

**AH 393/592. Arts of Teotihuacan and the Maya**  
**Undergraduate / Graduate Seminar**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30-9:45am**  
**Carlos Hall 212**

**Professor: Dr. Megan O'Neil**  
**Emory University, Department of Art History**  
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Office hours: Mondays 3:00-4:00, Wednesdays 10:00-11:00, or by appointment



**Course Description:** This course explores the city of Teotihuacan in Central Mexico and the Classic-period Maya civilization of the southern Maya lowlands, studying the artistic and architectural traditions of both regions and examining evidence for artistic exchange and political connections between these civilizations.

**Course Requirements:** Attendance; Weekly Readings; Reading Responses; Short Papers; Research Paper and Presentation. Additional Meetings, Readings, and Assignments for Graduate Students will be announced.

**Grading (total 100%):** Reading Responses: 10%; Short Paper # 1: 15%; Short Paper # 2: 20%; Class Participation: 15%; Research presentation: 5%; Research Paper: 35%. All assignments must be completed in order to pass the class.

**Weekly Readings:** Reading of assigned texts (listed in “Schedule”) is required and will give you the necessary background for participating in class and completing assignments. Please complete the readings BEFORE the class in which it is listed.

- **Book (at B&N at Emory Bookstore; on Reserve at Woodruff Library):**
  - Miller, Mary Ellen and Megan E. O'Neil. *Maya Art and Architecture*, 2nd edition. London: Thames and Hudson (2014). ISBN: 0500204225
- **Articles and Book Chapters (listed below) available in online course reserves.**

**Writing Assignments:** I will give detailed instructions in class for each of these assignments. Assignments must be turned in on time; for each 24-hour period an assignment is late, one half grade will be deducted. Appropriate medical and family excuses must be provided to establish new dates for assignments.

- **Reading Responses:** Weekly Reading Responses are required (submission information TBA). Write a one-paragraph response to one assigned reading. Evaluate arguments or respond to any aspect of the reading and write one question for class discussion.
- **Two Short Papers:** Two short essays are required. Specific instructions given in class.
  - **Short Paper # 1** (2 pages, typed and double-spaced) (**due Sept. 12, in class**).
  - **Short Paper # 2** (4-5 pages, typed and double-spaced) (**due Oct. 3, in class**).
- **Research Paper:** One research paper (15 pages, typed and double-spaced) is required. You will complete the project in the following stages:
  - Paper topic (one paragraph): paper copy due **October 24, in class**.
  - Rough draft: paper copy due **November 14, in class**.
  - Research Presentations: **December 10, in class**.
  - Research Paper: Paper copy **December 10, in class**.

**Class Participation:** All students should come to seminar each week with ideas, questions, and topics to discuss related to the weekly readings.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all class sessions. If you are not able to attend a session, please make arrangements with another student to get notes and announcements. Because this is a seminar, excessive absences will result in a lower grade.

**Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices:** Cell phones must be turned OFF during class. You are welcome to use an electronic device for note-taking, but please focus on class materials so as not to distract yourself or others. Texting, emailing, and web browsing are not allowed in class.

**Honor Code:** Familiarize yourself with Emory's Honor Code regarding plagiarism and academic integrity. There is zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism in this course. If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please consult your professor.

**Office of Accessibility Services:** Emory provides all persons an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and services afforded to others. Students needing accommodations for this course are encouraged to see Professor O'Neil as soon as possible in the semester (and at least one week before the test or assignment due date). Students must also register with Emory's Office of Accessibility Services; see <http://accessibility.emory.edu/students/new-to-oas/registering.html>.

**Religious Accommodations:** Any student who is absent because of his or her religious beliefs will be given an opportunity to make up examination, study, or work requirements. As soon as possible (and at least one week in advance), please inform me of religious observances that are likely to conflict directly with this class so that we can make any necessary accommodations.

**Office hours: Mondays 3:00-4:00, Wednesdays 10:00-11:00, or by appointment.** If you are having problems or want to discuss any aspect of the course, please see me during office hours or make an appointment. Email is a good way to communicate with me for brief questions.

