

Duluth Campus

*Department of Anthropology,
Sociology & Criminology
College of Liberal Arts*

*228 Cina Hall
1123 University Drive
Duluth, Minnesota 55812-3306*

*Office: 218-726-7551
<http://www.d.umn.edu/socanth>
Email: socath@d.umn.edu*

24 March 2019

Ancient Middle America Week 10



<https://canvas.umn.edu/>

Classic Stage (cont.)



Tuesday we'll have a look at what has been termed one of the top 100 most significant accomplishments of the 20th century—

"Cracking the Maya Code"

(54 min, 2008, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia F1435.3.W75 C73 2008 DVD)



Maya glyphs in stucco at the *Museo de sitio* in [Palenque](#), Mexico

"The ancient Maya civilization of Central America left behind an intricate and mysterious hieroglyphic script, carved on monuments, painted on pottery, and drawn in handmade bark-paper books. For centuries, scholars considered it too complex ever to understand—until recently, when an ingenious series of breakthroughs finally cracked the code and unleashed a torrent of new insights into the Mayas' turbulent past. For the first time, NOVA presents the epic inside story of how the decoding was done—traveling to the remote jungles of southern Mexico and Central America to investigate how the code was broken and what Maya writings now reveal."

The Classic Period: Economies and Empires

This week and next we're going exploring, first to the jungles of the Yucatán Peninsula. Tuesday we're going to have a look at

"Maya Lords of the Jungle"

It's an older film, **but still one of the best** for looking at things like the relationship of the Maya raised field agricultural system to the ruling elite and of the empire in general. "Raised fields" are the Maya equivalent of the famous Aztec *chinampa* that we'll see towards the end of the semester. About one-third of the Classic Maya area is swamp, and you'll see what a remarkable system they developed to maximize its productivity—and how that gets transmitted even into the smallest of decorations on the ruler's elaborate headdress. Pay close attention to the Water Lily Blossom and fish discussion, and how they symbolize royal authority. Linda Schele, the epigrapher you've seen several times in the class films, will explain it all to us. And more . . .

"We are talking about the personal history of Pre-Columbian MesoAmerica in terms of specific individuals and their relatives," Linda Schele. "In the Preclassic, the masks on the pyramids represent the Gods. In the Classic they are becoming individual divine kings."

This Week's Assignments and Events

... are listed on your "Calendar".



This Week's "Calendar"

24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Week 10	MA 10 Readings	9:01a MA 10 Video: Cracking the Maya Code (54 min.) 10a MA The Classic Stage (cont.)		9:01a MA 10 Video: Maya Lords of the Jungle (60 min.)	9a MA 16 The Postclassic Stage	REM: Part 2: Project Promissory Abstract and Working Bibliography

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

And the "Syllabus" version is found here:



In the “Syllabus” mode the assignments look like this:

Sun Mar 24, 2019	Week 10	12am
Mon Mar 25, 2019	MA 10 Readings	
Tue Mar 26, 2019	MA 10 Video: Cracking the Maya Code (54 min.) MA The Classic Stage (cont.)	
Thu Mar 28, 2019	MA 10 Video: Maya Lords of the Jungle (60 min.)	
Fri Mar 29, 2019	MA 16 The Postclassic Stage	
Sat Mar 30, 2019	REM: Part 2: Project Promissory Abstract and Working Bibliography	

If you have any **questions** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the Canvas Course “Chat”, or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu, or stop by Cina 215 before or after class.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

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