SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2016-2017

HI 355M: Aztecs, Mayas & Incas: Empires on the Eve of Apocalypse

30 credits; 11 weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure. You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR
Professor William G. Naphy
Room 109; Tel: 01224 273928; email: w.g.naphy@abdn.ac.uk.
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12.00-13.00; Thursdays, 12.00-13.00

Discipline Administration:
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TIMETABLE
For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen

Students can also view their university timetable at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php
COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will examine the economies, cultures, religions, and socio-political structures of the three ‘great’ civilizations of Meso- and South America: Aztecs, Mayas, and Incas. Their concepts of wealth, civilization, history, and overall worldviews will be examined in detail. The course will close by considering the status of these empires on the eve of contact with Europeans and the extent to which inherent factors within the empires may have contributed to their collapse and subsequent conquest by the Spanish.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
Aims
- to promote scholarly and detailed investigation of a wide range of issues in early modern history
- to incorporate the study of primary sources as a vital tool in the cultivation of critical, analytical abilities
- to introduce students to unfamiliar types of sources
- to emphasize the development of presentational and debating skills through active student participation in seminars
- to provide opportunities for teamwork in seminars and in-group presentations
- to cultivate general skills in time-management, self-learning and initiative through the allocation of assignments
- to encourage the use of information technology for bibliographical searches

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should be able:
- to understand the nature of pre-Conquest societies in the New World
- to appreciate and explain the unique development of these civilisations in their own context
- to compare and contrast the differing cultural and social approaches which developed in Mesoamerica and the Andes
- to critically appraise and effectively utilise relevant primary and secondary source materials
- to develop and refine skills of verbal expression, organisation and teamwork through seminars and group presentations
- to improve skills of argument and written expression through essays and the resultant staff feedback
- to develop and practice skills of historical research leading to original and informed judgements and interpretations

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Week 1: Pre-Aztec Mesoamerica
  L1: Introduction to the course; Olmecs & Teotihuacan
  L2: Video: Aztecs

Week 2: Pre-Aztec Mesoamerica & Pre-Incan Andes
  L1: Toltecs; Nazca & Moche
  L2: Video: Maya
Week 3: Pre-Incan & Post-Conquest Andes
   L1: Wari & Chimú; Video: Inca
   L2: The Historiographical Essay

Week 4:
   S1: Group Work: Valladolid Debate
   S2: Gobbets
   (Comparative Article Analysis due not later than Noon, Thursday)

Week 5: Reading Break (no classes)

Week 6: History, Worldview & Concepts of Time
   S1: Discussions of Secondary Literature
       (full list of reading, see below)
   S2: Group Work: Valladolid Debate

Week 7: Religion & Human Sacrifice
   S1: Discussions of Secondary Literature
       (full list of reading, see below)
   S2: Gobbets

Week 8: Political Structures
       (Mock on-line gobbet exam)
   S1: Discussions of Secondary Literature
       (full list of reading, see below)
   S2: Gobbets
   (Historiographical Essay due, not later than Noon, Thursday)

Week 9: Economy & Concepts of Wealth
   S1: Discussions of Secondary Literature
       (full list of reading, see below)
   S2: Gobbets

Week 10: Agriculture & Everyday Life
   S1: Discussions of Secondary Literature
       (full list of reading, see below)
   S2: Gobbets
   (Annotated Bibliography due, not later than Noon, Thursday)

Week 11: Valladolid Debate
   S1: Debate
   S2: Online Gobbet Exam
READING LIST, IF APPLICABLE
(For those interested in pursuing a particular topic in greater detail, a fuller bibliography is available on the course’s MyAberdeen site.

The bibliography for in-course discussions in weeks 6-10 is as follows:)

**Week 6** View of History / Worldview / Time
Readings for Discussion
Colston, Stephen A., ‘“No Longer Will There Be a Mexico”: Omens, Prophecies, and the Conquest of the Aztec Empire’, *American Indian Quarterly*, 9: 3 (1985), 239-58

**Week 7** Religion / Human Sacrifice
Readings for Discussion
Montijo, Victor, ‘In the Name of the Pot, the Sun, the Broken Spear, the Rock, the Stick, the Idol, Ad Infinitum & Ad Nauseum: An Exposé of Anglo Anthropologists Obsessions with and Invention of Mayan Gods’, *Wicazo Sa Review*, 9: 1 (1993), 12-16

**Week 8** Political Structures
Readings for Discussion
Bauer, Brian & Covey, R. Alan, ‘Processes of State Formation in the Inca Heartland (Cuzco, Peru)’, *American Anthropologist, New Series*, 104: 3 (2002), 846-64


**Week 9  Economy / Concepts of Wealth**

**Readings for Discussion**


Minc, L.D., ‘Style and substance: Evidence for regionalism within the Aztec market system’, *Latin American Antiquity*, 20: 2 (2009), 343-74


**Week 10  Everyday Life / Agriculture**

**Readings for Discussion**


**ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is based on:

- one, 3500-word (excluding notes/bibliography) historiographical essay (40%)
- one, 1500-word (no notes/bibliography required/necessary) comparative article analysis (20%)
- one, on-line gobbet exam (10%)
- one, annotated bibliography on the ‘Question of the Indians’ group project comprising 10 sources with 150 words (maximum) of analysis of each (20%)
- peer mark, in-class group presentations (5%)
- participation in the Valladolid Debate in week 11 (5%)

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to **MyAberdeen - Organisations - Divinity, History & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates**. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**PLEASE NOTE**: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

**GROUP PROJECT**

The peer assessment for the group work will be done by mutual discussion and agreement among the group members and, along with the mark for the debate in week 11, will be fully explained at the first meeting of the class.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

The assessed comparative article analysis is due on Thursday, Week 4 (not later than 3pm).

The assessed historiographical essay is due on Thursday, Week 8 (not later than 3pm).
The annotated bibliography is due Thursday, Week 10 (not later than 3pm)
The on-line gobbet exam will be in Week 11; it will be ‘open’ to take for the week though you will have a limited time-frame to complete the test once started.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Please submit by the deadline ONE paper copy (cover sheet required) PLUS, ONE official electronic copy (no cover sheet required) as follows:

**Hard Copy:** One hard copy typed and double spaced, together with an Assessment cover sheet – this should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the History Admin Office [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen. (For instructions please see http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/) Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date

*Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin and a hard copy to the school office, by the stated deadline, will result in a zero mark. N.B Turnitin doesn’t accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.*

EXAMINATION
The course has NO examination.