### Schedule of Topics and Readings

\*Additional Meetings, Readings, and Assignments for Graduate Students will be announced.\*

#### **Weds. 8/29 Introduction to the Maya and Teotihuacan**

#### **Weds. 9/5 Maya Deities and Origin Myths**

- Miller and O'Neil. *Maya Art and Architecture*, pp. 8-23;
- Tedlock, Dennis, translator. *Popol Vuh: The Mayan Book of the Dawn of Life*. New York: Simon and Schuster (1996). Read pp.63-142.
- [Grad students: Miller, Mary Ellen and Simon Martin. *Courtly Art of the Ancient Maya*. Thames and Hudson (2004). Read "The Divine Models of Courtly Culture," pp.50-91.]

#### **Mon. 9/10 Introduction to Maya Writing**

- Coe, Michael D. and Mark Van Stone. *How to Read Maya Glyphs*. London and New York: Thames and Hudson (2001). Read pp.17-36, pp. 59-67, 74-88, and do exercises;
- Stuart, David. Ten Phonetic Syllables. Selection reprinted in *The Decipherment of Ancient Maya Writing*, pp.194-206.

#### **Weds. 9/12 Painting the Cave of Sustenance at the Preclassic Maya Site of San Bartolo**

- Saturno, William A. Centering the Kingdom, Centering the King: Maya Creation and Legitimization at San Bartolo. *Art of Urbanism: How Mesoamerican Kingdoms Represented Themselves in Architecture and Imagery*, ed. W. Fash and L. Luján, pp. 111-134. Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (2009).

**\*\* Short Paper # 1, due September 12. Bring paper copy to start of class.\*\***

#### **Mon. 9/17 Early Classic Maya Sculpture and Architecture**

- Miller and O'Neil. *Maya Art and Architecture*, pp.46-57, pp.112-121;
- Taube, Karl. The Symbolism of Jade in Classic Maya Religion. *Ancient Mesoamerica* 16:23-50 (2005).

#### **Weds. 9/19 Architecture and Cosmos at Teotihuacan**

- Headrick, Annabeth. *The Teotihuacan Trinity: The Sociopolitical Structure of an Ancient Mesoamerican City*. Austin: University of Texas Press (2007). Chapter 6, "The Gods Did It: The Divine Sanction of Power," pp. 103-124;
- Robb, Matthew H. Space, Object, and Identity in the City of the Gods. *Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire*, ed. M. H. Robb, pp. 158 -167.

#### **Mon. 9/24 Feathered Serpent Pyramid at Teotihuacan**

- Taube, Karl A. The Temple of Quetzalcoatl and the Cult of Sacred War at Teotihuacan. *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 21:53-87 (Spring, 1992);
- Sugiyama, Saburo. The Feathered Serpent Pyramid at Teotihuacan: Monumentality and Sacrificial Burials. *Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire*, ed. M. H. Robb, pp. 56-61. San Francisco: de Young Museum (2017).

**Weds. 9/26 “Tlalocan,” the Tunnel Under the Feathered Serpent Pyramid**

- Gómez Chávez, Sergio. The Underworld at Teotihuacan: The Sacred Cave under the Feathered Serpent Pyramid. *Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire*, ed. M. Robb, pp. 48-55. San Francisco: de Young Museum (2017).

**Mon. 10/1 Moon Pyramid at Teotihuacan**

- López Luján, Leonardo and Saburo Sugiyama. The Ritual Deposits in The Moon Pyramid at Teotihuacan. *Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire*, ed. M. H. Robb, pp.82-89. San Francisco: de Young Museum (2017);
- Sugiyama, Nawa. Animals that Reside in the Sacred Mountain and Empowered Monuments at Teotihuacan. *Constructing, Deconstructing, and Reconstructing Social Identity: 2,000 years of Monumentality in Teotihuacan and Cholula, Mexico*, ed. S. Sugiyama, S. Kabata, T. Taniguchi, and E. Niwa, pp. 41-49. Aichi, Japan, Cultural Symbiosis Research Institute, Aichi Prefectural University (2013).

**Weds. 10/3 Sun Pyramid at Teotihuacan**

- Heyden, Doris. An Interpretation of the Cave Underneath the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan, Mexico. *American Antiquity* 40(2):131-147 (1975);
- Sarabia González, Alejandro and Nelly Zoé Núñez Rendón. The Sun Pyramid Architectural Complex in Teotihuacan: Vestiges of Worship and Veneration. *Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire*, ed. M. Robb, pp.62-67. San Francisco: de Young Museum (2017).

