Course Syllabus

Jump to Today ✎ Edit

Class Information

- Class Meeting Days: TTH
- Class Meeting Time: 4:30-5:45
- Classroom: HEC 119

Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Dr. Brigitte Kovacevich
- Office: Howard Phillips Hall Room 309P
- Office Hours: Monday 10-11 AM and Thursday 1-2 PM
- Phone: 407-832-6554
- E-mail: brigitte.kovacevich@ucf.edu (mailto:brigitte.kovacevich@ucf.edu) (mailto:brigitte.kovacevich@ucf.edu)
- Skype: brigitte.kovacevich23 (by appointment only)

Course Objectives:

This course will give you a broad understanding of one of the most enigmatic civilizations to emerge in Mesoamerica, that of the Maya, whose culture area today still spans the southern third of Mexico, all of Guatemala and Belize, and western parts of Honduras and El Salvador. We will explore the cultural developments of the Ancient Maya from the earliest village settlements through its Late Classic splendor, eventual “collapse” in many areas, and on through the time of contact. Likewise no other indigenous group conjures as strong fascination in the West today, judging from mainstream media accounts. Thus we will also cast a critical eye at how the Maya past is reconstructed, how it has been exoticized and how these popular perceptions impact the Maya of today.

In examining ancient Maya society, we will take a holistic anthropological view that looks at evolving political structures, their rich cosmology and belief systems, our growing understanding of their complex relationships with the natural environment, and their economic structure. We will combine this anthropological perspective with the great strides made over recent decades in the interpreting the rich corpus of Maya hieroglyphic inscriptions and iconography. Combining archaeology with art history, epigraphy, ethnohistory, and ethnography will allow us to trace historical events as we see how Classic Maya kings legitimized their authority, expanded their reigns, and weathered periods of unrest and instability.

University Course Catalog Description

ANT 3168 COS-ANTHRO 3(3,0)
Maya Archaeology: An examination of the Prehistoric Maya culture focusing on both the archaeology and current issues in the field.

Course Objectives

The some of the major questions in this course are:

1) What resources and challenges did the Mesoamerican environment provide to the ancient Maya?
2) How did dominant groups create and maintain social inequality?
3) How did Maya commoners and elites perceive the world around them?

4) How and why did the Maya civilization collapse? (If it did indeed collapse at all)
5) What are the strengths and weaknesses of archaeology, epigraphy, art history, ethnohistory, and cultural anthropology in providing knowledge about the Maya?
6) How have Westerners used interpretations of the Maya in the past to advance their own cultural and political projects?

More broadly we will look at:

- How can you determine legitimate sources of knowledge for the Maya, academia, and in general?
- Is the internet a good source of valid information (for this course and in general)?
- How can we make sustained arguments about the Maya using credible and legitimate sources and data (and use that to apply to other areas of our lives)?

Course Prerequisites

PR: Sophomore standing

Required Texts and Materials

Sharer, Robert J. and Loa P. Traxler

2004 The Ancient Maya. Sixth Edition. Stanford: Stanford University Press. ISBN 0-8047-4817-9

Additional Readings

In addition to the textbook, occasional additional readings will be assigned (seen as AR on the schedule). These readings will be available for download on Webcourses. Students are expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings for that day and prepared to participate in discussions of the material.

Requirements

I will base your final grade upon your performance on the following requirements:

Mid-Term Exam (6-8 pages)	(20%)
2 short essay assignments (3-4 pages)	(20% each)
Short Homeworks	(10%)
Final Exam (6-8 pages)	(20%)
Attendance and Participation	(10%)

Midterm Exam (20%)

We will have two exams during the course, both will be composed of several take home essay questions and you will have a choice of which questions you would like to answer. Your answers must incorporate readings from the course for full credit.

Final Exam (20%)

The scope of the final will be cumulative, but it will be more heavily weighed toward material covered in the second half of the course and ask you to include some of the research you have done for your research topic. This exam will also be take-home.

Short Homeworks (10%)

There will be several short assignments throughout the semester that will vary from 10-20 points. This will include things like making a short script for a skit as a group about the dramatics of Maya political life. Another will ask you to produce a short annotated bibliography of legitimate sources for your research projects.

