

# ANTH R113: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS OF THE AMERICAS

**Originator**  
amelidonis

**College**

Oxnard College

**Discipline (CB01A)**

ANTH - Anthropology

**Course Number (CB01B)**

R113

**Course Title (CB02)**

Ancient Civilizations of the Americas

**Banner/Short Title**

Ancient Civ of the Americas

**Credit Type**

Credit

**Start Term**

Fall 2021

**Catalog Course Description**

This course introduces students to the early civilizations of North America, South America, and Mesoamerica. Through archaeological analysis, including the analysis of human remains, artifacts and historical documents, we will explore the origins, development and culture of these societies including the Maya, Aztecs, Inca, Olmecs and Paleo-Indians.

**Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)**

2202.00 - Anthropology

**Course Credit Status (CB04)**

D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

**Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)**

A (Transferable to both UC and CSU)

**Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)**

N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

**SAM Priority Code (CB09)**

E - Non-Occupational

**Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)**

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

**Course Classification Status (CB11)**

Y - Credit Course

**Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)**

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

**Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)**

Y - Not Applicable

**Course Noncredit Category (CB22)**

Y - Credit Course

**Funding Agency Category (CB23)**

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

**Course Program Status (CB24)**

1 - Program Applicable

**General Education Status (CB25)**

Y - Not Applicable

**Support Course Status (CB26)**

N - Course is not a support course

**Field trips**

May be required

**Grading method**

Letter Graded

**Does this course require an instructional materials fee?**

No

**Repeatable for Credit**

No

**Units and Hours**

**Carnegie Unit Override**

No

**In-Class**

**Lecture**

**Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours**

52.5

**Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours**

52.5

**Activity**

**Laboratory**

**Total in-Class**

**Total in-Class**

**Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours**

52.5

**Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours**

52.5

**Outside-of-Class**

**Internship/Cooperative Work Experience**

**Paid**

**Unpaid**

**Total Outside-of-Class**

**Total Outside-of-Class**

**Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours**

105

**Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours**

105

**Total Student Learning**

**Total Student Learning**

**Total Minimum Student Learning Hours**

157.5

**Total Maximum Student Learning Hours**

157.5

**Minimum Units (CB07)**

3

**Maximum Units (CB06)**

3

**Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)**

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Students will apply an anthropological perspective, researching, problem solving, generating new ideas, reading, comprehending, and interpreting various types of published ideas while avoiding ethnocentrism, learning about cultural diversity and paying attention to issues surrounding ethics, power, identity and discrimination.                         |
| 2 | Students will demonstrate and apply the scientific method to critically analyze scholarly sources, ethnographic material, and artifacts and be able to identify and distinguish between early civilizations of the Americas including knowledge of significant sites, social structure, religion, material culture, political organization and cultural changes. |

**Course Objectives**

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Identify and discuss the origins and development of ancient American civilizations utilizing an anthropological perspective.   |
| 2 | Describe and employ the primary methods and theories of archaeological analysis and how they relate to the study of culture and ancient societies.                       |
| 3 | Demonstrate a detailed understanding of a range of early American civilizations, their development, culture, political, economic and religious systems, and time frames. |
| 4 | Analyze artifacts and fieldwork data to produce and understand theories related to the civilizations of the Americas.  |
| 5 | Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry and its application in archaeological research.   |

**Course Content**

**Lecture/Course Content**

1. Introduction
  - a. Origins of AmerIndians
  - b. Major Culture Areas
  - c. Methods of Prehistoric Archeology
  - d. Cultures and Traditions
  - e. Origins of Agriculture

- i. Extraction vs. production
    - ii. Extensification vs. intensification
    - iii. General systems theory
  - f. Models of social organization
- 2. South American Civilizations
  - a. Archaic Phase
  - b. formative
  - c. Early Horizons-Chavin
  - d. Early Intermediate (200 BC - 600 AD)
    - i. Mochica State
    - ii. Nazca
  - e. Middle Period (600 - 900 AD)
    - i. Huari Empire
    - ii. Tiahuanaco
  - f. Late Intermediate
    - i. Chimu
    - ii. Chan-Chan
  - g. Late Horizon
    - i. Inca Empire
    - ii. European contact
  - h. Early Colonial Period
- 3. Mesoamerica
  - a. Major culture areas
    - i. Maya area
      - 1. Maya Highlands
      - 2. Maya Lowlands
      - 3. Southern Periphery
    - ii. Gulf Coast
      - 1. Huasteca
      - 2. Central Veracruz
      - 3. Southern Veracruz - Tabasco
    - iii. Valley of Mexico
    - iv. Oaxaca
  - b. Incipient Cultivation/Food Collecting Period
    - i. Tehuacan Valley Sequence
    - ii. Mesoamerican Domestication
  - c. Preclassic Period (2000 BC - 300 AD)
    - i. Olmec
    - ii. Monte Alban
    - iii. Teotihuacan
    - iv. Early Maya
  - d. Classic Period (300 - 900 AD)
    - i. Maya
    - ii. Teotihuacan
    - iii. Monte Alban
    - iv. Chicimec expansions
  - e. Post-Classic (900 - 1520 AD)
    - i. Toltec
    - ii. Mixtec
    - iii. Mayapan/Chichen Itza
  - f. European Contact Period
    - i. Cortez & conquest
    - ii. Acculturation
- 4. North America
  - a. Eastern & Central Woodland
    - i. Mississippian
    - ii. Adena-Hopewell
    - iii. Cahokia
    - iv. Moundville

