UCL Institute of Archaeology
ARCL 0137
Aztec Archaeology: Codices and Ethno-history
Term1, 2018-2019
MA/MSc 15 credits

Turnitin Class ID: 3885557
Turnitin Password: IoA1819
Monday 9-11 in Room 412

Co-ordinator: Dr. Elizabeth Baquedano
e.baquedano@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: 020 7679 7532

First Essay due 7 December
Second Essay due 14 January 2019

Offering at Templo Mayor

Codex Mendoza
### OVERVIEW

| **A brief summary of the course contents** | This course examines the critical boundaries between the historical records, the painted books (codices) and the material culture of archaeology. It focuses on the Spanish Chroniclers of Sixteenth Century Mexico who saw and recorded the dazzling brilliance of Aztec life and culture. The evidence from these two distinctive literary sources will be set against the insight gained by archaeological investigations over the last thirty years – in particular the excavations of the Great Temple of the Aztecs that has done so much to revolutionize our knowledge of that civilization. Moving back and forth between the indigenous painted books and the chronicles of Sixteenth century Mexico and archaeology, the student will be able to synthesize the information in order to understand Aztec culture, where religion, politics and economic concerns overlap in complex ways. The course begins with an overview of the Aztecs from their humble beginnings to Empire builders looking at the Aztec Annals and the archaeological evidence. We then turn to the Spanish Conquest examining the documentary evidence especially the writings of the Conquistadors Hernán Cortés and Bernal Díaz del Castillo as well as the writings of the Catholic friars Bernardino de Sahagún and Diego Durán. |
| **Summary of the method of delivery** | Classes will meet for two-hours a week. Responsibilities for leading discussion of the readings will be rotated among class participants. Students will select a topic of interest from the course content and write an assessed essay on this subject. |
| **Aims of the module** | 1) This course will provide students with different interpretive frameworks to develop their skills in critical evaluation of the archaeological, historical and ethno-historical sources resulting in a deeper understanding of Aztec civilization. Students will be able to learn new skills from the rare combination of three sources of knowledge to interpret the past. |
| **Intended learning outcomes** | 1) Critical analysis of the historical records  2) Have learned how to integrate ideas from a variety of sources. |
|   | 3) A familiarity with case studies which illustrate current issues in Aztec archaeology using ethno-historical sources  
|   | 4) Knowledge of Sixteenth century Aztec codices  
|   | 5) Knowledge of codices produced in the Colonial period |

**OFFICE HOURS**
Mondays 12-1 pm  
Otherwise please e-mail me to arrange for any other day or time
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<tr>
<th>Module Workload</th>
<th>WORK</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution of learning hours</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Private reading</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>Seminars/ problem classes / tutorials</td>
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<td>Laboratory / Studio</td>
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<td>Field work</td>
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<td>Language work</td>
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<td>Required written work (e.g. essays/reports)</td>
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<td>Revision</td>
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<td>188</td>
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Assessment:

2 Essays (4000 words), or 1 Essay (4000 words). An outline and a draft has to be presented in advance, due on 14 January 2019,

First essay 2000 words (50%) due on 7 December 2018,

Second essay 2,000 words (50%) on 14 January 2019

Essay topics will be open, subject to agreement between the student and the Lecturer. The students will have agreed a topic by week four of the class.

2) For each session (3-10) submit a one-paragraph abstract from one of the readings, to be submitted at each session.

TEACHING METHODS

The course is taught through lectures and seminars. Responsibilities for leading discussion of the readings will be rotated among class participants. Students will be expected to have read the weekly recommended readings, and to actively contribute to discussion.
LIBRARIES AND OTHER RESOURCES
In addition to the Library of the Institute of Archaeology, other libraries in UCL with holdings of particular relevance to this degree are: The UCL Science Library (Anthropology, sections). There may also be relevant sources in the Centre for Anthropology at the British Museum. Senate House has a good collection of codices.

SUBMISSION OF COURSEWORK TO ‘TURNITIN’
In addition to submitting your coursework as described above, it is now a requirement that you submit it electronically to the Turnitin system. You will be provided with the necessary code for submitting your work for this course.

Students who fail to submit their coursework to Turnitin will not receive the mark for the work in question until they have done so (although they will receive written feedback in the usual way). The maximum mark for work that has not been submitted to Turnitin prior to the meeting of the Board of Examiners will be a bare pass.

