Ancient Civilizations of Latin America
Anthropology 214-201 (Online)
Summer (June 26 – July 22), 2017

Professor: Jason Sherman
Office: Sabin 275A (inside Archaeology Lab, Rm. 275)
Office hours: Mon 1:00-3:00, or by appointment
E-mail: shermanr@uwm.edu

Contact Information:
You may contact me at any time by sending me an email. I will be checking my email frequently and will do
my best to respond to you as quickly as possible. Please keep in mind that if you send a message in the
evening (after 5:00 pm) I may not get back to you until the following day. Likewise, it may take me longer
to respond if you contact me on a weekend.

IMPORTANT: Any time you send me an email, please write “Anthro 214 Online” on the subject line,
otherwise I may miss your message. Also, please always sign off with your first and last name so I know
who you are.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a comparative archaeological overview of various civilizations that flourished in Latin
America prior to the arrival of Spanish conquistadors in the early 16th century. The first half of the course
will focus on three societies in Mesoamerica (southern Mexico and northern Central America): the Classic
Maya of the tropical lowlands, the central Mexican metropolis of Teotihuacan, and the Aztec empire, which
stretched from the Pacific coast to the Gulf of Mexico. In the second half of the course, we will consider
two South American civilizations--the Moche state of the Peruvian coast, and the Inca, who built the largest
indigenous empire in the Americas--as well as complex “chiefly” societies in the Caribbean such as the
Taino. You will learn how archaeologists and other scholars reconstruct various facets of these (and
related) indigenous cultures of Latin America, including the foods they ate; the goods they produced and
how they exchanged them; their families, kin groups, and social classes; how they created, used, and
thought about rural and urban landscapes; how and why they conducted warfare; their religious beliefs and
practices; and their art, architecture, and writing/record-keeping systems. We will conclude the course by
briefly discussing the Spanish conquest and the continuing importance of the native past in modern Latin
America.

This course is completely online. To complete it successfully you will need access to a computer and
internet connection sufficient to log on to the class D2L site, download PowerPoint presentations and pdf
documents, participate in D2L discussion forums, take online quizzes, and dropbox your final project.
For technical help contact the UWM Help Desk: (414) 229-4040; help@uwm.edu; GetTechHelp.uwm.edu

Course Objectives & student learning outcomes:

This class is designed to help you build:
● intercultural knowledge and competence
● critical and creative thinking skills
● effective communication skills
After completing this course, you should:

- be familiar with the basic social, economic, political, and religious structures of the Maya, Teotihuacano, Aztec, Moche, Inca, and Taino societies;
- have a greater understanding of how archaeologists use various kinds of data (e.g., archaeological, ethnohistoric, epigraphic, iconographic) to reconstruct the histories and cultures of past Latin American societies;
- understand how and why pre-Hispanic civilizations continue to be important in modern Latin America.

Time investment:

This is a 3-credit course taught in an intensive 4-week format. We will be covering a lot of material quickly and your learning will be largely self-directed, so time management is very important. Each week you will be asked to do some reading, view PowerPoint presentations and lecture notes, take 2 short quizzes, and post to a discussion forum. You will also be working on a final project due at the end of the 4-week session. To do all of this well and really get the most out of the course, you will need to devote a considerable amount of time to it each and every week. In a normal 16-week course, I usually tell students that they should expect to spend approximately 9 hours per week (a total of 144 hours during the semester) on course work. Since we will be covering the same amount of material during the 4-week summer session, your learning experience will be much more intensive and you will need to spend considerably more time—perhaps as much as 30 hours—each week completing the required work. Of course, this is only an estimate; the exact amount of time you will need to spend on the class may be different. The main point is that you should not underestimate the amount of time you will need to devote to this course if you wish to do well in it.

Readings:

All required readings for the course will be posted on the D2L web site (as pdf documents). The schedule of readings and full citations are provided below.

Course structure:

This course consists of four weekly blocks. Each block will open on Monday morning at 6:00 am and close the following Sunday night at 11:59 pm (except the last week of the course, which will end on Saturday, July 22).

Each weekly block will consist of 2 modules. For each module you will be asked to:

- do some reading,
- view a PowerPoint slideshow and read a document (PowerPoint Notes) written to accompany the slide presentation, and
- take a short quiz (you will be given a study guide to help you prepare).