- b. Southwest
    - i. Culture areas
    - ii. Paleo-Indian
    - iii. Basketmaker to pueblo sequence
    - iv. Pueblo culture
  - c. Northwest Coast
    - i. Complex Coast
    - ii. Optimal adaptations
    - iii. Potlatch
  - d. Incipient Civilization
5. Synthesis
- a. General Models
    - i. Unilinear evolutionary
    - ii. Multi-linear
    - iii. Diffusion
  - b. Mesoamerican Nuclear Model
    - i. Olmed-Chavin
    - ii. Post-Classic – Moundville
  - c. Trans-Pacific contacts
  - d. Trans-Atlantic contacts
6. Conclusion
- a. Summary
  - b. Preservation
  - c. Scope of Research

### Laboratory or Activity Content

None

### Methods of Evaluation

**Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):**

Written expression

**Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):**

Essay exams

Essays

Group projects

Objective exams

Quizzes

### Instructional Methodology

**Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course**

Audio-visual presentations

Collaborative group work

Class activities

Class discussions

Distance Education

Instructor-guided interpretation and analysis

Lecture

Small group activities

**Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:**

1. The instructor will lead discussions on topics that may include archaeological methods, dating techniques, material culture, the Aztec, the Maya, Cahokia, the ancient Puebloans, the Inca, the Moche, etc.
2. The instructor will utilize lectures, films, and internet materials to explore and critically analyze topics relevant to the understanding and application of the study of new world archaeology.

## Representative Course Assignments

### Writing Assignments

Analytic papers on course readings (short papers).

Research papers on cultures discussed (term paper length).

### Critical Thinking Assignments

1. Participate in class, online and small group discussions regarding the importance of utilizing an anthropological perspective in the study of new world archaeology, on archaeological methods, archaeoastronomy, underwater archaeology, and on a range of ancient cultures including the Aztec, Maya, Mixtec, Zapotec, Inca, Moche, Nasca, Ancient Puebloans, etc.
2. Students will complete short writing assignments reflecting on the course materials such as how the Aztec utilized a mixture of politics, religion, economics, and sports to help maintain their society.

### Reading Assignments

One chapter per week from textbooks like "Ancient Mexico and Central America," by Evans combined with selections from academic articles emphasizing the archaeology or prehistory of the New World.

## Outside Assignments

### Representative Outside Assignments

1. Poster projects to encourage learning curatorship.
2. Maps and survey assignments
3. Film viewing, documented by brief write-ups. Example: Watching a film about the importance of roads in Inca culture and describing how their road system helped them to maintain control.
4. Participating in online discussions related to the course materials for that particular week. Topics may include archaeological methods, dating techniques, material culture, ideology and religion in the ancient new world, monumental architecture, etc.

**District General Education**

- A. Natural Sciences**
- B. Social and Behavioral Sciences**
- C. Humanities**
- D. Language and Rationality**
- E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology**
- F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies**

**CSU GE-Breadth**

- Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking**
- Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning**
- Area C: Arts and Humanities**
- Area D: Social Sciences**
- Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development**

**CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:**

**IGETC**

- Area 1: English Communication**
- Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning**
- Area 3: Arts and Humanities**
- Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences**
- Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences**
- Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)**

**Textbooks and Lab Manuals**

**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**

Snow, D. (2010). *Archaeology of Native North America* (1st). New York Pearson (Latest Edition). 0136156864

**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**

Fagan, B (2019). *Ancient North America* (5th). New York Thames and Hudson. Classic Text. 0500285322

**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**

Evans, S. (2013). *Ancient Mexico and Central America* (3rd). New York (Latest Edition) Thames and Hudson. 0500290652

**Resource Type**

Other Resource Type

**Description**

Scholarly websites and films such as Teotihuacan: City of the Gods, Secrets of the Ancients and [http://www.archaeological.org/..](http://www.archaeological.org/)

**Distance Education Addendum****Definitions****Distance Education Modalities**

Hybrid (51%–99% online)

Hybrid (1%–50% online)

100% online

**Faculty Certifications**

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.

Yes

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.

Yes

**Regular Effective/Substantive Contact****Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality:**

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post on discussion board topics such as the how monumental architecture is utilized to secure power structures.
E-mail	Faculty will communicate with students via email regarding course information and concerns.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may record video lectures on the course content including videos on archaeological methods, dating techniques, specific cultures including the Aztec, Maya, Inca, Ancient Pueblos, Moche, etc.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.

**Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality:**

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post on discussion board topics such as the how monumental architecture is utilized to secure power structures.
E-mail	Faculty will communicate with students via email regarding course information and concerns.
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Video Conferencing Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.

**100% online Modality:**

**Method of Instruction**

**Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction**

Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)

Students will post on discussion board topics such as the how monumental architecture is utilized to secure power structures.

E-mail

Faculty will communicate with students via email regarding course information and concerns.

Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)

Faculty may record video lectures on the course content including videos on archaeological methods, dating techniques, specific cultures including the Aztec, Maya, Inca, Ancient Puebloans, Moche, etc.

Video Conferencing

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**Examinations**

**Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality**

Online  
On campus

**Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality**

Online  
On campus

**Primary Minimum Qualification**

ANTHROPOLOGY

**Review and Approval Dates**

**Department Chair**

09/03/2020

**Dean**

09/03/2020

**Technical Review**

09/23/2020

**Curriculum Committee**

09/23/2020

**Curriculum Committee**

11/25/2020

**CCCCO**

MM/DD/YYYY

**Control Number**

CCC000331956

**DOE/accreditation approval date**

MM/DD/YYYY