

Ancient Middle America Week 1




# Getting Started

**I'm looking forward to Thursday.**


**Ancient Middle America gets underway at 9:00 in Cina Hall 214.**

**I**f you haven't read my [Welcome Memo of 11 January 2019](#), please do that as it contains useful and important information about the course.

**Every week—usually on Sunday—you will receive a memo like this which outlines what’s happening for the week.**

**Each week you will get the memo in your UM e-mail account and it will be available in your  canvas folder in two other places . . .**



**HINT: You can synchronize your  canvas calendar with your UMD Google calendar, if you want.**

**These weekly memos** contain lots of valuable and timely information, so pay careful attention to them . . .

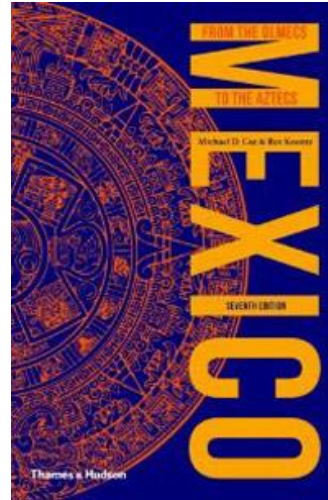
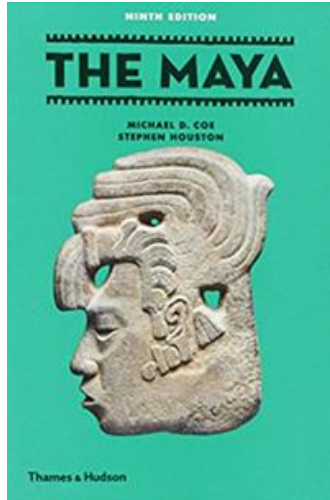
- The Weeks’ **Assignments and Activities Schedule**

- [Due Dates](#) for the Week
- **Reminders** for the Week
- Suggestions and Hints for [Exams](#)
- **Interesting tidbits** of the week, including occasional **For-Fun Trivia** . . .
- **Optional links** that might be generally interesting and/or useful for [Extra Credit Papers](#)
- Information on [In-Class Films and Videos](#)  
(of which there will be many, starting next week)
- **Breaking News Items**

Interest in ancient world cultures in general—and the ancient cultures of Middle America in particular—has never been higher. **One of the best sources for up-to-date news is [BBC News](#).** I also like [The Telegraph](#) and, to balance things out, [The Guardian](#), and [The New York Times](#).

Right off the bat you might be interested in the textbooks for the course. One text is required, and as you should have your own copy of it as the **exams are open-book exams** . . .

As mentioned earlier [The Textbooks](#) for the course are . . .



*The Maya (9<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*  
**Michael D. Coe and Stephen D. Houston**  
(NY: Thames and Hudson, 2015)  
ISBN-10: 0500291888  
ISBN-13: 978-0500291887

*The Maya 9<sup>th</sup> Ed.* is currently available online from about \$18.32 new, \$12.68 used, \$12.99 Kindle (+ p/h, at amazon.com & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over \$25).  
(28 December 2018)

*Mexico (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*  
**Michael D. Coe and Rex Koontz**  
(NY: Thames and Hudson 2013)  
ISBN-10: 0500290768  
ISBN-13: 9780500290767

*Mexico (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.)* is currently available online from about \$20.22 new, \$12.40 used (+ p/h, at amazon.com & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over \$25).  
(27 November 2017)

**Full information on the texts for Ancient Middle America can be found at**  
<<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/matext.html#title>>.

**As mentioned earlier you will likely find the names of some of the places confusing at first—don't let that bother you.** After about six weeks they will start sounding familiar to you. Many of the names are in Nahuatl (the language of the Aztecs) or in a Maya or other Mesoamerican languages and dialects so they will sound a bit exotic at first. You will not have to memorize the names, just be able to recognize the major locations and peoples.

As I mentioned in my earlier memo, **exams will be open-book essays constructed from a list of study questions that you help create**, so it would be a good idea for you to have your own copy of the text, and it is a good idea that you take your reading notes right in your copy of the text itself.

