Welcome to Bobcat Preview’s College Note Taking Session

Presented by

Student Learning Assistance Center
Please Welcome
Dr. Brian Cooper
Department of Geography

Dr. Cooper is a faculty member specializing in Sub-Saharan Africa and World Regional Geography.
Early Mesoamerican Civilizations:
Green – Aztec    Gold – Maya
Pyramid of the Magician
Mayan site of Uxmal, Mexico
Caracol Observatory, Mayan Ruins of Chichen Itza
Early Mesoamerican Civilizations:
Green – Aztec    Gold – Maya
Map of the Aztec Capital of Tenochtitlan
Mexico City Air Pollution
Temperature Inversion
Mexico City Slums and Shantytowns
Someday?

Mayans

Aztecs

Ethnic Nationalism and Civic Nationalism?

NATION: a group of people

Something about Mexico...

Blaahhhhhhhhh
The Mayans were the only ancient civilization to arise in the lowland tropics, are experts in...

The Aztecs search for a capital and the legend of the location serves...

Mexico City is the Primate city of Mexico, meaning ...

A primate city embodies the national character and culture of a...

The major motivations behind migration include push factors (those that cause people to leave a particular place) and pull factors...
Human Geography of Mexico:
-The Pre-European Civilizations

1. The Maya
   a. only major ancient civilization to arise in the lowland tropics
   b. experts in math (concept of zero) and astronomy (calendar, alignment of buildings, etc.)

2. The Aztecs
   a. search for a capital (legend of location = national symbol of Mexico today)
   b. Lake Texcoco and the city of Tenochtitlan; conquest by Spanish and construction of Mexico City on the ruins of Tenoch.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEO 1310</th>
<th>8/23/2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Take notes here as usual</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Column</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>--to be used for review before/after class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vocabulary / definitions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Questions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summary Phrases</strong></td>
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The Human Geo of Mexico

- Maya: only major ancient civilization to arise in the lowland tropics

- Aztecs: search for a capital (the legend of the location = the national symbol of Mex. Today)

- Mexico City: Primate city of Mex
  - Primate City
    - Largest in a country (by a considerable margin)
    - Sometimes the capital
    - Embodies the national character and culture of a country’s society
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues to Stuff you Need to Know on the Left</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Study Tip:** Use another sheet of paper to cover up info on the right when preparing for an exam. This will keep you from “cheating” while you study.

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### GEO 1310

**The Human Geo of Mexico**

- **Maya:** only major ancient civilization to arise in the lowland tropics
- **Aztecs:** search for a capital (the legend of the location = the national symbol of Mex. Today)
- **Mexico City:** Primate city of Mex
- **Primate City**
  - Largest in a country (by a considerable margin)
  - Sometimes the capital
  - Embodies the national character and culture of a country’s society
Discussion Notes

Summary of the main point of the class discussion

Tend to be shorter and usually do not follow any particular structure

Main ideas are key, as opposed to details

Ending reflection is important. What was the point of today’s discussion?

Human Geography of Mexico

Key terms:
1. Civilizations
2. The Mayas
3. The Aztec

What did the Maya excel at (examples)?
- Math (zero)
- Astronomy (Calendar, BLD Alignment)
- Primate City:
  - Largest in a country
  - Can be the capital
  - National character and culture

Possible Test Questions:
1. Explain why the older population will describe Millennials selfish and entitled?
2. What are some things we can start doing now to battle our addiction to technology?
**The Quadratic Formula**

\[ x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \]

1. **Similar to Cornell; used to record, revise, and review notes**

2. **Useful for learning procedures such as mathematics and statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X represents the solutions of:</th>
<th>Ex 1: Solve ( 5x^2 - 8x + 3 = 0 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( ax^2 + bx + c = 0 )</td>
<td>(Already in stand. Form)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Steps:**

1. First must find standard form of equation
2. Then try and factor — if not possible, use quad formula
3. Determine values for \( a, b, c \), and substitute into formula

**Ex 1:**

\( 5x^2 - 8x + 3 = 0 \)

\( a = 5, b = -8, c = 3 \)

