New Course Request

1. School/Division: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2. Academic Subject Code: ANTH

3. Course Number: E335

4. Instructor: Jay Vander Veen

5. Course Title: Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Spring 2007

7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3.0 or Variable from to

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes No X

9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes No X

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: Survey of early cultures in Central America and the Caribbean, especially the Aztec, the Maya, and the Taino. Emphasis on the social life, cultural achievements, religion, worldview, and political systems to illustrate the diversity and richness of indigenous America before European contact.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3.0 or Variable from to

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 0.0 or Variable from to

13. Estimated enrollment: 35 of which 0 percent are expected to be graduate students.

14. Frequency of scheduling: alternate years

15. Will this course be required for majors? No

16. Justification for new course: New to this campus

17. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes

18. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.

19. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Date 11/1/06

Date 11/29/06

Dean of Graduate School (when required)

Chancellor/Vice-President

University Registrar

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to the University Registrar for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.
Thomas, Susan Elaine

From: VanderVeen, James Michael
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2007 9:57 AM
To: Thomas, Susan Elaine
Subject: RE: P220 and P398 Question

Susan,

Thanks again for the help. I received the P220 file in the mail. You certainly may add a note to E335 regarding the attached Bulletin description. Attached is the memo that says I couldn't find any description for P398 despite repeated efforts and extensive Googling.

Jay

James M. VanderVeen
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Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Wiehamp Hall 2267
Indiana University South Bend
South Bend, IN 46634
email: jmvdander@iusb.edu
office: 574-520-4618

From: Thomas, Susan Elaine
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 3:29 PM
To: VanderVeen, James Michael
Subject: RE: P220 and P398 Question

Hi Jay,

This is a follow-up on the course requests for P398 and E335.

For E335, with your permission I will cross out the description listed on the course request form and write in a note to see attached description from the Bulletin. If you would prefer I can send this back to you for completion of a new form. The Curriculum Committee is not scheduled to meet again until January 24th.

For P398, Linda thinks we can put it forward as a new course with a note that even though the course is listed in the master course inventory, it has not been taught and there is no course description in any IU campus bulletin, if that is accurate. Based on our research I would say that it is. Would you be able to send the committee a memo that states this to include with the course requests for P398?

For P220, I am returning this information to you.

Please let me know if you have questions about any of this. Thank you for your help and patience as we worked through this.

Susan

Susan E. Thomas
Head of Collection Development
Schurz Library

1/25/2007
variety and complexity of prehistoric native North Americans. The course focuses on the various environmental adaptations, lifeways, social systems, and material culture that have been revealed through archaeological research.

E320 Indians of North America (3 cr.) An ethnographic survey of native North American culture areas and ethnic groups.

E326 Modern Greek Society (3 cr.) This course examines modern Greek life from an anthropological perspective. Recent Greek history, and the changing circumstances of both village and urban dwellers are explored. The complexity of cross-cultural understanding emerges as the various images that outsiders hold of modern Greece are compared to the realities of contemporary life there.

E335 Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica (3 cr.) Historical ethnography of the major pre-Columbian civilizations, especially the Aztec, the Maya, and the Zapotec and Mixtec. Emphasis on the social life, cultural achievements, religion, world view, and political systems to illustrate the diversity and richness of Amerindian life before the Spanish conquest.

E336 African American Culture (3 cr.) This course provides an anthropological and comprehensive approach to the study of African American culture. It will focus on the ethnography, culture, politics, gender, language, health care, and values of African Americans. A secondary aim of this course is to examine the contemporary issues which affect the African American family.

E354 Popular Culture (3 cr.) This course studies how traditional anthropological insight can analyze social and political complexities of contemporary popular cultural phenomena. Focuses on how anthropological subjects such as class, racism, and regionalism lurk within popular cultural phenomena including post-1950 music subcultures, civil religion, and consumer culture.

P340 Modern Material Culture (3 cr.) This course examines how contemporary social experience is impacted by material culture ranging from toys to theme parks. Focuses on how consumers perceive themselves and others in modern consumer culture through the medium of commodities and examines systems of inequality that are reproduced and subverted through consumption.

E356 Cultures of the Pacific (3 cr.) This course examines the varied peoples and adaptations of the three main culture areas in the Pacific region (Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia) and explores such topics as male/female relations, sorcery, exchange, colonialism, and economic development.

E380 Urban Anthropology (3 cr.) An examination of urban social organization in cross-cultural perspective, including theoretical perspectives on urbanization, kinship and social networks, economic and political factors, and cultural pluralism.

E391 Women in Developing Countries (3 cr.) This course explores the nature of women's roles in developing countries. Particular emphasis is placed on examining how development and cultural change have affected the lives of women.

