

UČNI NAČRT PREDMETA / COURSE SYLLABUS

Predmet:	Kozmologija mezoameriških ljudstev
Course title:	Cosmology of Mesoamerican societies

Študijski program in stopnja Study programme and level	Študijska smer Study field	Letnik Academic year	Semester Semester
Primerjalni študij idej in kultur, doktorski študij 3. stopnje	<a href="#">Antropologija: razumevanje svetotvornih praks</a>	Brez letnika	/
Comparative study of ideas and cultures, doctoral study 3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle	<a href="#">Anthropology: understanding worldmaking practices</a>	Not specified	/

Vrsta predmeta / Course type: splošno izbirni / general elective

Univerzitetna koda predmeta / University course code: 11

Predavanja Lectures	Seminar Seminar	Vaje Tutorial	Klinične vaje work	Druge oblike študija	Samost. delo Individ. work	ECTS
60	30				90	6

Nosilec predmeta / Lecturer: Red. prof. dr. Ivan Šprajc

Jeziki / Languages: Predavanja / Lectures: slovenščina, angleščina / Slovenian, English  
 Vaje / Tutorial: /

Pogoji za vključitev v delo oz. za opravljanje študijskih obveznosti:

Ni posebnih pogojev.

Prerequisites:

None required.

Vsebina:

1. Uvod v mezoameriške kulture:

- Mezoamerika – definicija in skupne značilnosti kulturnogeografskega območja;
- Mezoamerika – oris naravnega okolja in kulturnega razvoja;
- pregled osnovnih značilnosti mezoameriških kultur (gospodarske osnove, družbena struktura, politična organizacija, religija, znanja, arhitektura, umetnost...).

2. Kozmologija v kulturnem kontekstu:

- definicija kozmologije;
- kozmologija in sorodni pojmi (kozmogonija, pogled na svet);
- razmerje med kozmologijo, znanostjo in religijo;

Content (Syllabus outline):

1. Mesoamerican cultures, introduction:

- Mesoamerica: definition and common characteristics of the cultural area;
- Mesoamerica: natural environment and cultural development;
- Survey of basic characteristics of Mesoamerican cultures (economic basis, social structure, political organization, religion, exact knowledge, architecture, art, etc.).