**For the exams** you should normally just need to read the book *carefully* and be able to discuss its articles *intelligently*. That is, you should read these as if you had picked the book up at an airport or neighborhood bookshop because you were interested in the subject and wanted to know more about it, like literally millions of people are doing in everyday life.

**PLEASE NOTE WHAT I MENTIONED EARLIER:** *Some students are used to principally memorizing facts in classes. This class is not one where that is the focus. It is about investigating new topics, reading, listening, synthesizing ideas, thinking, exploring, and becoming familiar enough with the various subjects, peoples and places to carry on an intelligent conversation in modern-day society.* . In short, this class aims to give you practice in critical thinking, and even creativity.

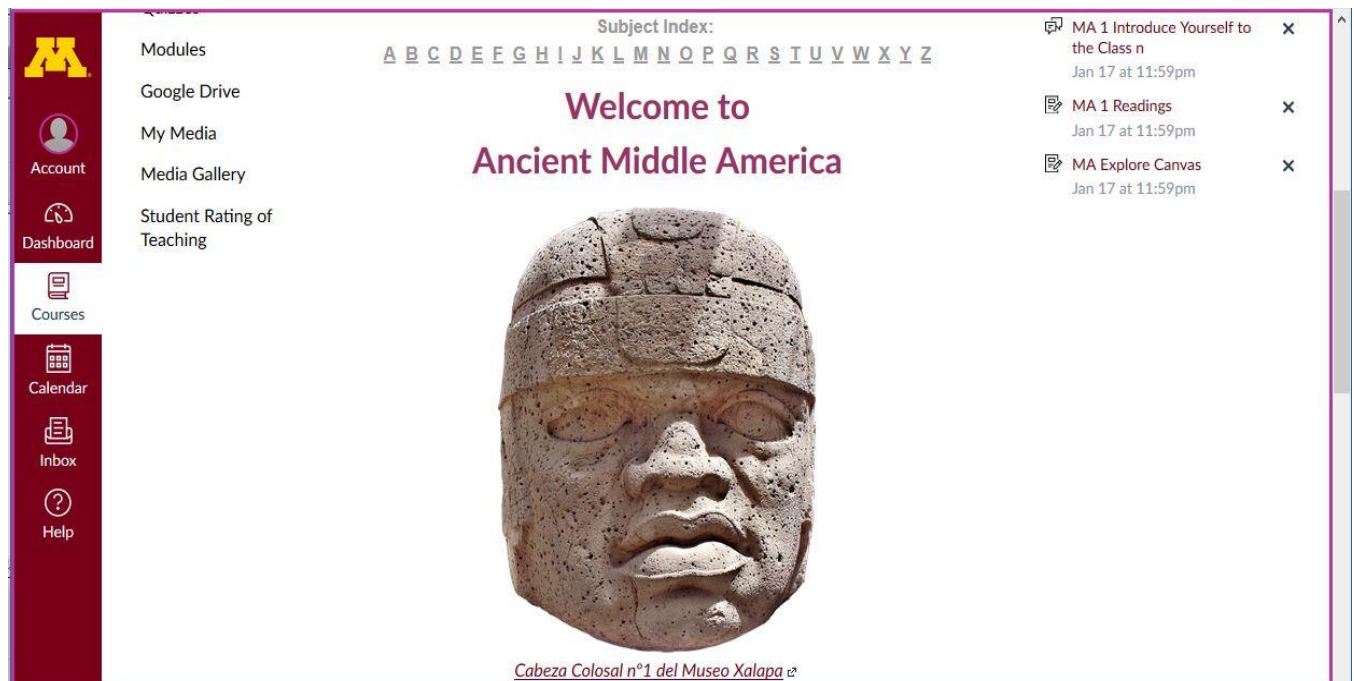
**Critical thinking**, involving **evaluation** and **synthesis**, has long been regarded as essential for success in the modern-day world. In recent years, actually for two decades, **creativity** has also become central to success, and "process skills" vital to creativity. Process skills involve "strategies to reframe challenges and extrapolate and transform information, and to accept and deal with ambiguity" (Pappano, "Learning to Think Outside the Box," *The New York Times EducationLife*, 9 February 2014, 8). Laura Pappano, writer in residence at Wellesley Center for Women at Wellesley College, points out that "In 2010 'creativity' was the factor most crucial for success found in an I.B.M. survey of 1,500 chief executives in 33 industries. These days 'creative' is the most used buzzword in LinkedIn profiles two years running" (2014, 8).

