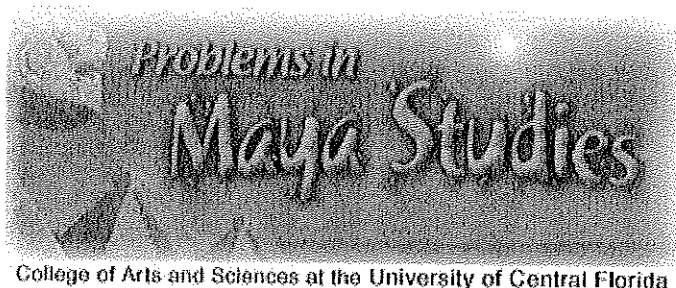


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ang5166 - Problems in Maya Studies  
Arlen Chase

### Syllabus

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Arlen Chase
<b>Office</b>	Phillips Hall 309E
<b>Office Hours</b>	TBA
<b>Phone</b>	407-823-2227
<b>Homepage</b>	<a href="http://www.caracol.org">http://www.caracol.org</a>

#### Goals and Themes:

This course seeks to consider the problems encountered in making interpretations about ancient Maya civilization. By reading and discussing the assigned materials, students will strengthen their analytical and evaluative skills as well as gain an understanding of historical and theoretical foundations in Maya archaeology.

#### Course Requirements:

All students are expected to read the assigned readings by the beginning of the week that they are listed in the syllabus (unless otherwise informed). Postings should be done on each reading during the week that they are assigned. The postings for each reading should consider the following points: *What is the main point of the article? How are terms defined and*

*what assumptions are made (stated and unstated)? What criticisms are aimed at other works? What solutions are offered? How does the article align with other positions in the field?* This summer class will follow an independent study format in which the student posts on the assigned articles every week and can find me in Phillips Hall 309E for questions and further discussion; all should be posted on the web by 5 PM Friday of the respective week the reading is assigned. Grading will be done on a point system. Each posting is worth approximately 3.5 points; there are 29 postings worth 101.5 points. Late postings will result in a penalty of 1 point per posting. No postings will be accepted after June 26. Grades will be based on the posting points earned and on the quality of the posted summaries.

#### FORMAT FOR WEB POSTINGS:

1. Author's Last Name, Date
2. Summary of major point(s) of the article
3. How article fits into larger debate (temporally, spatially, thematically, or theoretically)
4. Positive and negative aspects of the article

#### Resource Books that can be Consulted for Further Information:

Adams, R.E.W. 1977 Ed., *The Origins of Maya Civilization*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Ashmore, Wendy 1981 *Lowland Maya Settlement Patterns*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Chase, Diane Z. and Arlen F. Chase 1992 Eds., *Mesoamerican Elites: An Archaeological Assessment*, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Chase, Arlen F. and Prudence M. Rice. 1985 *The Lowland Maya Postclassic*, University of Texas Press, Austin

Culbert, T. Patrick 1973 *The Classic Maya Collapse*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

- Culbert, T. Patrick 1991 *Classic Maya Political History: Hieroglyphic and Archaeological Evidence*, Cambridge University Press, New York.
- Friedel, David A. and Jeremy A. Sabloff 1984 *Cozumel: Late Maya Settlement Patterns*, Academic Press, Orlando.
- Harrison, Peter D. and B. L. Turner II. 1978 Eds., *Pre-Hispanic Maya Agriculture*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.
- Martin, Simon and Nikolai Grube 2000 *Chronicle of the Maya Kings and Queens: Deciphering the Dynasties of the Ancient Maya*, Thames and Hudson, New York.
- Sabloff, Jeremy A. and E. Wyllys Andrews V. 1986 *Late Lowland Maya Civilization: Classic to Postclassic*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, Cambridge.
- Sharer, Robert J. 1994 *The Ancient Maya*, Stanford University Press, Stanford.
- Schele, Linda and David Friedel 1990 *A Forest of Kings: The Untold Story of the Ancient Maya*, Morrow, New York.
- Schele, Linda and Peter Matthews 1998 *The Code of Kings: the Language of Seven Sacred Maya Temples and Tombs*, Scribner, New York.
- Schele, Linda and Mary Ellen Miller 1986 *The Blood of Kings: Dynasty and Ritual in Maya Art*, Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth.
- Thompson, J. Eric S. 1966 *The Rise and Fall of Maya Civilization*, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
- Thompson, J. Eric S. 1970 *Maya History and Religion*, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
- Tozzer, A.M. 1941 *Landa's Relacion de las Cosas de Yucatan*, Peabody

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge.

Willey, G. R. and Jeremy A. Sabloff 1980 *A History of American Archaeology*, W.H. Freeman, San Francisco.

