MAYA CIVILIZATIONS (ANT. 4328)

Dr. MARTÍN
Office: 331C DM (Dept. of SOC/ANT.)
E-mail: martink@fiu.edu . Dept. Website: www.fiu.edu/~socant
Office Hours: M and W 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM or by appointment.
Teaching assistants: Michael O’Brien (obrienm@fiu.edu) and Dusan Urgina (dusanu@gmail.com)

COURSE GOALS: This course is designed to give students an overview of the Maya civilizations of Mexico and Central America from the ancient past to the contemporary diaspora. The course is structured to provide students with a basic knowledge of the Maya through lectures, films, readings, written assignments, field trips and class presentations by students.

GRADING POLICY: Students will earn grades according to the following formula:
book review 1 = 20%
book review 2 = 20%
class participation (includes attendance and discussion) = 20%
final examination = 20%
working group presentation = 20%

Please note that grades are not negotiable. I will be glad, however, to review any graded work to analyze how a student’s performance could be improved.

BOOK REVIEWS: Students will write book reviews of (1) Reed’s The Caste War of Yucatan and (2) Hull’s Katun: Twenty Year Journey with the Maya. Each review is to be 3 pages of text typed, double spaced with the pages stapled together. Reviews should include a separate title sheet with the student’s name and student ID number. Publications such as the Sunday book review section of the New York Times or the New York Review of Books are examples (usually) of well-written book reviews. Most professional journals in the humanities and the social sciences also contain such reviews. The reviews are to be written to analyze the book not merely summarize it. Students are encouraged to give their own opinions and bolster them with well-founded arguments. No reviews are accepted by e-mail.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Final examinations will be essay. The final will cover all material from the entire course. In the exam, students will choose two questions to answer from a menu of questions.

WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION: At the end of the semester, students as part of working groups are to give a 30 minute class presentation on a selected topic concerning the Maya. A bibliography is due the day of the presentation. Working Group Guidelines are available at www.fiu.edu/~socant.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS: Class participation implies on time class attendance at all classes. Absence from class, late arrival to class and talking during class other than related to class discussion are unprofessional. All students are encouraged to participate in class discussions by asking questions and offering comments on course material. Students are also asked to watch for media reports that may appear or museum exhibits, artistic performances, lectures, films, etc. that pertain to the Maya taking place in South Florida this spring.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS or FAILURE to COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS: Late assignments will lose one letter grade for each class period the assignments are late. Absence from working group presentation will earn a 0 and be averaged into the calculations for the final grade. In the case of emergencies students are expected to contact me regarding their assignments.

REQUIRED BOOKS: The following four books constitute the required reading for this course. All books, except reader, are available from the FIU Bookstore.
(1) Coe, Michael
(2) Hull, Cindy L.
(3) Maya Civilizations Reader, series of articles I have assembled, available at cost from Michelle La Marre, Dept. of SOC/ANT., DM 3rd Fl.
(4) Reed, Nelson A.
(5) Schele, Linda and David Freidel

**INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES:** Students may be interested in joining the Institute for Maya Studies, a local, non-profit interest group interested in the ancient Maya. The IMS publishes a newsletter, has monthly lectures and holds other events related to the ancient Maya. Membership is $30. per year. Addresses: Institute of Maya Studies, Inc., Miami Museum of Science, 3280 South Miami Ave., Miami, FL. 33129. The IMS also has a web site.

**CLASS AGENDA and DUE DATES:**
Jan. 9: Introduction, syllabus, student introductions & selection of working groups.
Jan. 11: Overview of the Maya: Coe, Chapter 1; S&F, Prologue, Foreword and Chapter 1.
Jan. 16: *No class, Rev. Martin Luther King Day*
Jan. 23: Maya Spiritual and Intellectual Life: Coe, Chapter 9 and S&F, Chapter 2
Jan. 25: Guest Speaker
Jan. 30: Rise of Maya Civilization: Coe, Chapter 3 and S&F, Chapter 3
Feb. 1: Classic Period and War: Coe, Chapter 4 and S&F, Chapter 4 and pages 198-203.
Feb. 8: Videos of ancient Maya cities.
Feb. 13: Terminal Classic: Coe, Chapter 6 and S&F, Chapter 8
Feb. 15: Post-Classic: Coe, Chapter 7 and S&F, Chapter 9
Feb. 20: Conquest: Coe, Chapter 8 and Chapter 10 (pp. 242-250) and S&F, Chapter 10
Feb. 22: The Colonial Experience: Two Masters and Many Maya
Feb. 27: *Reed review due and discussion of book.*
March 1: The Maya Rebound: Activists, Artists and Intellectuals: Martin 1; Sitler and Nojb’el
March 6: Issues in Maya Identity: PBP editorial; Castillo-Cocom; Martin 2 in Reader
March 8: Gender and the Maya: Berger; e-mail 2/2/05; Moffet; Wendel in Reader
March 13: The Maya and Tourism: Re Cruz; Martin & Martin Gonzalez in Reader.
March 15: The Maya Diaspora: emails 11/1-2/05 & 10/9/04; “Citizenship”; “Mother’s Lost Years” in Reader
March 20: *No class, Spring Break*
March 22: *No class, Spring Break*
March 27: *Hull review due and discussion of book.*
March 29: Research Day (Dusan Urgina)
April 3: Maya Women: Politics and Poetry: Martin 3 in Reader
April 5: Maya Politics: The Zapatistas (Michael O’Brien): email 7/28/05
April 10: Maya Politics: Rigoberta Menchu and the Guatemalan Civil War (Dusan Urgina), video, “Mi In: Serene Day”. Morales; Jonas in Reader.
April 12: Summary: The Maya Future: Coe, pp. 252-255.
April 17: Working Group Presentations
April 19: Working Group Presentations
**April 24: Final examination at 12:30PM**