With all of the class materials **you will be expected to share your ideas and comments with others** in the *Class Discussions* and wikis.

**You will find that there are "an awful lot" of materials on-line —maybe even too many!**

# Where to start?

Have a look at the course **“Home”** page of your Ancient Cultures of Middle America  folder <<http://canvas.umn.edu/>>. It will look something like this . . .



Subject Index:  
A B C D E E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Welcome to  
Ancient Middle America

Cabeza Colosal n°1 del Museo Xalapa



As I mentioned in the Welcome Memo, probably the best place is by having a quick look at the


# **"First Day Handout"**

on-line at [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cehandout\\_first-day.html#title](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cehandout_first-day.html#title).

Then have a look at . . .


# **Assignments and Events**

. . . **this week** are listed on your **"Calendar"**.

They are also listed on the **"Syllabus"** section of your  **canvas** folder, if you prefer to have them in another form (see below).



## **This Week's "Calendar"**

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	 MA 1 Readings		 Canvas Guide: User Settings and Profile Picture	 9a MA 1 First Day Handout	 9a MA 1 Introduce Yourself to the Class	 MA 1 Complete or Update Your Canvas Notification Preferences
	 MA List of Readings for the Entire Semester		 Canvas Student Guide  MA Explore Canvas	 9:01a MA 1 Agenda: Welcome / Getting Started / Orientation		 MA 1 Complete or Update Your Canvas Profile

## In the “Syllabus” version the assignments look like this:

Mon Jan 14, 2019	MA 1 Readings	due by 11:59pm
	MA List of Readings for the Entire Semester	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 16, 2019	Canvas Guide: User Settings and Profile Picture	due by 11:59pm
	Canvas Student Guide	due by 11:59pm
	MA Explore Canvas	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 17, 2019	MA 1 First Day Handout	due by 9am
	MA 1 Agenda: Welcome / Getting Started / Orientation	due by 9:01am
Fri Jan 18, 2019	MA 1 Introduce Yourself to the Class	to do: 9am
Sat Jan 19, 2019	MA 1 Complete or Update Your Canvas Notification Preferences	due by 11:59pm
	MA 1 Complete or Update Your Canvas Profile	due by 11:59pm

## And the “Syllabus” version is found here:

2019 Spring (12/24/2018-0...

### Recent Announcements

MA Spring 2019 Greetings  
Spring 2019 Greetings(click [here])  
Posted on: Jan 4, 2019 at 5:10am  
Reply

Holidays  
Posted on: Jan 4, 2019 at 3:57am  
Reply

### ANTH 3618 (001) Ancient Middle America (S...

Subject Index:  
A B C D E E G H I J K L M N O P Q R S I U V W X Y Z

Welcome to  
Ancient Middle America

View Course Stream  
View Course Calendar

#### To Do

- Holidays Spring 2019 Jan 4 at 3:57am X
- MA Spring 2019 Greetings Jan 4 at 5:10am X
- MA 1 Introduce Yourself to the Class Jan 16 at 11:59pm X
- MA 1 List of Readings for the Entire Semester Jan 16 at 11:59pm X
- MA 1 Introduce Yourself to the Class n Jan 17 at 11:59pm X
- MA 1 Readings Jan 17 at 11:59pm X
- MA Explore Canvas Jan 17 at 11:59pm X



**So once again, welcome to Anth 3618  
Ancient Cultures of Middle America.  
This *will be* a great course, and a great  
experience.**

**You will see. . . .**


If you have any **questions** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the  canvas “Discussions”, or e-mail [troufs@d.umn.edu](mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu), or stop in before or after class across the hall in Cina 215 [map].

See you Thursday at 9:00 in Cina 214! I’m looking forward to the class.

Best Wishes,

Tim Roufs

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs/>

P.S. If you are new to the world of "technology" don't worry too much about that. Things may not "work" for you at first, but hang in there and we'll help you along. If you have not used  canvas course management system before, you might find it helpful to view the **Canvas Student Guide**.