

**Requirements**

In order to pass the course, students will submit three two-page response papers over the course of the semester, plus a written prospectus (three pages) in the eleventh week and a final paper of eight to ten pages, due at the end of Reading Period. They are expected to participate in all discussions, including in the breakout groups we will have each week, and will each be a "lead discussant" for one (1) of the articles. Each student will give oral presentations of their final paper topics in the eleventh week of class. No background or previous experience, on or in Mexico is required, only an open mind.

Weekly readings, class participation (including being lead discussant of one of the readings) 35%

Two response papers, final paper prospectus, and paper presentation 35%

10–12 page research paper 30%

**Required textbooks:**

Carrasco, David (editor), 2008: The History of the Conquest of New Spain, by Bernal D  az del Castillo. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque. ISBN 978-0-8263-4287-4

Clendinnen, Inga, 1991: Aztecs: An Interpretation. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. ISBN 0-521-40093-7

Evans, Susan Toby, 2013: Ancient Mexico and Central America: Archaeology and Culture History (Third Edition). Thames and Hudson, London and New York. ISBN 978-0-500-29065-1

Copies of the films will be available in the Lamont Library.

**Office hours for Professor Fash:**

Mondays: 10:00 - Noon; Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00, or by appointment, Room 36, Peabody Museum

**The Harvard College Honor Code:**

Members of the Harvard College community commit themselves to producing academic work of integrity – that is, work that adheres to the scholarly and intellectual standards of accurate attribution of sources, appropriate collection and use of data, and transparent acknowledgement of the contribution of others to their ideas, discoveries, interpretations, and conclusions. Cheating on exams or problem sets, plagiarizing or misrepresenting the ideas or language of someone else as one’s own, falsifying data, or any other instance of academic dishonesty violates the standards of our community, as well as the standards of the wider world of learning and affairs.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Academic dishonesty of any sort will be referred to and dealt with by the Administrative Board. Please consult the [Student Handbook](#) for information regarding academic dishonesty. Details concerning academic dishonesty in writing can be found on the [Avoiding Plagiarism](#) page provided by the Harvard College Writing Program.

**Collaboration Statement:**

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

### Academic Accommodations Statement:

Students requesting accommodations or with accessibility needs for this course should contact the Disability Access Office ([dao@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:dao@fas.harvard.edu), 617-496-8707, Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, 4th Floor). DAO letters should be turned into the Course Head at the earliest possible convenience, or at least one week in advance of the first assignment requiring accommodation.

### Religious Holy Days:

Please speak with the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester if you must miss a class, examination, or course requirement due to a religious observance. Please know that Massachusetts state law specifies that all students who must miss a class, exam, or course requirement because of a religious observance shall be provided with an opportunity to make up the requirement on another day, so long as this does not create an unreasonable burden for the school.

### Class meetings, themes, and required readings:

## Course Summary:

DATE	THEME	READINGS DUE
January 25th	Welcome, Introduction to course and to the enigma of the Feathered Serpent.	Watch 2010 film "Clash of Titans"; Evans, pp. 17-31; Bernal DÑaz "True History" (Carrasco, ed.) pp. x-xxviii; 1-27
Febuuary 1st	The Cult of Imperial Warfare	Clendinnen, pp. 1-152; Carrasco, ed., pp. 28-83; Evans 447-489
February 8th	Aztec expansion, tribute, and economy: building on the past through appropriation and active innovation in a dynamic political landscape.	Carrasco (editor): 84 - 183; Clendinnen, pp. 153-273; Evans 515-538.
February 15th	Guest lecture, Dr. Jennifer Carballo: The female self, and many crucial roles in Aztec society.	Brumfiel article; Clendinnen, pp. 153-212; Evans pp. 490-514.
February 22nd	Guest Lecture, Professor David Carrasco: Quetzalcoatl and the Irony of Empire, Revisited	Carrasco, ed. pp. 184-224 and 458-465 on Quetzalcoatl; Willey, Mesoamerican Civilization and the Idea of Transcendence
		First response paper due.

March 1st	Aztec Appropriations from the Toltecs of Tollan ("Tula"), the "Place of the Reeds" and Toltec Civilization there and beyond.	Umberger, Revival of Toltec Art; Carrasco (editor): 225-325
March 8th	Tula of the Toltecs: Master Craftsmen and Home to Topiltzin Quetzalcoatl ("Our Prince, the Feather Serpent")	Mastache and Cobean, Tula; Evans 409-426; Diego Dur��n, The ballgame.
March 22nd	The Feathered Serpent ("Kukulcan") and the Great Maya Metropolis of Chichen Itz��	Ringle et al, The Return of Quetzalcoatl; Watch the film "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever;" Second response paper due.
March 29th	Teotihuacan, the City of the Gods: The Role of the Feathered Serpent in the Origins of the City	Evans, 257 - 296; L��pez Austin, Temple of Quetzalcoatl, Teotihuacan.
April 5th	Teotihuacan at its Height: The First and the Largest Empire in Mesoamerica	Fash, Sun Pyramid, Teotihuacan; Fash, Tokovinine and Fash House of New Fire; watch the film "Apocalypto"
April 12th	Teotihuacan and its External Relations: Hegemony, Conquest and Tribute  Paper prospectus due	Sanders, Ethnographic Analogy and Teotihuacan; L��pez Luj��n et al, Destruction of Images at Teotihuacan.
April 19th	Teotihuacan and its External Relations: Hegemony, Conquest, and Tribute. Paper prospectus discussion and analysis of La otra conquista	Fash 2020 Teotihuacan Empire; Carballo 2020 Teotihuacan governance.
April 26th	Visit to the Peabody Museum "Annex" (and Vault?)	
May 10th	Final paper due	