

Ancient Middle America Week 12



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

Classic Stage (cont.)



The Postclassic

On **Tuesday** we're going to take a break from our video travels, pause to take a brief inventory of where we're at and where we're headed, and then head back to Teotihuacán for a final visit.

Once we leave Teotihuacán, and have reviewed the diagnostic features of the Classic Stage, we will have arrived at **the Postclassic**, the end of which you will find to be more familiar than much of what have been looking at this semester.

We'll have a look at the

**characteristics and diagnostic features
of the Postclassic *Stage*,**

including—eventually—a look at the great **Toltecs**—the people the Aztecs

most wanted to be like. We'll have a closer look at the Toltecs and especially the Aztecs as we close out the semester in the remaining weeks; we'll also have a brief look at the Postclassic Mixtec of Oaxaca, and (after Thanksgiving) the Postclassic Maya of Chichén Itzá.

Next week we'll again take a comparative look from *Out of the Past*: "Artisans and Traders".

"Artisans and Traders"

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



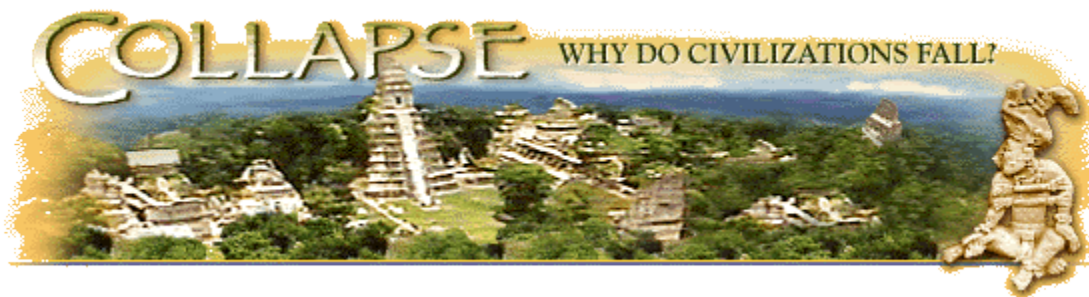
[Copán Jade](#)
Honduras

Thursday we'll have another comparative look, this time at—

"The Collapse"

(60 min., 1993, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia CC165 .O97 1993b DVD Disc 4)

from the *Out of the Past* series.



[\(course viewing guide\)](#)

Remember Week 1, when we were talking about anthropology being **comparative**? As with "Artisans and Traders"

“The Collapse” focuses on the comparative aspects of Ancient Middle America. “The Collapse, the third of the Annenberg *Out of the Past Series*, is another good example of how Mesoamerica contributes to comparative studies in anthropology in general.

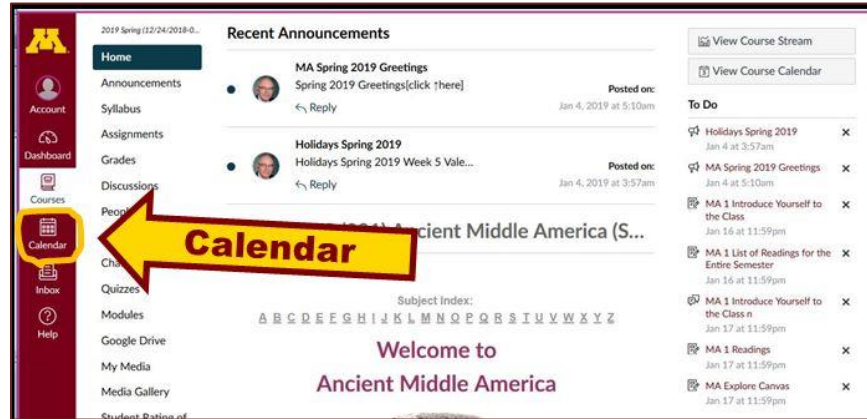
"Hundreds of years ago in what is now modern Honduras, Copán was a thriving center of Maya life. Tens of thousands of people made their home in the Copán Valley. Yet despite its importance, Copán went into decline. Across the vast territory of the ancient Maya, other important sites were sharing a similar fate. Classic Maya civilization was collapsing."

"Why did this great civilization fall? The history of humankind has been marked by patterns of growth and decline. Some declines have been gradual, occurring over centuries. Others have been rapid, occurring over the course of a few years. War, drought, natural disaster, disease, overpopulation, economic disruption: any of these can bring about the collapse of a civilization. Internal causes (such as political struggles or overfarming) can combine with external causes (such as war or natural disaster) to bring about a collapse. What does this mean for modern civilizations? What can we learn from the past?"

We'll see what the experts have to say.

This Week's Assignments and Events

... are listed on your "Calendar".



This Week's "Calendar"

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Week 12	MA 12 Readings	9a MA 23 The Postclassic Stage		9:01a MA 12 Video: Out of the Past: "The Collapse" (60 min.)		MA REM: Case Study: A Mesoamerican Personality is Due Next Week


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 7, 2019	Week 12
Mon Apr 8, 2019	MA 12 Readings
Tue Apr 9, 2019	MA 23 The Postclassic Stage
Thu Apr 11, 2019	MA 12 Video: Out of the Past: "The Collapse" (60 min.)
Sat Apr 13, 2019	MA REM: Case Study: A Mesoamerican Personality is Due Next Week

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/>