**\*\* Short Paper # 2, due October 3. Bring paper copy to start of class\*\***

**Weds. 10/10 Teotihuacan Apartment Compounds**

- Gómez Chávez, Sergio. Foreigners’ Barrios at Teotihuacan: Reasons for and Consequences of Migration. *Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire*, ed. M. Robb, pp.102-107. San Francisco: de Young Museum (2017);
- [Grad students: Carballo, David M. The Social Organization of Craft Production and Interregional Exchange at Teotihuacan. *Merchants, Markets, and Exchange in the Pre-Columbian World*, ed. K. Hirth and J. Pillsbury, 113–140. Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (2013).]

**Mon. 10/15 Maya at Teotihuacan**

- Clayton, Sarah. Interregional Relationships in Mesoamerica: Interpreting Maya Ceramics at Teotihuacan. *Latin American Antiquity*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (Dec. 2005), pp. 427-448;
- Taube, Karl A. Tetitla and the Maya Presence at Teotihuacan. *The Maya and Teotihuacan: Reinterpreting Early Classic Interaction*, ed. G. Braswell, pp.273-314. Austin: University of Texas Press (2003).

**Weds. 10/17 Mythological Narratives in Teotihuacan Painted Murals and Vessels**

- Helmke, Christophe and Jesper Nielsen. The Defeat of the Great Bird in Myth and Royal Pageantry: A Mesoamerican Myth in a Comparative Perspective. *Comparative Mythology* 1: 23–60 (2015);

- O’Neil, Megan E. Stucco-Painted Vessels from Teotihuacan: Integration of Ceramic and Mural Traditions. *Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire*, ed. M. Robb, pp.180-187. San Francisco: de Young Museum (2017).

**Mon. 10/22 Teotihuacan Writing and Images**

- Domenici, Davide. Place Names and Political Identities in the Teotihuacán Mural Paintings. *Constructing Power and Place in Mesoamerica: Pre-hispanic paintings from three regions*, ed. M. Paxton and L. Staines Cicero, pp.53-75. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press (2017).
- [Grad students: Taube, Karl. Teotihuacan and the Development of Writing in Early Classic Central Mexico. *Their Way of Writing: Scripts, Signs, and Pictographies in Pre-Columbian America*, ed. E. Boone and G. Urton, pp.77-109. Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks (2011).]

**Weds. 10/24 Teotihuacan in the Peten: Tikal**

- Stuart, David. “The Arrival of Strangers”: Teotihuacan and Tollan in classic Maya history. *Mesoamerica’s classic heritage: from Teotihuacan to the Aztecs*, ed. D. Carrasco, L. Jones, and S. Sessions, 465-513. University Press of Colorado, Boulder (2000);
- Martin, Simon. At the Periphery: The Movement, Modification and Re-Use of Early Monuments in the Environs of Tikal. *The Sacred and the Profane: Architecture and Identity in the Maya Lowlands*, ed. P. Colas, K. Delvendahl, M. Kuhnert, A. Schubart, pp. 51-62. Acta Mesoamericana 10. Markt Schwaben, Germany: Verlag Anton Sauerwein (2000).

**\*\*Paper Topic due October 24. Bring paper copy to start of class\*\***

**Mon. 10/29 Teotihuacan in the Peten: Holmul and La Sufricaya**

- Estrada-Belli, Francisco, Alexandre Tokovinine, Jennifer M. Foley, Heather Hurst, Gene A. Ware, David Stuart, and Nikolai Grube. A Maya Palace at Holmul, Peten, Guatemala and the Teotihuacan “Entrada”: Evidence from Murals 7 and 9. *Latin American Antiquity* 20(1):228-259 (2009);
- Marcus, Joyce. The Maya and Teotihuacan. *The Maya and Teotihuacan: Reinterpreting Early Classic Interaction*, ed. G. Braswell, pp.337-356. University of Texas Press, Austin (2003).

**Weds. 10/31 Teotihuacan and Copan**

- Sharer, Robert J. Founding events and Teotihuacan connections at Copán, Honduras. *The Maya and Teotihuacan: Reinterpreting Early Classic Interaction*, ed. G. E. Braswell, pp.143-166. University of Texas Press, Austin (2003);
- Reents-Budet, Dorie, Ellen E. Bell, Loa P. Traxler, and Ronald L. Bishop. Early Classic Ceramic Offerings at Copan: A Comparison of the Hunal, Margarita, and Sub-Jaguar Tombs. *Understanding Early Classic Copan*, ed. E. Bell, M. Canuto, and R. Sharer, pp.159-190. University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (2004).

