

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2020-2021** LAST 399-A1: Topics in Latin American Studies—  
*Aztec Language & Culture*  
(Fall Term)

*Note: Remote Delivery*

Instructor: Ann De León  
Office: Remote Delivery  
E-mail: [adeleon1@ualberta.ca](mailto:adeleon1@ualberta.ca)  
Course Website: e-class

Time: Tu, Th 2:00PM-3:20PM  
Place: Remote Delivery (Zoom, eclass)  
Office Hours: Th 11AM-12PM,  
or by appointment

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

---

**Course Prerequisite:** None

**Technology requirements (minimum):** You must have access to a device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or cellphone to access e-class and a U of A Zoom account created through first accessing e-class.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course. For more information on this visit the IST page:

<https://support.ctl.ualberta.ca/index.php?Knowledgebase/Article/View/402/4/participating-in-online-classes-for-students>

For more information on using Zoom for in class meetings see:

<https://support.ctl.ualberta.ca/index.php?Knowledgebase/Article/View/422/23/using-zoom-for-students>

**Experiential Learning Component**

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below  
 Document distributed in class

- Other (please specify)  
 NA

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

Also known as *Mexicano* or the Aztec language, Nahuatl is one of the largest native indigenous American languages spoken in North America today (with almost 2 million speakers). In this course students will be introduced to the rudiments of contemporary Nahuatl (Huasteca, the largest variety) and where possible, will learn some aspects about older Classical Nahuatl. Since language is intimately tied to worldview, emphasis will also be placed on learning about ancient Aztec (i.e. Mexica) history, religion, cosmovision and cultural practices.

*By the end of this course, students should be able to:*

- Identify basic components of Nahuatl (Huasteca variety) grammatical structures and vocabulary.
- Read/write basic Nahuatl sentences related to everyday life practices.
- Understand key aspects of Aztec history, religion, cosmovision and cultural practices.
- Develop a final research paper of their choice on some aspect of Aztec language, culture, religion etc.

*\*This course can count towards the MLCS Major and towards a Certificate in International Learning.*

**Course Format:** The objectives of this course will be met through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous presentations, in class group discussions and activities (group-work, quizzes, games) and assigned readings and audiovisual materials/links.

**Texts:**

*Required paperback:*

Yan Garcia. *Learn Nahuatl: Language of the Aztecs and Modern Nahuas*. Create Space Independent Publishing Platform. July 25, 2016. ISBN-10: 1532960549.

(Can be purchased for \$20 CDN through amazon.ca)

**Additional Course Fees**

- Yes       No

Note: *This class may use game-based learning activities through 3<sup>rd</sup> party software/applications like Quizlet.com and Kahoot.com in order to reinforce the learning of grammatical concepts and vocabulary. If students sign up for a free account, or if they choose to purchase any apps, it is recommended that they not use their U of A email account or self-identifying information due to privacy concerns.*

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020  
50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020  
Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020  
Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020  
Last Day of Class: December 3, 2020

Components of Course Grade (see “**Explanatory Notes**”):

**Term work: (75%)**

<i>Attendance/Participation:</i>	15% (ongoing)
<i>8 Quizzes @ 2.5% each:</i>	20% (see dates below)
<i>2 Tests @ 10% each (open book):</i>	20% (Oct 8 & Nov 17)
<i>8 e-posts @ 2.5% each:</i>	20% (see dates below)

**Final project: (25%)**

<i>Final project proposal:</i>	5% (Nov 24)
<i>3-minute project presentation:</i>	5% (Dec 1 or Dec 3)
<i>Final project:</i>	15% (Dec 10)

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:** (*Detailed guidelines will be provided on e-class*)

*Notes:*

- *All class assignments will be submitted through e-class by the due dates (unless noted otherwise). In case of any unforeseen technological issues with e-class, you may send your assignments to me by email by the due date with a written note explaining why it was not possible for you to use e-class.*
- *If you experience any internet issues during class time and are not able to join or re-join a Zoom session in progress, follow the U of A trouble-shooting advice or contact ITS to get help and notify me by email at your earliest convenience.*
- *If the instructor plans to record any live class Zoom sessions, they will notify all students beforehand to allow them to hide their video feed (if they would like to do this).*

**Attendance/Participation (15%) ongoing:** Attendance will be documented the first 5 minutes of Zoom class start time. Participation will consist of active engagement through verbal (audio) or textual (chat function) contributions to class discussions/activities and break-out-room group discussions/activities, evidencing adequate completion of readings/tasks for that day. \*In the case that you are unable to attend a live class (due to unforeseen technical, health, or personal issues etc.) you must email your instructor at your earliest convenience a written note explaining why it was not possible for you to participate via Zoom and provide a brief paragraph highlighting what you thought the main points of the assignments/readings for that day were. This paragraph will count towards your participation grade for that day.