E402 Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective (3 cr.) This course considers the meaning and social implications of gender in human society. Cultural definitions of "male" and "female" gender categories as well as associated behavioral and structural differentiation of gender roles will be analyzed using current anthropological concepts and theories.

E404 Field Methods in Ethnography (3 cr.) Introduction to the methods and techniques anthropologists use to study other peoples. Preparation of a research proposal, interviewing, and the use of life histories and case studies.

E411 Wealth, Exchange, and Power in Anthropological Perspective (3 cr.) This course examines cultural patterns of production, exchange, and consumption, with an emphasis on non-Western societies and how these factors influence economic development in the Third World.
E335 Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica (3 cr.) S & H, CSA
Historical ethnography of the major pre-Columbian civilizations, especially the Aztec, the Maya, and the Zapotec and Mixtec. Emphasis on the social life, cultural achievements, religion, worldview, and political systems to illustrate the diversity and richness of Amerindian life before the Spanish conquest.

P220 The Rise of Civilization (3 cr.)
Covers the development of complex societies in several regions of the world. The material is approached from an anthropological perspective, with emphasis on archaeological methods of data collection and analysis. Early civilizations in Iraq, India, Egypt, Rome, China, Peru, and Central America will be discussed.
Anthropology

Course code(s): ANTH

ANTH A200 Topics in Anthropology Cr. 3 (V.T.)
Course is geared to the nonmajor and emphasizes the development of skills in the use of anthropological approaches to the study of human behavior and belief.

ANTH A460 Topics in Anthropology Cr. 1-3. (V.T.)

ANTH A495 Individual Readings in Anthropology Cr. 1-4. (V.T.)
P: consent of instructor. Eligible for graduate credit. Maximum of 4 credits. (fall, spring)

ANTH A496 Field Study in Anthropology Cr. 3-8.
P: consent of instructor and department chair. Planning of research project during year preceding summer in field. Time spent in research must amount to at least one week for each credit hour granted. Research paper must be presented by end of semester following field study. Maximum of 8 credits.

ANTH B200 Bioanthropology Cr. 3.
An introduction to the biological nature of mankind. The evolution of human beings. An examination of speciation, race, and racial groups. The future evolution of humans. (fall, spring)

ANTH E102 Anthropology of America Cr. 3.
Anthropological analysis of American society: marriage, descent, kinship organization, religion, social stratification, and economic basis of social structure.

ANTH E105 Culture and Society Cr. 3.
An introduction to the variations and diversities of living human groups. Social structure, religion, ecology, marriage, and personality variations of peoples of the world. Emphasis on preliterate cultures. (fall, spring, summer)

ANTH E200 Social and Cultural Anthropology Cr. 3.
Intermediate survey of theories and problems in social and cultural anthropology. Historical development, methods of inquiry, focal problems, and contemporary theoretical perspectives.

ANTH E301 Plain People of Indiana Cr. 3.
Introduction to two representative groups of Plain People: Old Order (house) Amish and Old German Baptist Brethren. Topics include their beliefs and practices, societal structure, sense of community (in language, dress, architecture, transportation, schooling, demography), and the special problems that beset them as traditional societies in a technocratic age.

ANTH E310 Introduction to the Cultures of Africa Cr. 3.
Explores the vitality and diversity of African cultures today in communities ranging from town neighborhoods to remote villages and from desert to rainforest. Demonstrates the tenacity and creativity of human societies facing severe political, social, and ecological pressures, but also contributes new questions and answers to global debates about family values, ethnicity, terrorism, hunger, and economic growth.

ANTH E320 Indians of North America Cr. 3.
P: E105. An examination of the political, economic, ecological, religious, kinship, and warfare patterns of representative Native American groups before and at the time of European contact. Approved by Arts and Sciences for the Cultural Studies (Non-Western Culture) requirement.

ANTH E321 Peoples of Mexico Cr. 3.
P: E105. Surveys modern Indian groups, peasant societies, and problems of acculturation and urbanization in contemporary Mexico. Approved by Arts and Sciences for the Cultural Studies (Non-Western Culture) requirement.

ANTH E330 Indians of South America Cr. 3.
P: E105. The cultural development and contemporary life of aboriginal societies in the tropical and marginal areas of the continent. Ethnic relationships and characteristics of major cultural groups are examined through detailed study of representative tribal units. Approved by Arts and Sciences for the Cultural Studies (Non-Western Culture) requirement.

