

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR**  
**DEGREE CREDIT COURSE**

Transfer course     A.A. degree applicable course

(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** CS 155/ANTH 155 Ancient Civilizations of Meso-America

**UNIT VALUE:** 3

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:** 48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:** Appropriate language skills

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**COREQUISITE:** None

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

Civilizations of Pre-Columbian Mexico and Central America with a focus on their origins and achievements.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students will:

1. Be aware of the different civilizations in Pre-Columbian Meso-America.
2. Critically analyze specific ancient civilizations in regard to their cultures, religions, ceremonies and rites.
3. Demonstrate a desire to continue the study of Pre-Columbian Meso-America on a formal or informal basis.

**CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I. **Introduction to course**
- II. **Definition:**
  - Meso America Culture
  - Precolombian Civilization
- III. **Man In The World**
- IV. **Themes**

Bering Strait Theory - Land Bridge

Ice-Free Corridors

Trans Pacific Origins.

V. **Civilization - Origin**

VI. **Origin Of New World Civilization:**

Shift in nomadic to sedentary life

Difference between Old World and New World

Corn Domestication

Teosite Hybridization

Tehuacan Valley - State of Cultures

VII. **Features of Meso American Development:**

Lithic Classic

Incipient Agriculture Post Classic

Pre Classic Proto Classic

VIII. **Civilization in Meso America:**

A. Gulf Coast

Olmec - 3 Stages: Olmec I, Olmec II, Olmec III.

**Food Sources:**

Jungle

Rivers, Lagoons, Sea

Agriculture - American Triology

Slash and Burn

**Covarrubias - "Olmec Type"**

**Archaeological Sites:**

San Lorenzo - until 900 B.C.

Tres Zapotes - 1300 B.C.

La Venta - 1300-600 B.C.

Offering Number 4.

B. Central Mexico

**Teotihuacan - Phases - 100 B.C.- 750 A.D.**

1. Proto-Teotihuacan I

Patlachiqua Phase

2. Teotihuacan I

Tzacualli Phase

3. Teotihuacan II

Miccoatli Phase

4. Teotihuacan IIA, III, and IIIA

Tlamimilolpa and Xolalpan Phase

5. Teotihuacan IV

Metepec Phase

**Toltec - Tula (Tollan) A.D. 968-1160**

1. Ball Court

2. Pyramid and Temple - Quetzalcostl

3. Atlantean Roof Supports - 15 feet high

Tlahuizcapantecuhtli

4. Chac-Mol - God of Sacrifice

5. Warriors - Eagles and Jaguars

**Mexico-Tenochtitlan - Aztec A.D. 1325-1521**

1. Aztlan - Legendary Homeland

2. Migration - Valley of Mexico 1168 A.D.
3. Began building Capital 1325 A.D.
4. Mercenaries - Tepanecs 1369 A.D.  
Defeat of Tepanecs 1427 A.D.
5. Tribute State - Tribute paid to Aztecs
6. Social Groups - Exceptions
  - a) Pochteca
  - b) Warriors
7. War - Function of Aztec Society
  - a) Weapons
  - b) Strategy
8. Agriculture - Chinampa
9. Cuauhxicalli - Aztec Callendar
  - a) Dedicated 1479 A.D.
  - b) Tonatiuh - Sun God
  - c) Five Epochs:
    1. Ocelotl - Tonatiuh
    2. Ectecatl - Tonatiuh
    3. Quiau - Tonatiuh
    4. Atl-Tonatiuh
    5. Nahui-Ollin-Tonatiuh
10. Aztec Religion
  - a) Gods
  - b) Ceremonies

### C. Cacaxtla

#### **Puebla Valley**

1. Classic Age – 650 – 900 A.D.
  - a) After Teotihuacan - 300 – 600 A.D.
  - b) During Mayan – 300 – 900 A.D.
2. Builders
  - a) Olmecan – Xicalancas
  - b) Composite Group Nahuatl, Mixtec, and Chocho-Popoloca
3. Temples
4. Temple of Venus
5. Murals – Battle Scene
6. Similarities to the Mayan
  - a) Painting style
  - b) Venus
    - 1) Knowledge
    - 2) Symbols

### D. Oaxaca

#### **Monte-Alban - Zapotec-Mixtec Stage**

1. Monte-Alban I - 700-350 B.C.
2. Monte-Alban II - 350 B.C.- A.D.100
3. Monte-Alban II-III A - A.D. 100-300
4. Monte-Alban III A - A.D. 300-600
5. Monte-Alban III B - A.D. 600-900
6. Monte-Alban IV - A.D. 900-1150
7. Monte-Alban V - A.D. 1140 - Conquest

**Additional Sites:**

1. Dainzu
2. Lambityeco
3. Yagul
4. Zaachica
5. Mitla

E. Vera Cruz Cultures

**El Tajin A.D. 100-1200**

1. Pyramid of The Niches
  - a. 365 Niches
  - b. Tablero-Sytle Exterior
2. Ballcourts - 7
  - a. Bas-Relief Scenes - sacrifices
3. Art Style
  - a. "Remojadas" - Smiling hands
  - b. Yokes, Palmas, and Hachas.

F. Maya Area

1. Maya
2. Migration: "Old Empire" "New Empire"
3. Patterns of Development of Civilization
  - a. Gordon Childe{s
  - b. Julian Steward{s
  - c. Mayan's Pattern
4. Agriculture - Slash and Burn
5. Role of Religion and Priests
6. Mayan Achievements:
  - a. Math - Head Variant, Bar-Dot and Zero
  - b. Writing
  - c. Astronomy
  - d. Calendrics
    - 1) Tzolkin
    - 2) Tun
    - 3) Haab
7. Calendar Round - Long Count
8. Sites:
  - a. Chichen-Itza
  - b. Uxmal
  - c. Palenque
  - d. Tikal
  - e. Labna
  - f. Sayil
  - g. Xcaret
  - h. Dzibilchaltun

**REQUIRED READING:**

Lathrop. Ancient Mexico Cultural Tradition Land, 4th Edition  
Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co.

**SUGGESTED READING:**

Reference shelf in library and handouts.

**REQUIRED WRITING:**

3 Objective Midterm exams; A Comprehensive Final; Short Answer Quizzes.

**OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.**

Approximately 25 textural pages of reading per week for a total of approximately 500 pages throughout the course.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

**Check all that apply:**

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

**This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.**

Yes  No

**If yes, check all that apply.** (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
- mediated instruction
- computer assisted instruction

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS** (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Three mid-term exams - 60%  
One Final Essay - 40%

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes  No  Number of times course may be taken for credit:

1.

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable: