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
Unzipping Genes and Untangling Latin American History

Spring 2019 | AnthroBio 297 | M&W 1PM
Obed Garcia | oag@umich.edu

This course introduces the fundamentals of genetics and how to make meaning of biological results using historical and contemporary sources on Latin America. No background necessary in biological anthropology, molecular anthropology, or Latin American history.

3 Credits towards: Anthropology and Evolutionary Anthropology Majors, Biological Anthropology Minor. Fulfills the Natural Science distribution and the Race and Ethnicity requirements.
Accidents, Catastrophes, & Unfortunate Events

The Anthropology of Disasters

Spring 2019 | Anthrcul 298.101 | TuTh 10a-1p
Instructor: Nick Caverly | nickcav@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 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.