ANTH E335 Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica Cr. 3.
P: E105. The cultural development of the great pre-Columbian civilizations in Mexico and Guatemala, especially the Aztec, Toltec, Olmec, and Maya. Emphasis on the social life, cultural achievements, religion, world view, and political systems to illustrate the diversity and richness of Amerindian life before the Spanish conquest. Approved by Arts and Sciences for the Cultural Studies (Non-Western Culture) requirement.

ANTH E341 Culture of China Cr. 3.
P: junior class standing and consent of instructor. Survey of Chinese culture and society. Geography, history, linguistic and ethnic groups, social and political organizations, education, religion, etc. Approved by Arts and Sciences for the Cultural Studies (Non-Western Culture) requirement.

ANTH E350 European Ethnography Cr. 3.
Anthropology E335: Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Readings

Instructor: Jay VanderVeen
Contact: jmvander@iusb.edu
574/520-4618

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 – 11:00 am
(and by appointment those afternoons)
Wiekamp Hall 2267

Objectives:

In one small area of land, to which one can take a regularly scheduled flight of only a couple of hours, an amazing amount of history is found. The region known as Mesoamerica (traditionally defined as the southern half of Mexico and the northern countries of Central America, but which should also include the Greater Antilles to the east) is home to some of the earliest domesticated plants in the Western Hemisphere, the very first civilizations in the New World, monumental architecture constructed by those civilizations that rivals the pyramids and ziggurats of Egypt and the Near East, fantastic forms of writing, sophisticated examples of astronomy and mathematics, and the site of the most significant contact between diverse cultures that ever occurred. Yet aside from the spectacularly reconstructed tourist sites in the Maya ruins and the bloody sacrifices of the Aztecs, not much is known about the world of Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica. Its rich history extends from several thousand to only a few hundred years ago – and the daily life and language of modern America continues to feel its influences.

It is impossible to learn, let alone teach, everything that is known about the dozens of cultures that made this world their own. This class will instead introduce you to those groups of people that had the most effect and impact on the region, and share with you the myriad of ways in which the literature and data are interpreted. From this groundwork, you may find your curiosity piqued and will know where to look for further answers.

Texts:

Out of the literally thousands of available textbooks, I chose one from the few that were organized by culture, more or less, and were relatively cheap. Aside from that, the revised edition of Prehistoric Mesoamerica by Richard E.W. Adams is a comprehensive and surprisingly enjoyable read. While Adams is good, even the revised edition is not fully up-to-date. Therefore, there will also be selected article put together into a course reader. Readers are convenient, cheaper than the handful of books they replace, but are not desired at book buy-back time. Think of it as a souvenir.

I will not be teaching “from the book,” rather the material you read will form a foundation for the information I will provide. It is of paramount importance that you read and understand the assignments before the class period for which it is assigned. Normally, you will be required to read a chapter and article each week, about 40-60 pages or so. The text is quite reader-friendly, but the collected articles might challenge you because they are taken from works that presuppose some prior knowledge. Still, I hope that you will find them rather interesting. They are assigned as representative samples of the current scholarly literature.
I am more than willing to help you out if you are having problems understanding the text, but please let me know as soon as possible so that we can stem any issues before they become real trouble.

**Evaluation:**

This course will not necessarily be presented purely as a series of lectures – that depends on your questions and reactions. When appropriate, due to the topic at hand or the perceived boredom of a majority of students, I will shift to classroom discussion, try to find an applicable film, or some other way to stir up debate. Therefore, it is your responsibility to come to class prepared to participate and not simply absorb my words of wisdom. Please do not just read the assigned chapters, but also think about them and how they relate to the issues we are talking about in class. You will need to be able to synthesize the literature and draw conclusions. This process of comprehension will occur in a diverse number of ways – at least one of which should be suited to your style of learning and all of which should lend some much needed variety to the course.

The bulk of your points come from a research paper and all of its individual components. You will author a paper of no less than 15 pages (in 12 point Times New Roman Font with 1” margins) to be submitted at the end of the semester. The strict format requirements are not because I want to evaluate the paper on its weight as compared to your classmates, rather I feel that all students should create a significant research project at one time in their careers. The bad news is that this paper will involve considerable outside research on an issue related to Mesoamerican archaeology; the good news is you get to pick that topic, and it therefore will be something that is of interest to you, from coffee to cannibalism. You will select the topic (with approval) during the first weeks of the class (10 points), assemble an annotated bibliography (20), construct an outline (30), submit a very brief section as a rough draft (30), create an abstract (10), and put it all together in a final paper (100). Complete descriptions and requirements will be available online.

At the end of our coverage of each major culture group, you will be asked to provide responses to a series of questions given to you in class. Sure, you can think of these as quizzes if you want, but I prefer the term “immediate student evaluative measuring forms.” Regardless, there will be six worth 10 points each.

