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Ancient Cultures of Middle America Week 7

Classic Period

and Some Basic Terms in American Archaeology

This week we'll briefly review the Midterm Exam, and move on to have a look at some basic terms used in American Archaeology, including Willey and Phillips' definition of and criteria for the Preclassic, and then we'll get on with the Classic.



If you took the exam, the results will soon be in your Moodle Gradebook, if they are not already (check the upper left-hand corner of your Moodle HomePage).

Profs “grading” exams is a lot like an ump in Major League Baseball calling balls and strikes. The Major League rules are clear <<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/magrades.html#strikezone>> as are the stated criteria for written projects and exams <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/comp3160/criteria_for_grading.html>.

But, in the end, they are both human judgments.

The biggest difference between a Major League Umpire calling balls and strikes and a professor calling a grade is that you get ejected from the baseball game if you argue balls and strikes (see Section 9.02 Official Baseball Rules <http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/foreword.jsp>) is that one **should** really question the prof if they didn't like the call, and that is especially true for midterm exams as one can often learn quite a bit that is helpful on the final by looking over and discussing a midterm exam.

Maybe a better analogy would be judging Olympic Figure Skating, or Gymnastics, or Ski Jumping, Diving and the like . . . <<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/magrades.html#gymnastics>>.



If your style is to look at charts, the grading “chart” is at

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/magrades.html#coursepoints>.

So if, for whatever reason, you didn’t like “the call,” e-mail or stop in: <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>.

Please pay attention to what the numbers mean in terms of the final course letter grade:

Numerical Example:

$$\frac{18}{20} + \frac{93}{100} + \frac{372}{400} = \frac{483}{520}$$

= **92.9%**

= **A**

(the highest grade the UM system allows)

You should have received both your **Moodle** grade and an annotated copy of your **Project Proposal** with suggestions and comments (unless, of course, you haven’t submitted a Project Proposal yet).

This week we’ll have a review of the **Preclassic Stage Criteria** and an introduction to the **Classic Stage** in Ancient Middle America. **When you think of the Classic, think of the flagship sites of Teotihuacán** in the Central Highlands of Mexico (home of . . . well, home of the Teotihuacáños) **and Tikál** in Guatemala (considered by most to be the flagship site of the Lowland Maya).

Thursday we’ll have a look at the short video **Teotihuacán: The City of the Gods** (27 min., 2002, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia F1219.I.T27 .T44 2001 DVD). But before that, we’ll have a look at—or at least *start* to have a look at—the **stage criteria** for the **Preclassic and Classic**.



Quetzalcoatl

If time allows, we'll have a look at the modern-day people of and around the former Aztec town of **Tepeapulco (Hidalgo)** just to the northeast of the site of Teotihuacán.

Share your ideas with others. Discuss them on-line with the others in class. And you *should* do that.

f2014

-  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".

As usual, be sure to check the activities of the week on your **Moodle** HomePage. . . .

Go back and look over your [Midterm Exam](#), including your answers.



If you have any questions about the **Final Exam**, please raise them in class or on a chat in **Moodle**.

EXTRA CREDIT

If you didn't do quite as well as you might have liked on the Midterm Exam, or if you did better than you even hoped on the Midterm exam but want to "bank" some insurance points for your final course grade, think about doing one (or even two—one of each) of the optional extra credit papers.

There are **two Extra Credit options: (A) a Term Paper Option, and/or (B) a Review Option** of a lecture or a related film (*other* than one of the films we see in class). For the review option you may also *compare* two or more films. (Remember from Week 1, one of the main features of anthropology is that it is *comparative*?) Some of the films that qualify for the Film Review Option are listed as "Recommended" and "Good Supplementary" films on the Video Schedule at . . .

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/mavideo_schedule.html>

- **Details on the extra credit** are on-line at <<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/maextrac.html>>.
 - **Term Paper Extra Credit Option**
<<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/maextrac.html#EC-paper>>
 - **Lecture / Film Review Extra Credit Option**

<<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/maextrac.html#EC-lecture>>

Helpful information on writing Extra Credit Reports can be found at



(the Purdue Online Writing Lab)
<<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>>

APA Sample Papers

Sample APA Paper: [Definitions of Online Communication](#)

Sample APA Paper: [Adolescent Depression](#)

MLA Sample Papers

MLA Undergraduate Sample Paper: [Andrew Carnegie](#)

MLA Sample Papers: [Nineteenth Century Farming Handbooks](#)

This week's **(1) Topics, (2) Reading Assignments Listings, and (3) Activities** are detailed in the Week 7 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. And that goes especially for questions about your Case Study and the Midterm Exam. Better yet, post them on you **Moodle** Discussion and Project forum boards.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs