

ANT 310L/LAS 315: Aztecs and Spaniards

Spring 2015

Unique nos.: 30590, 39582

Classroom: UTC 3.104

Hours: T, Th 12:30-2:00

Instructor: Enrique Rodríguez

Office: SAC 4.144

Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00-3:00

Email: see email instructions below

The Aztec and the Spanish empires have attracted the attention of scholars and the public for a long time with stories of gold, human sacrifice, warfare, and the meeting of two different civilizations. In this class we will study both empires, taking advantage of the varied lines of evidence available for their study, especially historical and archaeological evidence, as well as monuments and works of art. The focus of the class will be on how imperial expansion affected the daily life of people in the Aztec empire and after the Spanish conquest. In addition to studying the daily life of different people in these empires, we will examine some of the themes that have fascinated both scholars and the general public, including human sacrifice, conquest warfare, and religion. The goal of the class is to examine social and cultural heterogeneity in both of these empires, to familiarize students with the diverse lines of evidence we have to study these empires, and to understand processes of historical change among the Aztecs and the Spanish empire.

Prior experience in archaeology is not required to join the class.

Students with disabilities: Any student with disabilities should talk to me as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements that will make for a better learning experience and that will allow the student to show his or her abilities fully. Any request for accommodations must be made at least two weeks prior to the first exam. No last-minute requests will be honored.

Other classroom rules:

- A. NO cellphones, laptops, newspapers, or calculators in class or during exams.
- B. You may not record lectures or take photographs during lecture. Recording of any of my lectures will be considered academic dishonesty and result in academic penalties for the students involved. I do not post lecture notes on the internet.
- C. Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University rules.

Grading: Successful completion of this course will require learning from readings, lectures, Power Point presentations, in-class exercises, and film. Topics covered in the readings and in the classroom will, at times, be entirely different.

I will not post grades on the internet or give them to students over the phone or via email.

Instructions for written exercises will be given in class. Written exercises are due at the beginning of class. Once the lecture begins, responses will be late.

Students may discuss their exams with me individually. Students who request that I re-grade their exams, must present their request in writing. If I agree to re-grade their exam, students should be aware that their grade might suffer if I find errors that I did not find on my first grading. Therefore, students are advised to make sure they have specific reasons why their grade should improve before they challenge their grade.

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

1.:	Written exercises:	20%
2.:	Exam 1:	25%
3.:	Exam 2:	25%
4.:	Exam 3:	30%

1. Written exercises: There will be a total of 9 short written exercises (between half a page and one page long) during the semester. I will drop your lowest two scores and keep your 7 highest scores when I calculate your grade in those exercises. I will provide more information on these exercises in class.

2. Exams: There will be three exams in the semester. Exam three is NOT comprehensive.

Final grades in the class will use the + and – system (A, A-, B+, B, etc.).

Email rules:

1. Email if you have a medical emergency that will prevent you from making it to an exam. *No need to email if you will miss class.*
2. Email me if you need to see me in office hours but you have a time conflict with a class. Otherwise, you may just show up during office hours.
3. Email if I ask you to email me.
4. Do not email to continue class discussion; please use office hours. Also, if you have a question about the material, please bring it up in class. Other students might benefit from it.
5. Do not use email to turn in assignments or to send attachments unless I specifically ask you to do so.
6. My email is: chanfle@austin.utexas.edu. Before you click “send”, make sure that your email complies with rules 1-5 above. Click “send”.

Textbooks and other readings:

Both textbooks are available at the University COOP, and both are required readings.

1. Berdan, Frances F. 2014 *Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory*. Cambridge University Press. (It appears as “Berdan” in the class schedule below.)
2. Restall, Matthew 2003 *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*. Oxford. (It appears as “Restall” in the class schedule below.)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Please complete the reading for each week by Tuesday of that week.

Week 1 (January 20, 22): Welcome to the Aztec World

Read: Berdan, Chapter 1.

Week 2 (January 27, 29): Predecessors: Teotihuacan and Tula

Read: Berdan, Chapter 2.

Read: Healan, Dan M. and Robert H. Cobean 2012 Tula and the Toltecs. In *The Oxford Handbook of Mesoamerican Archaeology*. Edited by Deborah L. Nichols and Christopher A. Pool, pp. 372-384. Oxford.

Read: Sugiyama, Saburo 2012 Ideology, Polity, and Social History of the Teotihuacan State. In *The Oxford Handbook of Mesoamerican Archaeology*. Edited by Deborah L. Nichols and Christopher A. Pool, pp. 215-229. Oxford.

Week 3 (February 3, 5): Land and life

Written exercise 1 due Feb. 3: Otomis and their reputation

Read: Berdan, Chapter 3.

Week 4 (February 10, 12): Production and trade

Written exercise 2 due Feb. 10: Smart questions.

Read: Berdan, Chapter 4.

Week 5 (February 17, 19): History and political life, part 1.

*****Exam 1, Thursday the 19th*** No readings for this week. Focus on the exam.**

Week 6 (February 24, 26): History and political life, part 2.

Written exercise 3 due Feb. 24: Pray for Rain

Read: Berdan, Chapter 5.

Week 7 (March 3, 5): Daily life and gender

Written exercise 4 due March 3: Women in Archaeology.

Read: Berdan, Chapter 6.

Week 8 (March 10, 12): Religion and sacrifice.

Written exercise 5 due March 10: Flowers for a hummingbird.

Read: Berdan, Chapter 7.

SPRING BREAK: March 17, 19. Have a safe fun Spring Break.

Week 9 (March 24, 26): Tenochtitlan and the Templo Mayor

Written exercise 6 due March 26 (Thursday): Even smarter questions.

Read: Sanders, William T. 2008 Tenochtitla in 1519: A Pre-Industrial Megalopolis. In *The Aztec World*, edited by Elizabeth M. Brumfiel and Gary M. Feinman, pp. 67-86. Abrams.

Week 10 (March 31, April 2): The Conquest, part 1.

*****Exam 2, Thursday, April 2.*****

No readings for this week. Focus on the exam.

Week 11 (April 7, 9): The Conquest, part 2.

Read: Restall, Chapters 1, and 3

Week 12 (April 14, 16): Daily life: issues of change and continuity

Written exercise 7: Response to Restall's chapter.

Read: Restall, Chapter 4

Week 13 (April 21, 23): Castas and class in colonial Mexico

Written exercise 8: Response to Restall's chapter.

Read: Restall, Chapter 5

Week 14 (April 28, 30): Religious conversion

Written exercise 9: Smartest questions ever.

Read: Restall, Chapter 6

Week 15 (May 5, 7): The Aztecs today

*****Exam 3, Thursday, May 7.*****