When applicable, I will show some films that will present the information in new ways and provide different perspectives than the lectures or readings. You will need to produce short (two page) reviews of these films, responding to questions asked before viewing. I will count four of these (at 20 points apiece) toward your grade.

Finally, since I cannot possibly cover all the important archaeological sites in Mesoamerica during this class, nor do I know everything about them, you will help by presenting specific information on one site that will be assigned to you. You may share your findings in one of two ways: through a 5-7 minute presentation to your colleagues at the end of a class period, or through posting a 5-7 page report online. Both options allow you to present the information with relevant images, figures, and photographs to make this report as interesting as possible. The presentation will be worth 60 points and its due date depends on which site you are assigned.
# Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/13</td>
<td>Introduction to class and cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/15</td>
<td>Mesoamerican ecology, geography, history</td>
<td>(A 3-24; SM 1-14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/20</td>
<td>Peopling of Mesoamerica</td>
<td>(A 25-45; SM ch. 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/22</td>
<td>The advent of agriculture</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>01/27</td>
<td>The Olmec</td>
<td>(A 46-91; SM ch. 18)</td>
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<td>01/29</td>
<td><em>(Quiz 1)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>02/03</td>
<td>Preclassic Maya</td>
<td>(A 123-38; SM ch. 2, 20)</td>
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<td>02/05</td>
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<td>02/10</td>
<td>Classic Maya</td>
<td>(A 139-200)</td>
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<td>02/12</td>
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<td>02/17</td>
<td>Classic Maya continues</td>
<td>(SM chs. 7, 14)</td>
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<td>02/19</td>
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<td>02/24</td>
<td>“Collapse” and Postclassic Maya</td>
<td>(A 263-71,300-18; SM ch. 21)</td>
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<td>02/26</td>
<td><em>(Quiz 2)</em></td>
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<td>03/02</td>
<td>Cultures of the Oaxaca Valley</td>
<td>(A 235-53,329-49; SM chs. 1,17,19)</td>
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<td>03/04</td>
<td><em>(Quiz 3)</em></td>
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<td>03/09</td>
<td>Teotihuacán</td>
<td>(A 201-35,254-8; SM ch. 4,15)</td>
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<td>03/11</td>
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<td>03/16</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>03/18</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>03/23</td>
<td>The Toltec</td>
<td>(A 271-99, 318-21)</td>
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<td>03/25</td>
<td><em>(Quiz 4)</em></td>
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<td>03/30</td>
<td>Mexica Aztec development</td>
<td>(A 364-402)</td>
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<td>04/01</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/06</td>
<td>Aztec imperialism</td>
<td>(SM ch. 9)</td>
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<td>04/08</td>
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<td>04/13</td>
<td>Aztec collapse</td>
<td>(SM ch. 22)</td>
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<td>04/15</td>
<td><em>(Quiz 5)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/20</td>
<td>The Taíno</td>
<td>(Online chapters)</td>
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<td>04/22</td>
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<td>04/27</td>
<td>European contact</td>
<td>(SM ch. 5)</td>
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<td>04/29</td>
<td><em>(Quiz 6)</em></td>
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In the Schedule above, “A” refers to pages in the Adams text Prehistoric Mesoamerica and “SM” applies to chapters from The Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica: A Reader by Smith and Masson.
Grade Schedule:

There are 400 points available to be earned, with the potential for no more than 40 points of extra credit. Your grade will be based on the percentage you receive of the total number of points.

A+ 100% and above  A 93-99  A- 90-92
B+ 87-89  B 83-86  B- 80-82
C+ 77-79  C 73-76  C- 70-72
D+ 67-69  D 63-66  D- 60-62
F 59% and below

Policies:

If you expect to have any difficulty in meeting my expectations for any assignments in this class, be aware that problems are best resolved by dealing with them before they occur. Most issues are negotiable beforehand, but there are no guarantees after the fact. Because unforeseen circumstances can, and do, arise, please let me know as soon as the problem happens.

Please approach me if you have concerns about any aspect of this class. I am more than willing to accommodate any individual with special needs or requirements, be they physical, religious, or otherwise. Once again, however, early notification will benefit us both.

Both the University and I take academic honesty very seriously. Cheating or plagiarism will not be accepted from any student. If you are caught acting dishonestly, you will fail the specific project with no opportunity to replace the points. If you behave inappropriately a second time, you will fail the course. For your own safety, please read and follow the guidelines presented in the Academic Misconduct section of the Code of Student Ethics published by the University. Plagiarism goes beyond copying someone else's words without giving credit; it applies also to the use of another's ideas without attribution. If you have any questions about what may be plagiarism, see me. If you have any doubts, credit the original source.