2. Cosmology in a cultural context:

- Definition of cosmology;
- Cosmology and related terms (cosmogony, worldview);
- The relationship between cosmology, science, and religion;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pogojenost kozmoloških konceptov od konkretnega naravnega okolja in kulturnega konteksta.</li> </ul> <p>3. Zgodovinski in mitični čas v Mezoameriki:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• orientacija v času; pomen opazovanja neba;</li> <li>• merjenje časa, koledarski sistem;</li> <li>• linearni in ciklični čas;</li> <li>• astronomsko znanje, uporabni vidiki;</li> <li>• razmerje med astronomijo in astrologijo;</li> <li>• kozmogonija v mitih in arheoloških virih.</li> </ul> <p>4. Konceptualna povezanost časa in prostora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• astronomsko signifikantne smeri kot prostorski indikatorji poteka časa;</li> <li>• struktura sveta/vesolja; kozmogrami;</li> <li>• kozmologija v religiji in ritualu;</li> <li>• observacionalne osnove verovanj, atributov božanstev in obrednih dejanj.</li> </ul> <p>5. Materialni korelati kozmoloških konceptov:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• kozmološki simbolizem v arhitekturi, pokopih in drobnih artefaktih;</li> <li>• urbane trase kot kozmogrami;</li> <li>• astronomske orientacije v arhitekturi – praktični in simbolični pomen;</li> <li>• kozmološki elementi kulturne pokrajine («posvečena geografija»).</li> </ul> <p>6. Družbena vloga kozmoloških pojmovanj:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strukturiranje in interpretacija sveta in človekovega mesta v njem;</li> <li>• uporabna vloga poznavanja naravnih zakonitosti (programiranje dejavnosti v letnem ciklu; učinkovitost gospodarstva ipd.);</li> <li>• vloga kozmologije v kompleksnih družbah: znanje kot sredstvo legitimiranja oblasti, preobrazba verovanj v politično ideologijo;</li> <li>• komparativni vidiki in generalizacije: primerjave z nekaterimi drugimi arhaičnimi civilizacijami.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dependence of cosmological concepts on a specific natural environment and cultural context.</li> </ul> <p>3. Historical and mythical time in Mesoamerica:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation in time; significance of observation of the sky;</li> <li>• Time measurement, the calendrical system;</li> <li>• Linear and cyclical time;</li> <li>• Astronomical knowledge, utilitarian aspects;</li> <li>• The relation between astronomy and astrology;</li> <li>• Cosmogony in myths and archaeological evidence;</li> </ul> <p>4. The conceptual relationship of time and space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Astronomically significant directions as spatial indicators of the course of time;</li> <li>• Structure of the world/cosmos, cosmograms;</li> <li>• Cosmology in religion and ritual;</li> <li>• Observational bases of beliefs, attributes of deities, and ritual acts;</li> </ul> <p>5. Material correlates of cosmological concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cosmological symbolism in architecture, burials, and small artefacts;</li> <li>• Urban layouts as cosmograms;</li> <li>• Astronomical orientations in architecture: practical and symbolic significance;</li> <li>• Cosmological elements of cultural landscape (“sacred geography”).</li> </ul> <p>6. The social role of cosmological concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordering and interpretation of the world and humans’ place therein;</li> <li>• Practical significance of understanding regularities in nature (scheduling of activities in the yearly cycle, efficiency of subsistence strategies, etc.);</li> <li>• The role of cosmology in complex societies: knowledge as an instrument of domination and legitimation of power;</li> <li>• Transformation of beliefs into political ideology;</li> <li>• Comparative aspects and generalizations: comparison with other ancient civilizations.</li> </ul>
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**Temeljna literatura in viri / Readings:**

- Bolle, K. W., *Cosmology*. V: M. Eliade, ur., *Encyclopedia of Religions*, vol. 4: 100-107.
- Jaki, S. L., *Science and religion*. V: M. Eliade, ur., *Encyclopedia of Religions*, vol.4 : 121-133.

- Brady, J. E. – W. Ashmore, 1999, Mountains, caves, water: ideational landscapes of the ancient Maya, v: Wendy Ashmore – A. Bernard Knapp, ur., Archaeologies of landscape, Oxford: Blackwell, 124-145.
- Aveni, Anthony F., 2001. Skywatchers: A revised and updated version of Skywatchers of ancient Mexico, Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Verdet, Jean-Pierre, 1996, Nebo: Red in nered, Ljubljana: DZS (prev.: M. Veselko; orig.: Le ciel: Ordre et désordre, Paris: Gallimard Jeunesse, 1987).
- Carlson, J. B., 1981, A geomantic model for the interpretation of Mesoamerican sites: an essay in cross-cultural comparison. V: E. P. Benson, ur., Mesoamerican sites and world-views, Washington: Dumbarton Oaks, 143-215.
- Sosa, J. R., 1989, Cosmological, symbolic and cultural complexity among the contemporary Maya of Yucatan. V: A. F. Aveni, ur., World archaeoastronomy, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 130-142.
- Villa Rojas, A., 1986. Apéndice I: Los conceptos de espacio y tiempo entre los grupos mayances contemporáneos. V: M. León-Portilla, Tiempo y realidad en el pensamiento maya, México: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 119-167.
- Adams, R. E. W., M. J. MacLeod, eds. 2000. The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas, Vol. II: Mesoamerica, Parts 1 & 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Šprajc, I., 2018, Astronomy, architecture, and landscape in prehispanic Mesoamerica. Journal of Archaeological Research 26 (2): 197-251.