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File: Schedule



College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Central Florida

ang5166 - Problems in Maya Studies  
 Arlen Chase

## Schedule

### Topics and Assignments:

(parenthesis indicate a day on which there is no class meeting; bold indicates an exam day);

Week	Dates	Topics and Readings
1.	May 18	<p><b>Introduction: History and Archaeology</b>  <b>Interpreting the Archaeological Record: Dating and Chronology building, Formation Processes, Field Techniques, Research Design, Methods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E. Shook: "Recollections of a Carnegie Archaeologist" (1990)</li> <li>• H.E.D. Pollock: "Introduction" in "Mayapan" (1962)</li> <li>• M. Edmonson: "The History of the Itza in the Book of Tizimin" (19xx)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T. Proskouriakoff: "Mayapan, The Last Stronghold of a Civilization" (1954)</li> <li>• G. Vaillant: Chronology and Stratigraphy in the Maya Area (1935)</li> <li>• G.R. Willey et al.: "Introduction" in Barton Ramie (1965)</li> </ul>
2.		
2.	May 25	<p><b>Data Analysis and Analytic Techniques: Artifacts, Ceramics, and Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E. Shook and W. Coe: "Tikal: Numeration, Terminology, and Objectives" (1962)</li> <li>• Willey, Culbert and Adams: "Maya Lowland Ceramics" (1967)</li> <li>• A. Chase: "A Contextual Approach to the Ceramics of Caracol, Belize" (1994)</li> <li>• H. Shafer and T. Hester: "Maya Stone Tool Craft Specialization" (1986)</li> <li>• D. Chase and A. Chase: "Yucatec Influence in Northern Belize..." (1982)</li> </ul>
3.	June 1	<p><b>Issues of Inference: Kinship, Household, Demography, Peoples, and Relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R.R. Wilk: "Maya Household Organization" (1988)</li> <li>• J. Deetz: "The Inference of Residence and Descent Rules from Archaeological Data"</li> <li>• D. Rice and T.P. Culbert: "Historical Contexts for Population Reconstruction in the Maya Lowlands" (1990)</li> <li>• Chases: "Inferences about Abandonment..." (2000)</li> <li>• D. Chase and A. Chase: "Ghosts Amid the Ruins...; (n.d.)"</li> </ul>
4.	June 8	<p><b>Issues of Inference: Social, Political, and Economic Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claessen and van de Velde: "Introduction" (1991)</li> <li>• D. Chase and A. Chase: "Archaeological Perspectives on Classic Maya Social Organization at Caracol, Belize" (2004)</li> <li>• A. Chase and D. Chase: "An Archaeological Assessment of Mesoamerican Elites" (1992)</li> <li>• D. Chase and A. Chase: "Mesoamerican Elites: Assumptions, Definitions, and Models" (1992)</li> <li>• Kowalewski, S.A., G.M. Feinman, and L. Finsten:</li> </ul>

		"The Elite' and Assessment of Social Stratification in Mesoamerican Archaeology" (1992)
5.	June 15	<p><b>Issues of Inference: Religion, Hieroglyphs, and Iconography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Houston and A. Lacadena: "Maya Epigraphy at the Millenium" (2004)</li> <li>• A. Chase, D. Chase, and R. Cobos: "Maya Hieroglyphs and History: An Archaeological Perspective" (2007)</li> <li>• T. Proskouriakoff: "Olmec Gods and Maya God-Glyphs" (19xx)</li> <li>• A. Ruz: "The Mystery of the Temple of the Inscriptions" (1953)</li> </ul>
6.	June 22	<p><b>Interpreting Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Chase: "Time Depth or Vacuum: the 11.3.0.0.0 Correlation ..." (1986)</li> <li>• D. Chase and A. Chase: "Hermeneutics, Transitions, and Transformations in Classic to Postclassic Maya Society" (2004)</li> <li>• D. Chase and A. Chase: "Framing the Maya Collapse: Continuity, Discontinuity, Method, and Practice ..." (2006)</li> <li>• A. Chase and D. Chase: "Methodological Issues in the Archaeological Identification of the Terminal Classic and Postclassic Transition in the Maya Area" (2008)</li> </ul>

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File: Protocols



College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Central Florida

ang5166 - Problems in Maya Studies

Dr. Arlen Chase

## Protocols

### E-mail Protocols

1. Be sure to keep your e-mail address in eCommunity current so that you can receive updated information on the course.
2. Check e-mail and discussions often - at least 2 times per week (more often would be better).
3. Be patient when you ask a question (either on the discussions or in e-mail).
4. Use e-mail for questions that: (a) are personal in nature or (b) have been posted on a discussion topic for at least 48 hours and have not been answered by another member of the class.
5. When e-mailing the instructor, always put the course prefix and number (ANG5166) in the subject heading, but feel free to add additional information afterwards that will let the instructor know the nature of your communication.
6. Be sure to sign all e-mail messages.
7. Do not use the class e-mails for inappropriate purposes such as chain letters or solicitations.

### Discussion protocols

1. Use the discussions for questions that may be

- answered by others in the group as well as for posting assignments.
2. Respond to other class members' questions and postings if you know the answers or have something different to say.
  3. Use the appropriate discussion topic; do not post everything to the "Main" topic.
  4. Keep up with discussion posting and reading; do not expect to receive full credit for postings that take place only during the last few days or weeks of the course.
  5. Use the "reply" button rather than the "compose" button if you are replying to someone else.
  6. If a heading is not specified for a particular assignment, compose subject headings that clearly indicate the nature of what you are posting.
  7. After initial postings - in which you are just getting comfortable with the discussion - attempt to avoid comments such as "I agree" or "ditto" that add little to the discussion.
  8. Cut and paste large blocks of texts into the discussion rather than typing directly. Preview the information and add appropriate spaces before submitting so that your contributions are easily read by others.
  9. Feel free to use the appropriate discussion topic(s) (and chat) for conversations with other members of the class about topics that are of interest to you,

but please be patient, considerate, and courteous at all times.

10. Enjoy the course.

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