

## **ANT 310L/LAS 315. Aztecs and Spaniards**

Spring 2019

Unique numbers: 31615, 39530

MWF 10:00-11:00

Classroom: SAC 4.174

Instructor: Enrique Rodríguez

Office: SAC 4.144

Office hours: Mondays and Fridays 11:00 to 12:00 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, although I often post the images I use in class.
- 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 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 may include questions from previous exams only if I announce so.

**Grading Scale.**

93.5 to 100 = A; 89.5 to 93.4 = A-; 86.5 to 89.4 = B+; 83.5 to 86.4 = B; 79.5 to 83.4 = B-; 76.5 to 79.4 = C+; 73.5 to 76.4 = C; 69.5 to 73.4 = C-; 66.5 to 69.4 = D+; 63.5 to 66.4 = D; 59.5 to 63.4 = D-; 59.0 and below = F.

**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](mailto: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.) Also available in the Reserves desk at the PCL.
2. Restall, Matthew 2003 *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*. Oxford. (It appears as "Restall" in the class schedule below.) Also available as an electronic resource at the UT library.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

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

**Week 1 (January 23, 25): Welcome to the Aztec World**

Read: Berdan, Chapter 1, pp. 3-25.

**Week 2 (January 28, 30, February 1st): Predecessors: Teotihuacan and Tula**

Read: Berdan, Chapter 2.

**Week 3 (February 4, 6, 8): Land and life**

Written exercise 1 due February 4: Ethnic groups and their reputation

Read: Berdan, Chapter 3.

**Week 4 (February 11, 13, 15): Production and trade**

Written exercise 2 due February 11: Huey Tozoztli

Read: Berdan, Chapter 4, pp. 113–134.

**Week 5 (February 18, 20, 22): History and political life, part 1.**

\*\*\*Exam 1, Friday the 22nd\*\*\* No readings for this week. Focus on the exam.

**Week 6 (February 25, 27, March 1st): History and political life, part 2.**

Read: Berdan, Chapter 5.

**Week 7 (March 4, 6, 8): Daily life and gender**

Written exercise 3 due March 4: Women in Archaeology.

Read: Berdan, Chapter 6.

**Week 8 (March 11, 13, 15): Religion and sacrifice.**

Written exercise 4 due March 11: Feasts for elites and commoners.

Read: Berdan, Chapter 7, pp. 215–251.

**SPRING BREAK: March 18–22. Have a safe wild and fun Spring Break.**

**Week 9 (March 25, 27, 29): Tenochtitlan and the Templo Mayor**

Written exercise 5 due March 29 (Friday): 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. Posted on Canvas for your Technicolor pleasure.

**Week 10 (April 1, 3, 5): The Conquest, part 1.**

**\*\*\*Exam 2, Friday, April 5. It will cover all material between Feb. 25 and April 3.\*\*\***

No readings for this week. Focus on the exam.

**Week 11 (April 8, 10, 12): The Conquest, part 2.**

Read: Restall, Chapter 1.

**Week 12 (April 15, 17, 19): Daily life: issues of change and continuity**

Written exercise 6: Response to Restall's chapter, due April 15.

Read: Restall, Chapter 3.

**Week 13 (April 22, 24, 26): Castas and class in colonial Mexico**

Written exercise 7: Response to Restall's chapter, due April 22.

Read: Restall, Chapter 4.

**Week 14 (April 29, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 3rd): Religious conversion**

Written exercise 8: Even smarter questions, due May 3rd.

Read: Restall, Chapter 6.

**Week 15 (May 6, 8, 10): The Aztecs today**

Read: Sandstrom, Alan R. 2017 The Aztecs and Their Descendants in the Contemporary World. In *The Oxford Handbook of the Aztecs*. Edited by Deborah L. Nichols and E. Rodríguez-Alegria, pp. 707-720. Oxford. Posted on Canvas.

**\*\*\*Exam 3 will take place during finals week. It is scheduled for Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-5:00.\*\*\*** The exam is not a final exam. It will only cover the third part of the semester, or all the material after exam 2. **IMPORTANT:** the final exam will be on finals week for all students, including graduating seniors. Plan accordingly. Stay in town. No exceptions.