#### Cilji in kompetence:

Študentke in študentje naj bi se seznanili s kozmološkimi koncepti mezoameriških ljudstev in z različnimi kulturnimi prvinami oz. vidiki življenja, v katerih se ta pojmovanja tako ali drugače odražajo. Pregled konkretnih spoznanj in raziskav, ki so do njih pripeljale, naj bi ponazoril tudi metodološke prijeme, ki so bili aplicirani, omogočil ovrednotenje njihove uporabnosti pri tovrstnih preučevanjih nasploh ter ilustriral relevantnost rezultatov za holistično razumevanje funkcioniranja in razvoja nekdanjih družb.

#### Objectives and competences:

This course familiarizes students with the cosmological concepts of pre-Hispanic peoples of Mesoamerica, as well as cultural manifestations or aspects of life in which these ideas are contained or reflected. A summary of what is currently known in this respect and a survey of studies that have led to specific results should also exemplify methodological approaches that have been applied, allow a proper assessment of their utility in this kind of research, and illustrate the relevance of what they have learned for a holistic understanding of the structure and functioning of past societies.

#### Predvideni študijski rezultati:

Razumevanje

- razvoja mezoameriških kultur;
- kozmoloških pojmovanj in njihove povezave z okoljskimi značilnostmi in kulturnega konteksta;
- relevantnih konceptov sferne astronomije;
- metodologije, primerne za preučevanje kozmologije in pogleda na svet

#### Intended learning outcomes:

Understanding of

- development of Mesoamerican cultures;
- cosmological concepts and their relationship with environmental peculiarities and cultural context;
- relevant concepts of spherical astronomy;
- methodology appropriate for studying cosmology and worldview

**Metode poučevanja in učenja:****Oblike dela:**

- Frontalna oblika poučevanja  
 Delo v manjših skupinah oz. v dvojicah  
 Samostojno delo študentov  
 e-izobraževanje

**Metode (načini) dela:**

- Razlaga  
 Razgovor/ diskusija/debata  
 Delo z besedilom  
 Proučevanje primera  
 Igra vlog  
 Druge vrste nastopov študentov  
 Reševanje nalog  
 "Terenske vaje" (npr. obiski podjetij)  
 Vključevanje gostov iz prakse

**Learning and teaching methods:****Types of learning/teaching:**

- Frontal teaching  
 Work in smaller groups or pair work  
 Independent students work  
 e-learning

**Teaching methods:**

- Explanation  
 Conversation/discussion/debate  
 Work with texts  
 Case studies  
 Roleplay  
 Different presentation  
 Solving exercises  
 Field work (e.g. company visits)  
 Inviting guests from companies

**Načini ocenjevanja:**

Krajši pisni izdelki
Daljši pisni izdelki
Javni nastop ali predstavitev
Končno ocenjevanje (pisni/ustni izpit)
Drugo

Delež (v %) /  
Weight (in %)

20
20
60

**Assessment:**

Short written assignments
Long written assignments
Presentations
Final examination (written/oral)
Other

**Reference nosilca / Lecturer's references:**

Šprajc, Ivan, Takeshi Inomata, Anthony F. Aveni

- 2023 Origins of Mesoamerican astronomy and calendar: Evidence from the Olmec and Maya regions. *Science Advances* 9 (1): eabq7675.

Šprajc, Ivan, Aleš Marsetič, Jasmina Štajdohar, Sara Dzul Góngora, Joseph W. Ball, Octavio Esparza Olguín, Žiga Kokalj

- 2022 Archaeological landscape, settlement dynamics, and sociopolitical organization in the Chactún area of the central Maya Lowlands. *PLOS ONE* 17 (1): e0262921.

Šprajc, Ivan

- 2021 Astronomical aspects of Group E-type complexes and implications for understanding ancient Maya architecture and urban planning. *PLOS ONE* 16 (4): e0250785.
- 2021 Equinoctial Sun and astronomical alignments in Mesoamerican architecture: fiction and fact. *Ancient Mesoamerica* (online).
- 2020 Lost Maya cities: Archaeological quests in the Mexican jungle. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.
- 2018 Venus in Mesoamerica: rain, maize, warfare, and sacrifice. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Planetary Science*.
- 2018 Astronomy, architecture, and landscape in prehispanic Mesoamerica. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 26 (2): 197–251.