Ancient Economies:
Comparing the Aztec and the Inca

ANTHRARC 296 section 101- The way that we create value and buy items is constantly changing. From designer labels to cryptocurrency and credit cards, things acquire a certain value and goods are exchanged for specific items. The archaeological past offers a rich array of ways that value is created and shows how trade and exchange occurred between ancient cities and states. This class will begin by looking at modern concepts of value, social signaling, and exchange. It will then create a framework for understanding archaeological investigations of prehistoric economies. The bulk of the course will focus on the economies of two ancient empires, the Aztec and the Inca.

Course fulfills the social science distribution and counts toward the Anthropology major and minor.

Instructor: Jordan Dalton
Contact: jadalt@umich.edu
ANTHRARC 487

ANTHRARC 487 is a six-credit, multi-sited, peripatetic field school in advanced archaeological methods to be held from May 30-July 14, 2018. Students will spend two weeks each in Kosovo, North Carolina, and Michigan, working with three established field projects. Students will travel first to Kosovo to participate in RAPID-K (“Regional Archaeology in the Peja and Istog Districts of Kosova”), a collaborative research project directed by Michael Galaty (University of Michigan), Haxhi Mehmetaj (Kosova Institute of Archaeology), and Sylvia Deskaj (University of Michigan). While in Kosovo they will be integrated into survey teams and taught methods of intensive regional survey. Students will travel next to North Carolina, where they will excavate with Rob Beck at the Berry Site, location of the Native American village of Joara and Fort San Juan, the first European settlement in the interior of what is now the United States. Finally, students will travel to Michigan, where they will be instructed in the methods of underwater archaeology by Ashley Lemke (University of Texas at Arlington), who, with John O’Shea (University of Michigan), has spent years exploring the archaeology of the Great Lakes. This field school will thereby introduce students to three mainstays of modern archaeological practice: survey, excavation, and underwater.

To apply or for questions, contact Professor Michael Galaty at mgalaty@umich.edu.
Through examinations of hurricanes, nuclear meltdowns, disease outbreaks, and other catastrophes, this course will use disasters as a lens for studying social relations, technological processes, and political systems. We will ask how disasters happen in the context of existing vulnerabilities to investigate case studies of industrial accidents, mass refugee migrations, and climate change. Students will have opportunities to engage with course themes through popular media and guest experts.

Three Credits, fulfills LSA Social Science Distribution
In this course, we will consider the role that language has played in formulating a new type of colonial and imperial project beginning with the European renaissance, continuing through the height of European and American imperialism and continental expansion, and through today with the rise of post-colonial independence and indigenous autochthonous movements around the world. Interspersing readings with media representations of language in the creation of empires around the world, we will see how ideas of language and the creation of global communities are maintained in our understanding of empires of the past and present, and in the fictionalized potential empires and fantastical worlds and galaxies of the future.

(For questions about the course, please contact Sandhya Narayanan at sandkn@umich.edu)

This class fulfills a Social Science and Race and Ethnicity distribution, and counts towards an Anthropology major and minor