In advance of submitting your coursework for marking you may, if you wish, run your work through the system in order to obtain a report on the originality of the wording and then make any necessary adjustments prior to final submission. Turnitin advisors will be available to help you at specified times if you need help generating or interpreting the reports.

It is important to recognise that the final decision about whether work contains plagiarism rests with academic staff. Consequently, the presence or absence of matches in a Turnitin report does not, by itself, provide a guarantee that the work in question either contains or is free from plagiarism.

Course Code 3885557
Password IoA1819

Course Schedule Outline 2018 Term I. Monday. 9-11 am Room 412

Week 1. 1 Oct. Introduction

Week 2. 8. Oct. Tenochtitlan: The Rise of Aztec Civilization

Week 3. 15 Oct. The Triple Alliance, Nezahualcoyotl King of Texcoco, intellectual, architect and builder.

Week 4. 22 Oct. The Great Temple of the Aztecs: The sacred precinct of Tenochtitlan

Week 5. 29 Oct. Case study: The recent find of Ahuitzotl’s Tomb, Eighth Aztec ruler

READING WEEK (NO TEACHING) 5 Nov-11 Nov

Week 6. 12 Nov. The Commercial Economy: The Tlatelolco Market

Week 7. 19 Nov. Codex Mendoza and Tribute

Week 8. 26 Nov. The New Fire Ceremony: The Hill of the Star, Citlaltepec (10-11 am: visit to the Mexican Gallery at the British Museum)

Week 9. 3 Dec. Case study: Recent discoveries at Zultepec, Cortés and the Spanish Contingent
Week 10.  10 Dec. The Conquest of Mexico 
2. Tenochtitlan: The Rise of Aztec Civilization 
WEEK 2: OCT 8  TENOCHTITLAN: THE RISE OF AZTEC CIVILIZATION

In this session we will first look at the native histories to understand the early Aztec history and the nature of the interaction among city-states. We will aim to discuss War, Trade and Marriage Alliances during the Early Aztec Period.

Readings:


Códice Boturini o Tira de la Peregrinación. In Antiguedades de México basadas en la recopilación de Lord Kingsborough 2:8-29. Commentary by José Corona Nuñez. SHCP, Mexico

3. The Triple Alliance. Nezahualcoyotl King of Texcoco: intellectual architect and builder

WEEK 3: Oct 15

In this session we will see the formation of The Triple Alliance (Tenochtitlan, Texcoco and Tlacopan), this alliance was decisive in forging the Aztec Empire. These polities formed a strong military-economic unity. We will review how the Aztecs (Mexica) rose to power and transformed from a tribe into an Empire.

Readings (select two as required reading)

Alva Ixtlilxóchitl, Fernando de


Hassig, Ross, 2016. Polygamy and the Rise and Demise of the Aztec Empire The University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque


Dibble, Charles E. 1980 *Codex Xolotl*. Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas. UNAM, Mexico


*Prehistoric settlement patterns in the Texcoco region, Mexico*, University of Michigan, Memoirs of the Museum of Anthropology, no.3, Ann Arbor 1971


Mohar Betancourt, Luz María 2004 *Códice Mapa Quinatzin: Justicia y derechos humanos en el México antiguo*. México: Miguel Angel Porrúa

Pomar, Juan Bautista 1975 *Relación de Tezcoco*. Joaquín García Icazbalceta (ed.) Biblioteca Enciclopédica del Estado de México, Mexico.

4. **The Great Temple of the Aztecs: the sacred precinct of Tenochtitlan** WEEK 4: Oct 22
This session studies the most important religious and political centre of the Aztecs. The Great Temple with its twin temples dedicated to Huitzilopochtli, tribal god of the Aztecs and Tlaloc, god of rain. The Great Temple has been thoroughly excavated revealing over 150 offerings that are closely linked to either warfare or agriculture. We will approach the subject reading both the ethno-historical sources as well as the finds from archaeology.