**Mon. 11/5 Class visit to Michael C. Carlos Museum: Maya and Teotihuacan Ceramics**

- Miller and O’Neil. *Maya Art and Architecture*, pp.182-209.

**Weds. 11/7 Flower Mountain**

- Taube, Karl A. Flower Mountain: Concepts of Life, Beauty, and Paradise among the Classic Maya. *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 45:69-98 (Spring, 2004);
- Taube, Karl. Climbing Flower Mountain: Concepts of Resurrection and the Afterlife at Teotihuacan. *Arqueología e historia del Centro de México. Homenaje a Eduardo Matos Moctezuma*, ed. L. López Luján, D. Carrasco, and L. Cué, pp.153-170. México, D.F.: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (2006).

**Mon. 11/12 Teotihuacan and the Pacific Coast**

- Berlo, Janet Catherine. Art historical approaches to the Study of Teotihuacán-Related Ceramics from Escuintla, Guatemala. *New Frontiers in the Archaeology of the Pacific Coast of Southern Mesoamerica*, ed. F. Bove and L. Heller, pp.147-165. Arizona State University (1989);
- Chinchilla Mazariegos, Oswaldo. Human Sacrifice and Divine Nourishment in Mesoamerica: The Iconography of Cacao on The Pacific Coast of Guatemala. *Ancient Mesoamerica* 27: 361-375 (2016).

**Weds. 11/14 Fall of Teotihuacan**

- Cowgill, George L. *Ancient Teotihuacan: Early Urbanism in Central Mexico*. New York: Cambridge University Press (2015). Read Chapter 9, “‘Interesting Times’: Teotihuacan Comes apart and a New Story Begins: 550 CE and After,” pp.233-244;
- López Luján, Leonardo, Laura Filloy Nadal, Barbara W. Fash, William L. Fash, and Pilar Hernández. The Destruction of Images in Teotihuacan: Anthropomorphic Sculpture, Elite Cults, and the End of a Civilization. *Res: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 49/50:12–39 (2006).  
\*\*\*Research Paper Draft due November 14. Bring paper copy to start of class.\*\*\*

**Mon. 11/19 Late Classic Maya and the Memory of Teotihuacan: Piedras Negras**

- Stone, Andrea. Disconnection, Foreign Insignia, and Political Expansion: Teotihuacan and the Warrior Stelae of Piedras Negras. *Mesoamerica After the Decline of Teotihuacan*, ed. R. Diehl and J. Berlo, 153-172. Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (1989).

**Weds. 11/21: No class. Individual meetings about Research Papers (to be scheduled)**

**Mon. 11/26 Teotihuacan War Serpent at Tikal and Yaxchilan**

- Miller and O’Neil. *Maya Art and Architecture*, pp.132-160.
- Martin, Simon and Nikolai Grube. *Chronicle of the Maya Kings and Queens*, pp. TBA.

**Weds. 11/28 Dynastic Architecture of Copan Temples 16 and 26**

- Miller and O’Neil. *Maya Art and Architecture*, pp.73-78.
- Stuart, David. A Foreign Past: The Writing and Representation of History on a Royal Ancestral Shrine at Copan. *Copan: The History of an Ancient Maya Kingdom*, ed. E. Andrews and W. Fash, pp.373-394. Santa Fe, NM and Oxford: School of American Research Press and James Currey Ltd (2005).

- [Grad students: Fash, William. Religion and Human Agency in Ancient Maya History: Tales from the Hieroglyphic Stairway. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 12(1):5-19 (2002).]

**Mon. 12/3 Kaanul (Snake Kingdom)**

- Martin, Simon. Of Snakes and Bats: Shifting Identities at Calakmul. *The PARI Journal* 6(2):5-15 (2005);
- Additional Reading TBA.

**Weds. 12/5 Life Histories of Rulers, Buildings, and Sculptures Among Late Classic Maya**

- Just, Bryan. Modifications of Ancient Maya Sculpture. *Res: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 48:69-82 (2005);
- O'Neil, Megan E. Ancient Maya Sculptures of Tikal, Seen and Unseen. *Res: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 55/56:119-134 (2009).

**Mon. 12/10 Research Presentations**

**\*\*\*Research Paper due December 10. Bring paper copy to start of class \*\*\***