

Duluth Campus

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Ancient Middle America Week 9



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

**Classic Stage** (cont.)



Tuesday we'll have a look at episode 2 of the  
*Spirits of the Jaguar series,*

# **"Forests of the Maya"**

(60 min., 1997, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia F1430 .S65 2006 DVD).



Spirits of the Jaguar

***"Forests of the Maya"*** shows “how the Maya developed from simple hunters and farmers into the greatest civilization of the Americas. Then, some 1,100 years ago, they mysteriously and suddenly abandoned their great jungle cities.”

You'll see and hear interesting facts about the Maya, like how, at their height,

1200 years ago, the Mayan astronomers could predict an accurate calendar within one day / 6000 years—much better than the historical calendars of the Western World.

"Forests of the Maya" again talks about caves—a recurring theme in films on Ancient Mesoamerica, as caves are of great importance in Mesoamerica, caves being the entry to the underworld, one of the “Three Worlds” of the Maya.

And this week we’ll explore the “Three Worlds” of the Maya, of which the caves play an important role.

And when you’re watching "Forests of the Maya" and the rest of the films this semester, don’t miss “the gorilla.” Remember? . . .

### Selective Attention Test

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

### The Monkey Business Illusion

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGQmdoK\\_ZfY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGQmdoK_ZfY)

Thursday we’ll continue with the Classic Stage Criteria and then have a look at

## **Classic Period Mathematics, Science, and Writing**

Cultures rise and fall. They always have. And they probably always will. James Michener says about seventy-five “civilizations” so far have followed the pattern, with few remaining at their peak—their own Classic—more than two to four hundred years. And they seem to fall when the elite’s greed reaches the point where the populous cannot, or simply will not support the upper class. In effect, it seems, the 99% seem to get tired of the 1% and change the system. Eventually the commoners seem to lose faith in the “system” and it begins to crumble. It’s an age-old pattern.

And the dozen Ancient Mesoamerican Cultures followed the pattern, albeit that

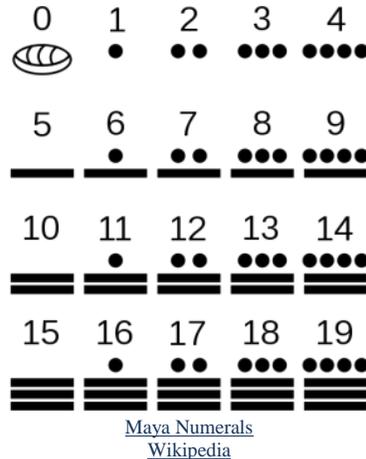
some of them did well for a longer time than most.

But the glory days are most glorious while they last. They're **Classic**, literally and in almost all ways.

This week we'll continue our review of the **Classic**, with some more highlights from the major sites, especially Teotihuacán, and we'll look into the mathematical and writing systems especially of the Maya.

**Diagnostic characteristics of the Classic Stage** always include great advances almost all spheres of life, but especially in mathematics, science, writing, architecture and the arts.

On Tuesday—after a little walking around Teotihuacán—we'll have a look at *Culture and Math: The Maya* (31 min., 2006, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia F1435.3.M35 C85 2006 DVD), a short but wonderful little film that sets forth the fundamentals of Mesoamerican mathematical systems, a base which permitted unparalleled development of the Middle American Ancient Classical civilizations.



We'll see “the mathematical system that showed them how to build pyramids and chart the stars and the written language they left behind that tell us of their triumphs.”

This will be a great film—you can count on it.

**All things considered, it will be another Classic week.**

## EXTRA CREDIT

**A final word on 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](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](#)

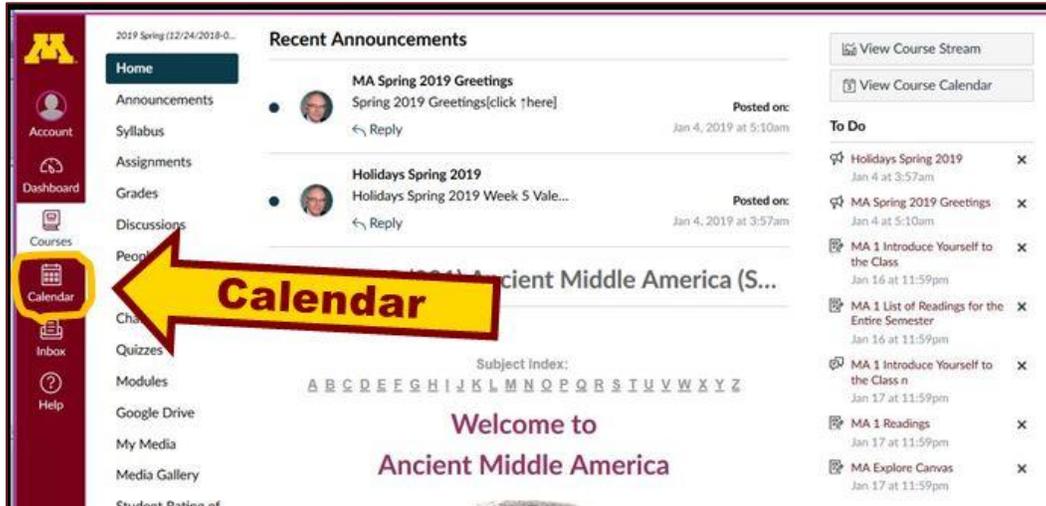
MLA Sample Papers

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

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

## This Week's Assignments and Events

. . . are listed on your "Calendar".



## This Week's "Calendar"

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Week 9	MA 9 Readings	9:01a MA 9 Video: "Forests of the Maya" (60 min.)		9a MA 13 The Classic Stage (cont.) 9:01a MA 9 Video: Culture and Math: The Maya (15/31 min.)		MA 9 Due: Project Part 2: Formal 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 17, 2019	Week 9
Mon Mar 18, 2019	MA 9 Readings
Tue Mar 19, 2019	MA 9 Video: "Forests of the Maya" (60 min.)
Thu Mar 21, 2019	MA 13 The Classic Stage (cont.) MA 9 Video: Culture and Math: The Maya (15/31 min.)
Sat Mar 23, 2019	MA 9 Due: Project Part 2: Formal 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](mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu), or stop by Cina 215 before or after class.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

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