



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center presents:



Understanding Indigenous Mexico through the Maya and Aztec Codices

Some pages from the Dresden Codex (Maya), 11th-12th century CE

**A Two-session Online Adult Education Class
Instructed by Ethnohistorian Michael Brescia, PhD
Tuesdays October 4 and 18, 2022**

6:30 to 8:30 pm ARIZONA/Mountain Standard Time (Same as Pacific Daylight Time)

In this Old Pueblo Archaeology Center course, Dr. Michael M. Brescia examines the manuscript culture of ancient Mexico and what the codices reveal about the political, economic, social, and cultural rhythms of daily life for the Maya and Aztec societies of Mesoamerica.

Made of deer hide or bark paper, the pre-Columbian codex folded like an accordion and could contain images on both sides. After the Spanish conquest of Mexico in 1521, the codex tradition continued under the auspices of the Spanish missionaries and provided Indigenous peoples with a voice amid the dramatic changes that were taking place all around them. Adjusting to new realities, Indigenous peoples became active players in the preservation and revitalization of their lifeways, as they took advantage of new techniques in manuscript development to manifest their voices.

(See next page for more information about the course.)

\$50 donation per participant benefits Old Pueblo's education programs
(\$40 for members of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center
and members of Friends of Pueblo Grande Museum)
Donations are due 10 days after reservation request
or by 5 p.m. Tuesday September 27, whichever is earlier.
To register send email to info@oldpueblo.org or call **520-798-1201**.



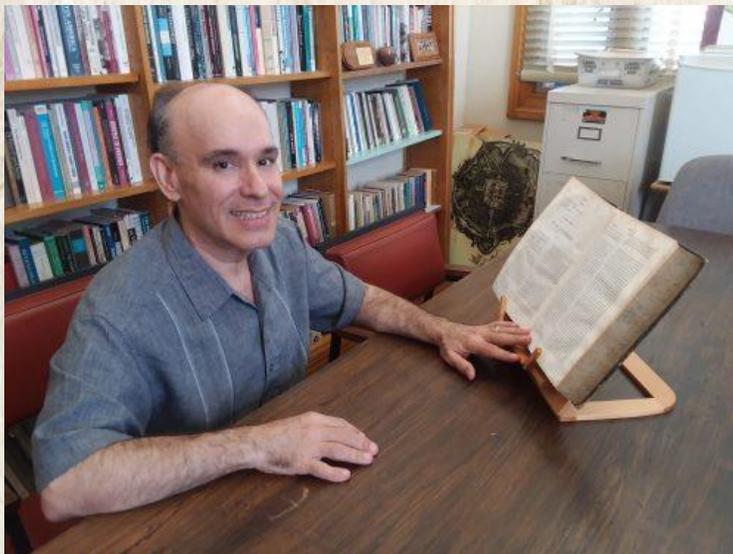
*Page from the Codex Mendoza
(Aztec/Mexica), ca. 1540s*

Understanding Indigenous Mexico through the Maya and Aztec Codices

In this class we will tease out the multiple dimensions of pre-Columbian Maya society as manifested in codices such as the Dresden Codex and the Grolier Codex, the latter having only been authenticated by scholars in 2018. We will discuss the links between the Maya codices and scholarly efforts to crack the so-called Maya Code or hieroglyphic system of writing. We then will turn our attention to the changes and continuities in Mexica (Aztec) society through a close examination of several codices and writings produced just before and right after the Spanish conquest of the Aztec confederation in 1521, including the Codex Mendoza and Codex Florentine, among others.



Page from Book 9, Florentine Codex (Aztec-Mexica), mid-16th century



Instructor Michael Brescia, PhD, is Curator of Ethnohistory in the Arizona State Museum and has faculty affiliations with the Department of History and the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. He teaches a wide range of courses at the UA, including Mexican and Borderlands history, the comparative history of North America, and historical research and method. He is co-author of *North America: An Introduction* with John C. Super, and of the 4th edition of *Mexico and the United States: Ambivalent Vistas* with Dirk Raat, and he was lead curator of three major exhibitions at ASM, including the award-winning, *Many Mexicos: Vistas de la Frontera*.

Michael's research has garnered international and national recognition over the years, including, for example, a Fulbright, a visiting professorship in Mexico, and visiting research fellowships in Australia and California. And just last year, Michael received the Dan Shilling Humanities Public Scholar Award from Arizona Humanities for his scholarly efforts to make history and culture more accessible to the general public.

For more information contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center
at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201

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