*Note: During live Zoom class sessions, students can opt to have their video on or off and can participate by choosing the “hands” icon in the chat function which will allow the instructor to unmute them (oral participation) or they can choose to type their question/comments in the chat function. During Zoom group break-out sessions, students can opt to have their video on or off and can engage with their peers*

*either through oral participation or they can type their questions/comments in the chat function.*

**8 Quizzes (20%) due (Sept 1,17,24, Oct 1,15,22,29, Nov 5):** Throughout the semester students will be asked to take low-stakes quizzes @ 2.5% each in order to test comprehension of different grammatical points/vocabulary units covered in their course textbook. Students can adequately prepare for these quizzes by completing the exercises included in their course textbook (which includes answers in the back) and also by participating in game-based learning activities provided by the instructor through e-class links to software/apps like Quizlet.com and Kahoot.com.

**2 Tests (20%) (open book) on (Oct 8 & Nov 17):** Students will be asked to complete two (open book) tests at home (@ 10% each), testing grammatical material/vocabulary/cultural content covered in the course up until that point. Students will submit their completed test through e-class (or via email to the instructor in case any online difficulties are experienced).

**8 e-posts (20%) due (Sept 8,15, 22,29, Oct 6,13,20,27):** Throughout the semester, students will be asked to submit brief e-posts (200-250 words max.) regarding a particular reading/assignment for that day. For each post, students will be asked to identify **TWO KEY IDEAS** elicited from their reading/video. They will be asked to engage critically with their “text” by asking questions such as: “Why is this [key idea/quotation/image/concept etc. important/interesting?”]

- Full marks (2.5%) will be received for completing the e-post thoughtfully;
- Half-marks (1.25%) will be received if the work appears last-minute or shows evidence of not having fully completed the reading/video or having failed to comprehend some of the main ideas.
- A zero (0%) will be received if you choose not to submit anything.

**Final project proposal (5%) due Nov 24:** Students will be asked to develop a final project proposal (in preparation for a final research paper) focusing on one aspect of Aztec language/culture/religion etc. of their choice. *The proposal must explain* 1) What aspect of Aztec language/culture/religion etc. they wish to focus on and why and how they plan to approach this project. *The proposal must include:* 2) A preliminary list of 3 important sources related to your topic (book chapters, articles, websites etc.) you have read/consulted and explain what you have learnt from these that has sparked your interest in the topic & 3) a comprehensive list of at least 10 resources (primary and secondary, scholarly and non-scholarly) *that you have found in your search that could be consulted* on your topic: i.e. books, articles, links (videos, websites etc.) \*Note: *Our subject area librarian will prepare a helpful sheet to aid you in searching for resources.*

(Sources must be formatted using MLA style (8<sup>th</sup> edition):

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html))

**3-minute final project presentation (5%):** Towards the end of the course, students will be asked to share with their peers a 3-minute mini presentation/report summarizing their final project/creative work. Presentations will take place on the last 2 days of classes: Dec 1 or Dec 3. More guidelines will be provided through e-class.

***Final project (15%) due Dec 10:*** Once your final project proposal has been approved you can work on your final research paper. The paper must be between 2,000-2,500 words max. (excluding bibliography) and can include images or links (if relevant and properly cited). The paper must be double-spaced using size 12 font and must be formatted in the MLA style (8<sup>th</sup> edition) and submitted as a word.doc/word.docx (no PDFs will be accepted).

**Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

**Student Responsibilities:**

***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

***Language and Translation Courses:***

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”  
(from the beginning of the Calendar).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

**In this course**, attendance and participation are essential and constitute 15% of the final grade. Students are expected to participate actively in class/group discussions and by having thoughtfully completed their readings/assignments for that day. In the case of an unforeseen emergency, students may request an excused absence within two working days through email (providing an explanation/proper documentation). In the case of religious holidays, students should contact the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester to plan in advance for how missed components attendance/participation will be met.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

All assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Students who consult *in advance*

with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course without penalty. Should a student be given an extension for a late assignment but fail to abide by the new deadline, no further extension will be granted and the student will receive a zero for that assignment. In case of an emergency which has impeded the student from submitting an assignment by the deadline, an email should be sent to the instructor within 48 hours of the due date explaining the situation. Unless supported by substantial reasons, a grade of zero will be assigned to any work not submitted on time.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources:** (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre:** (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers:** (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

***Grading:***

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a

student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

**Copyright:** Ann De León, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta 2020-2021