Short Research Papers (20% each)

A short research paper (3-4 double-spaced pages) will focus on an aspect of a cultural institution you choose to investigate. A list of these institutions will be provided in the first week of class and you will be able to sign up. I will also provided you with some bibliographic resources to get you started and we will have a library day for research. You will provide me with an annotated bibliography so that I may be sure that you are on the right track.

Papers must be double-spaced and typed. Information sources (as well as direct quotes) must be acknowledged by citations in the text using typical anthropology citation conventions, as exemplified in your textbook and other readings. A list of references cited (not a general bibliography) must be also be supplied. You can also use the Society for American Archaeology style guide for help with citation: **http://www.saa.org/publications/StyleGuide/styFrame.html (http://www.saa.org/publications/StyleGuide/styFrame.html)** . The paper will focus on how to make an artifact that would have been used within your chosen cultural institution.

Participation and Attendance (10%)

Participation and attendance are required, and will count as 10% of the final grade. Lectures will provide an integrated, up-to-date view of the Maya and much of this material will not be found in the readings. Many classes will include discussion of specific issues, and everyone should participate. If you miss a class you may summarize the readings for that day in 1-2 pages which would be due in person or via email one week after the missed class. If there was an in class activity for that day you will be asked to

complete it on your own. Your academic activity quiz will form 0.5% of this grade (it is just an easy syllabus quiz!).

Grading Scale (%)		
94-100		A
90-93		A-
87-89		B+
84-86		B
80-83		B-
77-79		C+
74-76		C
70-73		C-
67-69		D+
64-66		D
60-63		D-
0 - 59		F

Grade Dissemination

Graded tests in this course will be returned individually and then passed back by the professor via Webcouses and speedgrader. You can access your scores for any assignment at any time using the gradebook function in Webcourses. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. Please remember that final Grades are FINAL! Do not come to me to ask for a change of grade after the semester is over unless you think an error has been made.

Course Policies: Grades

Late Work Policy: There are no make-ups for exams, debates, or writing assignments. Writing assignments turned in late will be assessed a penalty: a half-letter grade if it is less than one day late, or a full-letter grade for each following day.

Extra Credit Policy: Extra Credit may be offered if averages on the exams are very low (which will probably not happen). This credit will be offered to the entire class and points given on the exam only for completed assignments.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Please email me with any questions, **brigitte.kovacevich@ucf.edu (mailto:brigitte.kovacevich@ucf.edu)** . I will usually respond promptly, but please be aware that it may be up to 48 hours until you get a response, especially if it is a weekend and I am out of town or at a conference. My hours are generally from about 8 AM to 9 PM, please note, I will never be checking in the middle of the night!

Webcourses: All course materials are available on Webcoures on the home page, syllabus, additional readings, handouts, power points, study guides, etc. You will find your Academic Activity Quiz for the first week on the home page as well.

Laptop Usage: Laptops or tablets are allowed for taking notes, although I encourage you to take notes the old-fashioned way. We will occasionally do research in class and a laptop or tablet or phone would be handy, but not required.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who

need accommodations must be registered with Student Accommodation Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required and will be graded. Lectures will provide an integrated, up-to-date view of these civilizations and much of this material will not be found in the readings. Attendance will be taken via a sign-in sheet in class, and do not have other students sign in for you as this will count as violation of the UCF Golden Rule. You can make up for your absence by summarizing the readings for that day in a 1-2 page written format deliverable in person or via email by one week after the absence.

Professionalism Policy: Please silence all devices during class and refrain from looking at material that is distracting to you or others. Please do not come to class late as it disrupts others ability to learn. Please be respectful of others during discussions and debates (online or in class).

Academic Conduct Policy: Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course or a Z grade. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University

Turinitin.com: In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit all written assignments through Webcourses and they will automatically be run through turnitin software. To find out more, you can visit

http://www.turnitin.com **(http://www.turnitin.com)** .

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

Religious Observances: Please notify me in the first week of class if you intend to miss class to observe a holy day of your religious faith.

Course Schedule (Tentative! Subject to change!)

