

# “The Making of Maya Archaeology”

**ANT 384M**                      FALL 2010  
**Tuesdays 1-4**                EPS 1.130KA

**Instructor:**                Fred Valdez                      471-0060 office  
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**Course Description:** This seminar will review the development (history and progress) of archaeological research in the Maya region. From earliest historical interests in the area to recent research a review of significant advances and influences in archaeology are discussed. The first part of the course (presented by Prof. Valdez), will cover the broad interests and developments within Maya archaeology. The latter part of the class will consist of presentations emphasizing the individuals (biographies) involved in the development of analysis of Maya Civilization (archaeology) as well as the theoretical underpinnings of those developments.

**Purpose:** Many of the earliest Maya researchers & explorers have been written about in articles and books. This seminar will examine individuals of a more recent era, some recently passing on and others are currently (or soon to be) retired. We will look at their background, training, influences on their thought, and their contributions to the field of Maya archaeology. Ideally, this seminar will make clear how we’ve come to the place we are in Maya studies..

**Requirements:** Enrolled students will be assigned (either individually or as teams) an “individual” for review, definition, their background and development over time in the study of the ancient Maya. These assignments will be presented in class. A final seminar paper concerning the subject(s) presented will complete the course. No “required” readings are assigned as these will be determined by the subject of research.

**Grading/Evaluation:** The final course grade will be determined by way of a combination of attendance (10%), class participation (when appropriate, 10%), the formal presentation (40%), and a final seminar paper (40%). The final paper must include the text (biography, etc.), figures/illustrations, a bibliography (for the text), and bibliography of the individual researched (some exceptions here to be discussed).