In addition, each week you will be asked to post to a discussion forum related to the material covered in that week’s modules at least twice. The quizzes and discussion forums are discussed in more detail below, as is the final project that you are required to complete by the end of the course (see Course Requirements & Grades section).
**Time management:** I think an “ideal” way to manage your time in this intensive 4-week class would be to spend the first four or five days of each week (Mon through Thurs/Fri) working through the two modules, one at a time. For example, on Monday and Tuesday you could tackle the first module, doing the assigned reading, looking through the PowerPoint slides/notes, using the study guide to check your understanding of key issues, and then taking the relevant quiz. On Wednesday and Thursday you could do the same for the second module. By Thursday you would do your initial posting in the discussion forum. Then, on Friday and/or the weekend, you could read your classmates’ discussion forum postings, post your response, and work on your final project (there will be weekly deadlines for various aspects of the project). Following a schedule like this would make the class less stressful and more enjoyable, and likely have a positive impact on your final grade. Of course, you may want or need to manage your time differently. Just pay attention to the weekly deadlines (which are fixed) and do **not** leave all of your work until the end of each week!

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Regardless of how you decide to manage your time, you should begin each weekly block by reading the **Instructor Notes** posted for that week. In this document I will list the assigned readings and other tasks to be completed during that week. I will also introduce the topic(s) we will be covering, and provide background or any additional information to help guide you through that week’s material.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADES**

**Module quizzes (80 points total; 40% of final grade):**

For each module you will be required to take a short quiz on the material presented in the assigned readings and PowerPoint slides/notes. Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice, true-false, and matching questions. You will be given a study guide for each module; the study guides will list important terms and concepts that you should pay particular attention to when doing the reading and looking through the PowerPoint slides/notes. Although you are not required to use these study guides, I strongly encourage you to do so. Print a hardcopy of each study guide and write out the meaning and significance of the terms, concepts, sites, and names listed on it. When taking the quizzes, you may refer to any of the course materials that you like—the study guides, assigned readings, PowerPoint slides/notes, etc. Keep in mind, however, that you will have a limited amount of time (10 minutes) to complete each quiz. So it is still important that you do some studying and quiz-preparation ahead of time.

There will be a total of 8 quizzes (one for each of the 8 modules), and each quiz will be worth 10 points. Since each weekly block will consist of 2 modules, you will be taking 2 quizzes per week. You may take the quizzes any time during the week, but you MUST complete them before the week ends and access closes. Remember that it will be much less stressful—and you are more likely to do well—if you spread the quizzes out during the week, rather than waiting until the very end of the week to take both (see advice about time management above). Also, keep in mind that once you start a quiz, you have only **10 minutes** to complete it. **IMPORTANT:** Make sure you **save** each and every answer as you go. Once the 10 minutes are up, you will not be able to save any more answers. If you do not save anything before the 10 minutes are up, you will receive no credit. Detailed instructions on how to take quizzes are available in the “Course Documents” section under the Content tab of the course’s D2L page.

**Discussion forum participation (40 points total; 20% of final grade):**
Each week you will be asked to participate in a discussion forum relating to a topic (or topics) covered in that week’s modules. Forums provide an opportunity for members of the class to interact with and learn from each other based on the readings or PowerPoint slides/notes, different life experiences, and unique perspectives gained from course materials. At the beginning of each week I will post detailed instructions for that week’s discussion forum (number and type of postings, required length, etc.). You will generally be asked to post an initial response to the discussion topic by Thursday night (you may lose points for late submissions) as well as a secondary response to other students’ initial postings before the weekly block closes on Sunday night (except for the last week of the course, which ends on a Saturday). Your participation in the discussion forums will be worth a total of 40 points (10 points each week).

Your discussion postings will be evaluated according to--and your weekly discussion scores based on--the following criteria:

- Timeliness (posting by deadlines)
- Following directions (as specified in each week’s discussion guidelines)
- Appropriate length (minimum word counts will be specified each week)
- Originality (you should not blatantly copy ideas already posted by your classmates)
- Your postings should demonstrate that you have read and thought critically about the course material presented that week.

Detailed instructions on how to post to discussion forums are available in the “Course Documents” section under the Content tab of the course’s D2L page.

Final project (80 points; 40% of final grade):

You will also be asked to complete a final project demonstrating your ability to compare and synthesize data, and to think critically about the nature of ancient Latin American cultures. You will choose two of the civilizations covered in the class— including one Mesoamerican society (Maya, Teotihuacan, or Aztecs) and one South American society (Moche or Inca)—and compare them by addressing one of the synthetic questions introduced at the beginning of the course. In doing this, you will be required to incorporate information from (and cite) some of the assigned readings and PowerPoint notes; although you may decide to include information from additional cited sources, this will not be required. You can also choose the format for your project: either a formal written paper at least 5-6 pages in length (double-spaced, not including figures or bibliography) or a PowerPoint presentation (minimum 9 slides) that incorporates both text and figures.