Date	Topic	Textbook Readings
WEEK 1		
Aug 21	Course Overview	
Aug 23	Geography and Environment	Ch. 1
Aug 24	**Academic Activity Quiz due 11:59 PM in Webcourses!**	
WEEK 2		
Aug 28	History of Maya Studies	Introduction
Aug 30	Cultural Evolution and Maya Civilization?	Ch. 2
WEEK 3		
Sept 4	Maya Ideology and Religion	Ch. 13
Sept 6	Film: Popol Vuh	
	Readings: Freidel and Schele 1992: Chapter 2, Gonlin 2007	
WEEK 4		
Sept 11	Calendrics, Astronomy, & Epigraphy	Ch. 3
	In-Class Activity: Write your name in hieroglyphs	
	Sign up for your research topics by 11:59 in Webcourses!	
Sept 13	Film: Cracking the Maya Code	
	Homework: UCF Campus Monuments due 11:59 on Webcourses!	
WEEK 5		
Sept 18	Nomadism to Sedentism in the Early Preclassic	Ch. 4
	AR: Meltzer 1993, AR: Clark and Blake 1994	
	In Class Activity- Building and Resisting Social Inequality	

Sept 20 Olmec “Mother Culture?”

AR: Lesure 2004

WEEK 6

Sept 25 Library Day

Homework: Annotated Bibliography by 11:59 in Webcourses!

Sept 27 Middle Preclassic Highlands and Lowlands Ch. 5

WEEK 7

Oct 2 Late Preclassic Maya States Ch. 6

AR: Hansen 2001, Saturno et al. 2006

Oct 4 Film: Dawn of the Maya

Paper #1 DUE by 11:59 PM in Webcourses!

WEEK 8

Oct 9 The Early Classic & Foreign Influence Ch. 7

AR: Stuart 2000, Braswell 2003: Chapter 1

Take-home exam questions distributed

Oct 11 Teotihuacan

AR: Sugiyama 2000

WEEK 9

Oct 16 Class cancelled, Orlando Museum of Art Visit

Saturday October 20th, time-TBA

Activity: Describe an artifact

Mid-Term Exam Take Home DUE 11:59 PM in Webcourses!

Oct 18 Classic Maya Economic Systems Ch.11

AR: Wells 2006, Masson 2000

WEEK 10

Oct 23 The Rise and Fall of Classic Maya Dynasties Ch. 8

Martin and Grube 1995, Marcus 1973

Homework: OMA artifact descriptions due 11:59 in Webcourses!

Oct 25 In-Class activity-As the Maya World Turns

WEEK 11

Oct 30 In-Class activity-As the Maya World Turns-Continued

Homework: Scripts due at 11:59 in Webcourses!

Nov 1 Class Cancelled-Football game!!!

WEEK 12

Nov 6 Classic Maya Gender Relations

AR: Joyce 2001, Hewitt 1999

Nov 8 Household Archaeology and the Maya Ch. 12

AR: Webster et al. 1997

WEEK 13

Nov 13 The Maya Collapse Ch. 9 499-513

AR: Lucero 2002, Webster 2000, Hendon 2004

In-Class Activity-Mysteries of Modern Collapse

Nov 15 Terminal Classic Northern Lowlands Ch. 9 513-585

WEEK 14

Nov 20 Postclassic Developments Ch.10/Epilogue

Nov 22 Thanksgiving! No Class, Gobble Gobble

WEEK 15

Nov 27 The Legacy and Lessons of Classic Maya Civilization Assessing Media Images of the Maya, Film Clip: Apocalypto

AR: Magnoni et al. 2004

Final Exam Topics Distributed

Nov 29 Playing Patolli and the Ballgame-Maya games and gambling

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE: Thursday December 6th at 11:59 PM in Webcourses!

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Aug 24, 2018	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5726335)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 11, 2018	Sign-up for Research Topics (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1587307&include_contexts=course_1300734)	12am
Thu Sep 13, 2018	Problematizing Monument Texts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5726345)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 25, 2018	Annotated Bibliography (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5726337)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 4, 2018	Short Research Paper 1-How to Make a Maya Artifact (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5726351)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 16, 2018	Class Cancelled-for Museum Field Trip (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1587313&include_contexts=course_1300734)	4:30pm to 5:45pm
	Midterm Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5726341)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Oct 20, 2018	Orlando Museum of Art Visit (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1587315&include_contexts=course_1300734)	12pm to 1pm
Tue Oct 23, 2018	Museum Field Trip Assigment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5726343)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Tue Oct 30, 2018	**As the Maya World Turns** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5726339)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 15, 2018	**Short Research Paper 2-Symbolic Meanings** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5750515)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Dec 6, 2018	**Take-Home Final Exam** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5726353)	due by 11:59pm
	Roll Call Attendance (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1300734/assignments/5726349)	