

## **Approval: 4<sup>th</sup> Senate Meeting**

**Course Name** : Mayan America

**Course Number** : HS-575

**Credits** : 3-0-0-3

**Students intended for** : B. Tech. 3rd and 4th year students; and, M.A. and Ph.D. students in H&SS

**Elective or Compulsory** : Elective

**Preamble:** This course would be a useful complement to wide variety of courses. Those interested in world history, indigenous cultures, and broader contemporary issues of migration and diaspora would find this course particularly useful. Thus it could serve to complement courses in history, sociology and global studies.

**Course Outline:** From the Mayan doomsday prophecies to the guerrilla uprisings that shook Mexico in 1994, the Mayan indigenous people have been an important part of popular culture and given rise to global debates on the nature of modernity and globalization. In this course we will explore important historical and contemporary topics of global importance by focusing on Mayan history and culture in the Americas. After a survey of pre-Hispanic Mayan societies and of the European conquest of Mexico and Central America, we will consider the Mayan experience of Spanish colonial rule and the rise of Latin American nation-states in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Finally, we will explore the recent history of political conflict and military repression in Guatemala, the Zapatista uprising in southern Mexico, and Mayan migration to the United States. Drawing upon the varied perspectives of archaeology, anthropology, and history, we will explore topics including: conquest and colonialism, neoliberalism, globalization and commodity production and circulation, migration, tourism, ethnic and cultural identity formation, cultural resistance and adaptation, state violence and human rights and broader questions of tradition and modernity.

### **Modules:**

1. ANCIENT MAYAN CIVILIZATION: 10 hours
  - a. The Classic Period
  - b. Decline and Collapse
  - c. Space, time and cosmos
2. MAYA UNDER COLONIAL RULE: 10 hours
  - a. Conquest
  - b. Colonialism
  - c. Resistance in Yucatan, Chiapas and Guatemala
3. MAYA IN THE POSTCOLONIAL PERIOD: 12 hours
  - a. Legacy of colonialism
  - b. The Caste War of Yucatan
  - c. Capitalism and commodities
  - d. Revolution in Mexico and repression in Guatemala

4. TRANSNATIONAL MAYA: 10 hours
  - a. Pan Maya Activism
  - b. Neoliberalism and the Zapatista uprising
  - c. Migration and Diaspora—Mayans in contemporary United States

**Textbooks:**

There is no prescribed text-book for this course. Targeted readings including relevant book chapters, journal articles etc. will be provided for each day's lesson.

**Reference Books:**

- Bricker, Victoria *The Indian Christ, the Indian King: the Historical Substrate of Maya Myth and Ritual*, 1981
- Clendinnen, Inga *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1570*, 1987
- Coe, Michael *The Maya*, 2005.
- Farriss, Nancy *Maya Society Under Colonial Rule: The Collective Enterprise Of Survival*, 1984.
- Fischer, Edward F. and Peter Benson, *Broccoli and Desire: Global Connections and Maya Struggles in Postwar Guatemala*, 2006.
- Loucky, James and Marilyn M. Moors eds., *The Maya Diaspora: Guatemalan Roots, New American Lives*, 2000
- Menchú, Rigoberta, *Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*, 1984
- Patch, Robert *Maya Revolt and Revolution in the Eighteenth Century*, 2002
- Rugeley, Terry *Yucatán's Maya Peasantry and the Origins of the Caste War*, 1996
- Schele, Linda and David Friedel, *A Forest of Kings: Untold Stories of the Ancient Maya*, 1990
- Stephens, John Lloyd *Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan*, 1993.
- Warren, Kay *Indigenous Movements and Their Critics: Pan-Maya Activism in Guatemala*, 1998