

Duluth Campus

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Ancient Middle America Week 4

The Search Continues. . . . and **Basic Terms and Concepts in American Archaeology**

Week 4 we'll continue to have a look at the **basic analytic, theoretical and historical framework for the course, and continue exploring some classic materials** in the field of Ancient Mesoamerica—and then we'll do a little more searching around.

In addition—this week and next—we'll begin to interweave some information on **Basic Terms and Concepts in *American Archaeology*** into the class presentations. If you want, you can preview/review these at http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/mabasic_terms.html.

For this week—for the entire semester, for that matter—**focus on the ideas and main concepts, differing points of view, and the overall timeframe (read “stages” or “periods”)** of the developments in Ancient Middle America. This week you will receive a more **detailed handout of the basic Archaeological stages (periods) of Mesoamerica** http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/mastages_handout.html.

Whether you're taking notes, watching the videos, or reading the text and related materials, **keep in mind that the exams are open-book tests**—so bear in mind that you *do not* have to *memorize* a lot of names, dates, and isolated facts. Familiarize yourself with the materials, but don't spend too much time trying to commit the details to memory. (If you haven't read the materials about the Ancient Cultures of Middle America exams yet, it might be a good idea to do that before too long. You can find the information on the midterm exam at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/maexams.html>.)

Speaking of skills related to investigating Ancient Middle America and other anthropological topics, this week we'll have **two short minute-and-a-half tests of your observational skills** before we continue on with our intensive look at the wide variety of Ancient Middle American video materials. You'll find these at . . .

Selective Attention Test in Preparation for Watching Videos

or

Selective Attention Test

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJG698U2Mvo>

The Monkey Business Illusion

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGQmdoK_ZfY

Do the “Selective Attention Test” before you take “The Monkey Business Illusion.”

As we continue—on and off—to look at slide materials aimed at setting and developing the basic analytic, theoretical and historical framework for the course, and, as time permits, we will set off **to visit the “Nine Brothers” in the Sonora Desert in northern Mexico.**

But before that we go **back to Chiapas**, home of the *Woman of Chamula* selling gladiolas.

Thursday we’ll continue our search into the past, this week with . . . **Search for the Lost Cave People**. We’ll head up the Rio la Venta with Mexican archaeologist Thomas Lee and his team to have a look at the **Ancient Zoque Maya** . . .



"The Maya are often credited with inventing the first complex writing system on the American continent, but recent archeology shows that a little-known people called the Zoque developed a sophisticated script long before the Maya. Who were the Zoque? Were they responsible for such technological advances as a calendrical system and sophisticated numerical systems?"

"Some 300 caves carved into canyon walls in the Rio la Venta Gorge, located in the Chiapas jungle in Central America, may hold some answers. The relative inaccessibility and extreme dryness of the caves have preserved clothes, rope, and wooden implements — artifacts that rarely survive in Central America. NOVA follows a team of archeologists as they uncover artifacts that could reveal new understandings about the Zoque and their place in Mesoamerican history." — **NOVA**

Remember to have a look at the **Case Study information**

http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/case_studies/maCS-01.html. Your Project Statement for your Case Study, or Project Proposal, is due by the end of Week 5, Friday, 3 October 2014.




Be sure to check the details of the activities and assignments of the week on your **Moodle** HomePage. With the **Week 4 Activities** we’ll have a look at looking, and at two of the important things found by Thomas Lee and his team of archaeologists—ancient Mayan textiles and child sacrifice . . .

-  [Forum: Ancient Mayan Fabrics \(Due by End of Week 5, Friday, 3 October 2014\)](#)
-  Selective Attention Test in Preparation for Watching Videos

If you have any questions about anthropology, or about the class and the assignments, please let me know: <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>. And that goes especially for questions about getting started on your Case Study. Or, better yet, post them on your **Moodle** Discussion and Project forum boards.

And share your ideas with your classmates. Discuss them on-line with the others in class . . .

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-  Wiki for Project Collaboration
-  Live chat for Project Collaboration
-  Wiki for Project Collaboration
- QUICKMAIL (see sidebar)

The above items will be found at the top of your **Moodle** folder under “Student Collaboration Space”.

This week’s **(1) Topics, (2) Reading Assignments Listings, and (3) Activities** are detailed in the Week 4 Block of your **Moodle** folder.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to stop in after class, or post them on **Moodle**, or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs