

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

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; Fridays, 11.00-12.00

Discipline Administration

Mrs Barbara McGillivray

50-52 College Bounds

Room CB001

01224 272199

history-ug@abdn.ac.uk

TIMETABLE

For time and place of classes, please see [MyAberdeen](#)

Students can 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 team-work 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

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Week 1: Pre-Aztec Mesoamerica

Sem: Introduction to the course; Olmecs & Teotihuacan
(NB: Three **key video links** online on Aztecs; Mayas; Incas)

Week 2: Pre-Aztec Mesoamerica & Pre-Incan Andes

Sem: Toltecs; Nazca & Moche

Week 3: Pre-Incan & Post-Conquest Andes

Sem: Wari & Chimú; The Historiographical Essay

Week 4: Sem: 'Question of the Indians' Debate / Group Project

(Comparative Article Analysis due not later than 3pm, Thursday)

Week 5: Reading Week (no classes)

Week 6: History, Worldview & Concepts of Time

Sem: Discussions of Secondary Literature; Gobbet 1
(list of assigned readings, see MyAberdeen)

Week 7: Religion & Human Sacrifice

Sem: Discussions of Secondary Literature; Gobbet 2
(list of assigned readings, see MyAberdeen)

- Week 8: Political Structures**
(Mock on-line gobbet exam 1)
 Sem: Discussions of Secondary Literature; Gobbet 3
 (list of assigned readings, see MyAberdeen)
- (Historiographical Essay due, not later than 3pm, Thursday)**
- Week 9: Economy & Concepts of Wealth**
(Mock on-line gobbet exam 2)
 Sem: Discussions of Secondary Literature; Gobbet 4
 (list of assigned readings, see MyAberdeen)
- Week 10: Agriculture & Everyday Life**
 Sem: Discussions of Secondary Literature; Gobbet 5
 (list of assigned readings, see MyAberdeen)
- (Annotated Bibliography due, not later than 3pm, Thursday)**
- Week 11: 'Question of the Indians' Debate / On-Line Gobbet Exam**
 Sem: Debate

READING LIST

- The bibliographies for **in-course/seminar discussions** is available on MyAberdeen by assigned groups (Groups: A, B, & C).
- There is a list on My Aberdeen showing which group you are in.
- For those interested in pursuing a particular topic in greater detail, a lengthy bibliography is available on the course's MyAberdeen site.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on:

- one, 3000-word (excluding bibliography) historiographical essay (40%)
- one, 1200-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, 'Question of the Indians' Debate participation (5%)
- convenor-assessed participation in the 'Question of the Indians' 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.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

ESSAYS

- Essays should be about 3000 words long, including quotations and footnotes (but excluding the bibliography).
- Essay topics will be assigned in consultation via a list of prepared topics and bibliographies – the process will be explained in class and topics will be assigned by the end of the third teaching week.
- Students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long or too short.

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 comparative article analysis is due on Thursday, Week 4 (7 Feb) (not later than 3pm).
- The historiographical essay is due on Thursday, Week 8 (7 Mar) (not later than 3pm).
- The annotated bibliography is due Thursday, Week 10 (21 Mar) (not later than 3pm).
- The on-line gobbet exam will be in Week 11 (It will be 'open' to take for the entire week though you will have a limited time-frame to complete the test once started).

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Submit **one paper copy** with a completed essay cover sheet to the **drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds** and **one official electronic copy** to **TurnitinUK via MyAberdeen**. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Paper Copy: One paper 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 or signature but **EVERYTHING ELSE** completed, including tutor's name – and should be delivered to the drop boxes in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds.

Electronic Copy: One copy submitted through Turnitin via [MyAberdeen](https://myaberdeen.abdn.ac.uk). (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 HI355M 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. HI355M Essay 1.

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

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, will result in a deduction of marks.
Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.