

Duluth Campus

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Ancient Middle America Week 13



The Late Postclassic Stage
Toltecs and "Toltecized" Maya



This week we'll continue our **comparative** view of
Ancient Middle America with . . .
"Artisans and Traders"

(60 min., 1993, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia CC165 .O97 1993b DVD Disc 2)

from the *Out of the Past* series.



[Copán Jade](#)
Honduras

([course viewing guide](#))

Time permitting we'll have a walk around **Monte Albán** and **Mitla**.

Monte Albán in Oaxaca ranks as one of the great archaeological sites of the world. You have seen Monte Albán in many of the films, and we'll see it again between now and the end of the semester. Monte Albán is one of my very favorite places in the world.

At its peak, in the Classic, Monte Albán was the home of the great **Zapotec** people and their Empire. It is the flagship site and **political and economic** center of one of the very few civilizations in the world that lasted almost a thousand years.



[Monte Albán -- Wikipedia](#)

Mitla, “place of the dead,” or “underworld,” is the second most important archaeological site in the State of Oaxaca. Mitla was once also a major Zapotec **religious** center, but was taken over by the **Mixtecs** in the Postclassic. It was still a major flourishing center when the Spanish arrived in 1520. Mitla is especially well-known also for its geometric architecture.



[Mitla - Wikipedia](#)

We'll see more of Mitla—and its great leader **Eight Deer Ocelot Claw**—in the Postclassic.

On Thursday, we'll have a look at the characteristics and diagnostic features of the Late Postclassic *Stage*, including a look at the great Toltecs of Tula, Hidalgo—the people the Aztecs most wanted to be like.

Toltec and Tula, Hidalgo



The Toltecs of **Tula** (of the modern State of Hidalgo) had great influence during the Early Postclassic, and were the defining civilization of the era. A northern Yucatán Maya city of

Chichén Itzá became, in essence, a look-alike sister city of Toltec Tula. A week from Tuesday we'll have a look at Chichén Itzá—the city named after the “Well of the Itzá”—one of the most famous archaeological sites and prehistoric cities in the world.

video:

Chichén Itzá: At the Mouth of the Well

(27 min., 2001, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia F1435.1.C5 C44 2001 DVD)

[film HomePage](#)

[course viewing guide](#)



After we've finished with the Postclassic *stage characteristics*, and had a look around Tula and Chichén Itzá, we'll start to have a look at the **Postclassic Aztecs**. And, as we close out the semester in the remaining weeks, and if time allows, we'll also have a brief look at looks at the **Postclassic Mixtec** of Oaxaca, and their famous leader **Eight-Deer Ocelot Claw**—the Mixtec counterpart of the Aztec Mochtezuma.



8-Deer, Mixtec Leader

(on the right)

And we'll finish the semester with the arrival of **Cortéz and the Conquistadors**.

This Week's Assignments and Events

... are listed on your "Calendar".



This Week's "Calendar"

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Week 13	MA 13 Readings	9:01a MA 11 Video: Out of the Past: "Artisans and Traders" (60 min.)		9a MA 25 The Late Postclassic Stage		MA Case Study: A Mesoamerican Personality Dropbox MA Optional Extra Credit Lecture / Film Reviews Dropbox MA Optional Extra Credit Term Paper Dropbox

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 Apr 14, 2019	Week 13	
Mon Apr 15, 2019	MA 13 Readings	
Tue Apr 16, 2019	MA 11 Video: Out of the Past: "Artisans and Traders" (60 min.)	
Thu Apr 18, 2019	MA 25 The Late Postclassic Stage	
	MA Case Study: A Mesoamerican Personality Dropbox	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 20, 2019	MA Optional Extra Credit Lecture / Film Reviews Dropbox	due by 11:59pm
	MA Optional Extra Credit Term Paper Dropbox	due by 11:59pm

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/>