this can you fully participate in the course, and keep up-to-date on any announcements.

What You Can Expect From Me

You can expect from me everything I expect from you, and I will respond to your email as fast as is physically possible. In addition, your grades will be posted in a timely manner.

Final Comments

If you cannot accept the requirements for this course after reading this syllabus, you may want to rethink taking this course. Hope you enjoy the class!

****The professor reserves the right to change this syllabus at anytime. It is the students responsibility to review the syllabus for updates.