Readings:

López Luján, Leonardo  


2011  
López Austin, Alfredo and Leonardo López Luján  
El sacrificio humano entre los mexicas  
http://www.mesoweb.com/aboutarticles/AM103pdf

Matos Moctezuma, Eduardo (compiler)
1981 El Templo Mayor de Mexico: Crónicas del siglo XVI Asociación Nacional de Libreros, A.C., México

López Austin, A. and López Luján, L.
2009 Monte Sagrado: Templo Mayor
México: UNAM/INAH

Matos Moctezuma, Eduardo
London: Thames and Hudson

Sahagún, Bernardino de

Umberger, Emily

WEEK 5: Oct 29 Case study: The recent find of Ahuitzotl’s Tomb, Eighth Aztec ruler

The systematic excavations of the Great Temple of the Aztecs have provided us with detailed information on many aspects of Aztec life, particularly Aztec ritual. Recently the tomb of the Aztec ruler Ahuitzotl was uncovered. This session will aim at comparing and contrasting the information provided by the Chroniclers of Sixteenth century Mexico as well as the information gathered during the excavation which is on-going.

Readings:
Alvarado Tezozomoc, Fernando de

Baquedano, Elizabeth


Durán, Fray Diego

Durán, Diego
1984 Historia de las Indias de Nueva España e Islas de la Tierra Firme, Angel M. Garibay (ed.) Porrúa: Mexico


López Luján, Leonardo
2010 *Tlaltecuhtli* México: CONACULTA/INAH

Milbrath, Susan

Peñafiel, Antonio

Quiñones Keber, Eloise (ed.)
1995 *Codex Telleriano-Remensis*. Austin: University of Texas Press

Sanders, William T.
6 The Commercial Economy: The Tlatelolco Market

WEEK 6: Nov 12

Tlatelolco was the twin city of Tenochtitlan that became the major commercial city of central Mexico in the fifteenth century. Its market grew into the largest and wealthiest of the Basin of Mexico. In this seminar we will study the descriptions of Bernal Díaz del Castillo and the archaeological excavations - past and present- of the ceremonial precinct.

Readings:

Baquedano, Elizabeth and Ross Hassig. History and the Ahuitzotl Box. Estudios de Cultura Nahuatl 52: 151-168

Berdan, Frances
2014 Craft Specialization, Commerce, and Trade in Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory, Chapter 4, pp. 89-134

Díaz del Castillo, Bernal

Durán, Diego

Solís, Felipe and David Dávalos

Guilliem Arroyo, Salvador
7. Codex Mendoza and Tribute
WEEK 7: Nov. 19

The richest information of Mesoamerican tribute comes from the Aztec empire. The second part of Codex Mendoza deals with tribute listing the provinces, the tribute goods and the quantities to be paid to Tenochtitlan. In this session we will look at the wide range of commodities delivered from conquered provinces both in Codex Mendoza and in the archaeological record. We will pay special attention to Gold and Metals.

Readings:

Baquedano, Elizabeth
This session aims to understand the importance of ritual life in Aztec Mexico. At the end of the cycle of 52 years, the New Fire Ceremony took place to celebrate the renewal of time once the sun began to rise on the first day of a new calendar round. This event took place at the Hill of the Star (Citlaltepec).
We will use the Codex Borbonicus to explain the importance of this ceremony and the archaeological finds from the New Fire ceremony.

**Readings:**


Couch, Christopher

Elson, Christina M., and Michael Smith

Quiñones Keber, Eloise (ed.)
1995 *Codex Telleriano Remensis*. Austin: University of Texas Press

Sahagún, Bernardino de

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**9. Case study: Recent discoveries at Zultepec, Cortés and the Spanish Contingent.**

**WEEK 9: Dec 3**

![Skulls found at Zultepec (photograph Arqueología Mexicana)](image)

The excavations at Zultepec (Tlaxcala) have provided us with a new insight into the Conquest of Mexico. During the excavations several skeletal remains were found, among them, fourteen skulls of Spaniards. The skulls have perforations at the parietals suggesting that they were placed in skull racks. In this session we will read the writings of Cortés comparing and contrasting them with the archaeological finds. The variety of artifacts both European and Aztec throw new light on the Conquest Period.
Readings:

Códice Chimalpopoca: Anales de Cuauhtitlan y Leyenda de los Soles. 1975 [1945]. 2nd ed. Translated and edited by Primo Feliciano Velázquez. UNAM: Mexico

Martínez Vargas, Enrique

Cortés, Hernán

Díaz del Castillo, Bernal

10. The Conquest of Mexico

WEEK 10: Dec 10
El Lienzo de Tlaxcala

This session will make use of the documents of both Mexican and European witnesses of the Conquest. The Lienzo de Tlaxcala is an important book that describes the Conquest as the Tlaxcaltecas lived it. On the other hand, we have several Spanish accounts of the Conquest. This session will aim to use the accounts of both Mexicans and Spanish followed by a discussion by class participants.