The final project will be due on the last day of the course (July 22), although you will be working on various aspects of it throughout the entire 4-week session. The project will consist of several tasks, each with its own deadline and point value:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline #1 (Sun, 7/9)</th>
<th>Submit partial draft (minimum 3 pages or 4 slides) including topic/question and analysis of one Mesoamerican society.</th>
<th>20 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline #2 (Sun, 7/16)</td>
<td>Submit longer draft (minimum 4 pages or 7 slides) adding analysis of one South American society.</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline #3</td>
<td>Submit final draft (minimum 5-6 pages or 9 slides) adding</td>
<td>40 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The content for each deadline will be evaluated for effectiveness of communication, analysis of sociocultural factors, critical evaluation of connections among factors and contrasts between cultures, and citation to appropriate archaeological evidence. More detailed instructions for the final project are provided in a separate document (*Final Project Guidelines*) posted under “Course Documents” on D2L.

**Point distribution:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module quizzes (10 points each)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion forum participation (10 points each week)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade scale:**

Your final grade will be based on the percentage of total possible points that you earn throughout the semester. Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Extra credit:**

There will be several opportunities to earn extra credit in this course. These opportunities will be made available to all students in the class. Individual students will not be allowed to redo assignments or to complete extra work in order to make up for missed assignments or a poor grade unless similar opportunities are offered to the entire class.

**NOTE:** You may earn a **maximum of 10 points** by completing extra credit “assignments.”
GENERAL POLICIES

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. No exceptions. The following web page provides more information about your rights and responsibilities as a student: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf. Also, please contact me as soon as possible if you require any special accommodations in order to complete the requirements for this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I will let you know in advance if any changes to the following schedule of topics and reading assignments need to be made.

WEEK 1 (Monday 6/26 – Sunday 7/2)

Module 1: The comparative study of ancient civilizations
Reading: Scarre & Fagan 2016, Chapter 1 (pp. 3-22)

Module 2: The Lowland Maya
Reading: Scarre & Fagan 2016, Chapter 15 (pp. 373-407)

Deadlines for Week 1:
- Thursday, 6/29 (11:59 pm): - 1st discussion forum posting
- Sunday, 7/2 (11:59 pm): - Quizzes 1 & 2
  - 2nd discussion forum posting

WEEK 2 (Monday 7/3 – Sunday 7/9)

Module 3: Teotihuacan
Reading: Scarre & Fagan 2016, Chapter 16 (pp. 408-417)

Module 4: The Aztec Empire
Reading: Scarre & Fagan 2016, Chapter 16 (pp. 418-430)

Deadlines for Week 2:
- Thursday, 7/6 (11:59 pm): - 1st discussion forum posting
- Sunday, 7/9 (11:59 pm): - Quizzes 3 & 4
  - 2nd discussion forum posting
  - Final project deadline #1 (submit to dropbox)

WEEK 3 (Monday 7/10 – Sunday 7/16)

Module 5: Moche - the first Andean state?
Reading: Scarre & Fagan 2016, Chapter 18 (pp. 455-464)

Module 6: The Inca Empire
Reading: Moseley 2001, Chapters 1 and 3 (pp.7-10; 51-59; 65-85)

Deadlines for Week 3:
● Thursday, 7/13 (11:59 pm): - 1st discussion forum posting
● Sunday, 7/16 (11:59 pm): - Quizzes 5 & 6
  - 2nd discussion forum posting
  - Final project deadline #2 (submit to dropbox)

WEEK 4 (Monday 7/17 – Saturday 7/22)

Module 7: Puerto Rico/Caribbean - a look at chiefly societies
Reading: Keegan 2013, Chapter 5 (pp.70-83)

Module 8: The Spanish Conquest & the pre-Hispanic legacy in Latin America
Reading: Smith 2012, Chapter 13 (pp. 278-304); Moore 2014, Chapter 12 (pp.470-495)

Deadlines for Week 4:
● Thursday, 7/20 (11:59 pm): - 1st discussion forum posting
● Saturday, 7/22 (11:59 pm): - Quizzes 7 & 8
  - 2nd discussion forum posting
  - FINAL PROJECT DUE!!! (submit to dropbox)

Required readings:

Keegan, William

Moore, Jerry D.

Moseley, Michael
2001 The Inca and their Ancestors. Thames and Hudson, London. [Chapters 1 and 3]

Scarre, Christopher, and Brian M. Fagan
2016 Ancient Civilizations (4th ed.). Routledge, New York. [Chapters 1, 15, 16, 18]

Smith, Michael E.