

ANT 310L/LAS 315. Aztecs and Spaniards

Spring 2016

Unique nos.: 30315, 39605

Classroom: UTC 3.122

Hours: T, Th 12:30–2:00

Instructor: Enrique Rodríguez

Office: SAC 4.144

Office hours: Wednesdays 2:00–
3:30 or by appointment

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 in these two empires.

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

Global Cultures flag: This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

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.

Some 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 post assignment grades on Canvas, but I will not report or discuss grades with students over the phone or via email. Please talk to me in person to discuss grades. This helps ensure that our conversation will remain private.

Instructions for written exercises will be given in class. Written exercises are due at the beginning of class.

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 8 short written exercises (between half a page and one page long) during the semester. I will drop your lowest two scores and keep your 6 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 3 is NOT comprehensive. It will take place the last day of class.

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*, unless you miss more than two weeks.
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 19, 21): Welcome to the Aztec World

Read: Berdan, Chapter 1.

Week 2 (January 26, 28): Predecessors: Teotihuacan and Tula

Read: Berdan, Chapter 2.

Week 3 (February 2, 4): Land and life

Written exercise 1 due Feb. 2: Otomis and their reputation

Read: Berdan, Chapter 3.

Week 4 (February 9, 11): Production and trade

Written exercise 2 due Feb. 9: Pray for rain.

Read: Berdan, Chapter 4.

Week 5 (February 16, 18): History and political life, part 1.

Exam 1, Thursday the 18^h No readings for this week. Focus on the exam.

Week 6 (February 23, 25): History and political life, part 2.

Read: Berdan, Chapter 5.

Week 7 (March 1, 3): Daily life and gender

Written exercise 3 due March 3: Women in Archaeology.

Read: Berdan, Chapter 6.

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

Written exercise 4 due March 8: Flowers for a hummingbird.

Read: Berdan, Chapter 7.

SPRING BREAK. March 14–18. Have a safe wild and fun Spring Break.

Week 9 (March 22, 24): Tenochtitlan and the Templo Mayor

Written exercise 5 due March 26 (Thursday): Smart questions.

Read: Sanders, William T. 2008 Tenochtitlan 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 29, 31): The Conquest, part 1.

Exam 2, Thursday, April 2.

No readings for this week. Focus on the exam.

Week 11 (April 5, 7). The Conquest, part 2.

Read: Restall, Chapters 1, and 3

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

Written exercise 6: Response to Restall's chapter.

Read: Restall, Chapter 4

Week 13 (April 19, 21). Castas and class in colonial Mexico

Written exercise 7: Response to Restall's chapter.

Read: Restall, Chapter 5

Week 14 (April 26, 28). Religious conversion

Written exercise 8: Smartest questions ever.

Read: Restall, Chapter 6

Week 15 (May 3, 5). The Aztecs today

Exam 3, Thursday, May 5. The exam is not a final exam. It will only cover the third part of the semester, or all the material after exam 2.