Readings:


Castañeda de la Paz María and Michel Oudijk 2012 La Conquista y la Colonia en el Códice Azcatitlan, Journal de la Société des Americanistes, pp. 59-95


De la Torre, Mario (ed) 1983 Lienzo de Tlaxcala. Mexico: Cartón y Papel de México, S.A. de C.V.


Maffie, James 2014 *Aztec Philosophy: Understanding a World in Motion* Boulder: University Press of Colorado

Sahagún, Bernardino de 1950-78 Florentine Codex, General History of the Things of New Spain. Translated by Arthur J. O. Anderson and Charles Dibble, 12 books, Santa Fe, Book 12
Tezozomoc, Hernando Alvarado
1944 *Crónica Mexicana*. Reprinted by Editorial Leyenda, Mexico

Townsend, Camilla
2006 Malintzin's Choices: An Indian Woman in the Conquest of Mexico
Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press

Magaloni, Diana

**Additional Readings**

Aimi, Antonio
2009 *La Verdadera Visión de los Vencidos: La conquista de México en las fuentes aztecas*
Alicante: Publicaciones de la Universidad de Alicante

Bierhorst, John
1985 *Cantares `mexicanos: Songs of the Aztecs*
Stanford: Stanford University Press

Bierhorst, John
1998 *History and Mythology of the Aztecs: Codex Chimalpopoca*
Tucson: University of Arizona Press

Boxt, Matthew and Brian Dervin Dillon (eds.)
2012 *Fanning the Sacred Flame*
Boulder: University Press of Colorado

Boone, Elizabeth
2007 *Cycles of Time and Meaning in the Mexican Books of Fate*
Austin: University of Texas Press

Brotherston, Gordon
1995 *Painted Books from Mexico*
London: Trustees of the British Museum

2005 *Feather Crown: The Eighteen Feasts of the Mexica Year*
London: The Trustees of the British Museum
Castañeda de la Paz, María
2017 La Tira de la Peregrinacion y la ascendencia chichimeca de los Tenochca
México: UNAM (check on academia.edu)

Dehouve, Daniéle
2016 La realeza sagrada en México (siglos XVI-XXI)
México: DEAS-INAH

Dodds Pennock, Caroline
2008 Bonds of Blood
Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan


León- Portilla, M
1966 The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico.
Boston: Beacon Press.

López Luján, Leonardo and Olivier, Guilhelm (eds.)
2010 El Sacrificio Humano en la Tradición Religiosa Mesoamericana
México: INAH-UNAM

Magaloni, Diana

Matos Moctezuma, Eduardo and Leonardo López Luján
2009 Escultura Monumental Mexica
Mexico: Fundación Conmemoraciones

Olko, Justyna
2005 Turquoise Diadems and Staffs of Office: Elite Costume and Insignia of Power in Aztec and Early Colonial Mexico
Polish Society for Latin American Studies and Centre for Studies on the Classical Tradition, University of Warsaw

Smith, Michael
2016 At Home with the Aztecs: An Archaeologist Uncovers Their Daily Life
London: Routledge

Thomas, Hugh
1993 The Conquest of Mexico.
London: Hutchinson

Villela, K and Mary Ellen Miller
Web sites

www.mesoweb.com
www.famsi.org

APPENDIX

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAELOGY COURSEWORK PROCEDURES

General policies and procedures concerning courses and coursework, including submission procedures, assessment criteria, and general resources, are available in your Degree Handbook and on the following website: http://wiki.ucl.ac.uk/display/archadmin. It is essential that you read and comply with these. Note that some of the policies and procedures will be different depending on your status (e.g. undergraduate, postgraduate taught, affiliate, graduate diploma, intercollegiate, interdepartmental). If in doubt, please consult your course co-ordinator.

GRANTING OF EXTENSIONS:

New UCL-wide regulations with regard to the granting of extensions for coursework have been introduced with effect from the 2015-16 session. Full details will be circulated to all students and will be made available on the IoA intranet. Note that Course Coordinators are no longer permitted to grant extensions. All requests for extensions must be submitted on a new UCL form, together with supporting documentation, via Judy Medrington’s office and will then be referred on for consideration. Please be aware that the grounds that are now acceptable are limited. Those with long-term difficulties should contact UCL Student Disability Services to make special arrangements.