

ASB 223: Buried Cities and Lost Tribes: New World

Glendale Community College

Spring Term 2010

LEC 23604

T R 10:00 – 11:15 AM

Room: HU 101

Instructor: Dr. Dean Wheeler

Office: 05-129

Office Hours: M & W 2:15-3:30 PM, T & R 1:00-2:00 PM, and by appointment

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Course Description

ASB 223 is an introductory-level course concerned with the archaeology of the New World. We will explore the nature of archaeological inquiry paying particular attention to how archaeologists interpret the archaeological record in order to learn about the past lifeways of ancient human groups. Topics include the development of agriculture, writing, and artistic and intellectual accomplishments; and the origins of settled life, urbanism, and the rise, peak and fall of the great New World civilizations. Examples are drawn from North, South and Central America.

Course Goals

By the end of the semester you should develop an appreciation for the rich complexity and breadth of human behavior exhibited by the ancient peoples of the New World, be able to use cross-cultural analysis to compare different New World cultures and civilizations to one another and to evaluate our own society, and learn how archaeologists use empirically-based arguments to test hypotheses and develop theories in order to learn about ancient human groups. In this class you will not only gain knowledge about New World prehistory, but you will also develop a fundamental understanding of why and how archaeologists conduct research.

Required Text

Images of the Past, 5th Edition, by T. Douglas Price and Gary M. Feinman, 2008

- This book is up to date, easy to read, and quite comprehensive. Be advised that some material in lectures is not covered in the text, and conversely, some of the assigned reading from the text is not covered in lectures.
- There will also be required reading materials distributed in class and/or posted on *Blackboard*.

Course Requirements

- 1) Exams (80%): There will be four exams. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade and will mainly cover only material presented since the previous exam, although students are expected to remember basic concepts and important information from all the preceding parts of the course. Exams will consist of objective questions (e.g. multiple-choice, matching, true or false) and subjective questions (define or discuss issues or concepts in short sentences or paragraphs). Exams

will only be administered during the designated exam periods. If you miss an exam without a good, documented reason (illness, death in the family, etc.) you will receive a 0 grade for that exam, with no opportunity to make it up. If you miss an exam for an acceptable, documented reason you may be required to take an alternative essay exam at Testing Services (TDS 118). Most students find the essay exam more time consuming and difficult, so it is a good idea not to miss a regular exam. Requests to take an exam at a different time because the scheduled exam date is inconvenient will not be granted. Such requests are particularly common for final exams at the end of the term or for exams immediately before or after Spring Break; don't bother making them. Failure to take an exam will result in a grade of 0 for the exam.

- 2) In-class Activities (15%): There are three scheduled in-class activities (*Identifying Chiefdoms*, *Interpreting Ancient Village Life*, and *Mayan Hieroglyphic Writing*). Each in-class activity is worth 5% of the course grade. The activities require that you apply basic concepts and principles of archaeological inquiry to reach your own conclusions about the past lifeways of ancient societies. You will work in small groups of no more than four students and you **MUST** be present to complete the activity during class time. If you miss an in-class activity, you can make it up on your own for partial credit (highest grade possible is 90 out of 100 points). You will have two weeks from the date the activity was given in class to complete it and submit your results in a type-written paper. Papers must be submitted in class; emailed papers will not be accepted. Failure to complete an in-class activity will result in a grade of 0 for the activity.
- 3) Current Events Presentation (5%): The remaining 5% of your grade is based on completing a very brief presentation of a current event related to New World archaeology. The current event could be reported in a newspaper, online, in a magazine, etc. To complete the requirement, you must bring in a copy of the article and briefly summarize its content for the class. The current events presentation can be completed at the beginning of any class during the semester except for days when exams and in-class activities are scheduled.

Attendance and Participation

Although attendance is not factored into the calculation of the course grade, in order to accomplish the course goals it is necessary to participate in class discussions and activities. Therefore, if you fail to attend class and do not participate you will not be prepared for the exams.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you are absent more than twice during the first two weeks of class you will be DROPPED from the class. Also, if you are absent more than three times prior to the 45th DAY ROSTERS you will be DROPPED from the class. If you are dropped, you are responsible for your class standing. If you wish to withdraw from the course, you must have me sign a withdrawal slip. If you simply stop attending or do not complete all of the course requirements and appear on my final roster you will receive either an "F" or a "W" for the course.*

Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the percentage of total points scored on the combined exams, in-class activities, and current events presentation. 90% and above = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60% = F. Note that a grade of "C" or higher is required for transfer credit to a University. Once graded, you should promptly go over your exam to catch errors in addition of points or evaluation of answers. It is your responsibility to detect such errors and bring them to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible. DO NOT wait until the end of the term to address potential errors in grading as it may be too late to adjust the grade. Grades will be updated periodically on *Blackboard*.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to act with civility, personal integrity; respect other students' dignity, rights and property; and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others and a civil community.

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another persons' work as one's own, using Internet sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, "ghosting" (taking or having another student take an exam), stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

If cheating is detected at any time, ALL cheaters will receive a zero on the exam or assignment. In most cases, this will result in a failing grade for the course. Please refer to the Catalog & Student Handbook (<http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog>) regarding campus-wide policies relating to academic misconduct and disciplinary standards.

Special Accommodations

I am committed to providing access to a quality education for all students, including those with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to have an accommodation for the course, it is your responsibility to notify the Disability Services and Resources office located in TDS 100 (623-845-3080). They will have you complete the appropriate paperwork to submit to me. You are encouraged to request accommodation early in the semester so that, once identified, reasonable accommodation can be implemented in a timely manner.

In-Class Behavior

This classroom is acoustically "live" and even whispering in the back row carries to the front of the room which bothers me and the other students. Please DO NOT make comments or carry on private conversations during class time (including videos). If you have a question or comment, please direct it to me.

Please be considerate of your classmates and of me; it is a rude disruption to have a beeper, PDA, ipod, cell phone, or any other electronic device activate during class. Please **TURN-OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES** and store them out of sight during class time. This includes laptop and notebook computers. Repeated violations may result in you being required to leave class and receive an unexcused absence for the day. During class please refrain from engaging in any of the following, or similarly distracting, activities: sleeping, eating, reading, text messaging, tweeting, homework/assignments for another class, putting on make-up, combing hair, any personal grooming, disposing of trash, sharpening pencils, leaving to go to the bathroom, or any other activities unrelated to the matter at hand in our classroom.

Syllabus Subject to Change Statement

I anticipate that we will follow the schedule I've outlined here, but I may make adjustments based on what actually happens in class. Be sure to check with a classmate after an absence to see if assignments have changed. I may also change basis for the course grade; if I do so, I will so inform you in writing. Remaining in the course after reading this syllabus will signal that you accept the possibility of changes and responsibility for being aware of them.

Course Outline

(Note that this outline may be changed as the semester progresses. All changes will be announced by the instructor in class. Exact dates for exams and in-class activities will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.)

Unit #1

Introduction to Archaeology & Native North Americans

Textbook Chapters: 1, 7

In-class Activity #1

Exam 1

Unit #2

South America: The Inca and their Predecessors

Textbook Chapter: 9

In-class Activity #2

Exam 2

Unit #3

Ancient Mesoamerica: Precursors to the Aztec & Maya, & the Aztec

Textbook Chapter: 8

Exam 3

Unit #4

Ancient Mesoamerica: the Maya

Textbook Chapter: 8

In-class Activity #3

Final Exam is Thursday, May 13 at 10:00 AM