Using quad form:

\[ x = \frac{-(-8) \pm \sqrt{(-8)^2 - 4(5)(3)}}{2(5)} \]

\[ x = \frac{8 \pm \sqrt{64 - 60}}{10} \]

\[ x = \frac{8 \pm \sqrt{4}}{10} \]

\[ x = \frac{8 \pm 2}{10} \]

So, \( x = \frac{8 - 2}{10} \) or \( x = \frac{8 + 2}{10} \)

\[ x = \frac{6}{10} \] or \( x = \frac{10}{10} \)

So, \( x = 0.6 \) or \( x = 1 \)

The solutions of any quad equation can be found by using the quad formula (ALWAYS!)
Lecture Note-taking as a 3 Part Process

**Before Class**
- Read
- Review notes
- Be prepared

**During Class**
- Listen for clues
- Stress general ideas
- Use your own words
- Listen-Think-Write

**After Class**
- Organize/Reduce
- Rehearse
- Reflect
- Review
Get Organized

- Attend ALL lectures
- Sit near the front of the classroom
- Use a separate notebook or binder for each course
- Date your notes (This matters around test time!)
  - Write on one side of the page
  - Have pens and pencils ready
- If text is referenced, have it open and ready

Get excited!

It will help you stay organized and focused.
A Good Listener is Hard to Find

- Tune in and maintain eye contact
- Listen for a statement of purpose
- Keep listening even if lecture becomes confusing
- Focus on ideas, facts, or procedures
- Stay objective if material is controversial

To truly listen, you must be **attentive**!

Hearing is a physical act that does not necessarily involve thought.
Write it down if...

- Words or concepts are repeated
- Introductory & concluding transition phrases are used
- Words signaling relationship, new subject, conclusions, or examples are used
- Anything is written on the board or overheads
- A direct statement is made (such as, “This will probably be on the test.” OR “Star this in your notes.”)
- The instructor’s level of interest rises, he gets excited, or more animated
- Anything is presented in a list form
Short. Simple. And Sweet.

- Write or print clearly but quickly
- Use the language of the discipline
- Write what you need for understanding
- If a term or concept is used that you don’t understand or can’t spell, circle it to check later
- Record the speaker’s examples (You’ll often find them on the test.)
- At the end, identify your own thoughts (What are mine? What are the professor’s?)
Tips for Note Taking

- Use fragments: Don’t try to write down every word spoken. Do get the most important stuff.
- Leave spaces if you didn’t understand or need to add something you missed (statistics, diagrams, or charts) later.
- Develop your own system of abbreviations and symbols.
- Find your own style!
- If your handwriting is messy, recopy or type up your notes neatly while the info is still fresh in your mind.
Can’t Keep Up?

- Ask the instructor to go slower or repeat a point
- Prepare before class
- Trade copies of notes with friends
- Attend S.I.
- Check with instructor after class
- Ask for clarification
- Use a tape recorder
- Leave spaces in notes for filling in the blanks

Source: Ellis, Dave. *The Master Student*
This semester you have the “Laid Back” Lecturer, what should you do?

- Get plenty of sleep
- Utilize caffeine or energy foods & drinks
- Sit in the front of the class and lean forward in your chair
- Chew gum or eat candy (if you can do so quietly)
- Review text & note headings before class, making notes in text during class
- Illustrate notes with pertinent info (charts, graphs, etc.)
- Note anecdotes and relate them to text or lecture info that may be on exams
- Work out before class
- Keep a stress ball/small toy in bag to stimulate circulation in hands and arms
“Laid Back” Lecturer DON’TS

- Wear overly comfortable/warm clothes
- Eat big meals shortly before class
- Sit in the back of the classroom
- Lay your head down or recline in your chair

- **DO learn** from this experience!
- **Avoid** scheduling classes *when* you know you’ll be catatonic
- **ASK** your peers which professors are engaging
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Tape Recorder vs. Laptop</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Laptop</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Type faster than you write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Always legible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- You can still use your abbr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bulky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Commonly stolen on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Need outlets or backup power source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Tape Recorder</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- “Rewind” your prof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fill in gaps in notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Listen at your leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Leads to daydreaming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Time consuming</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Batteries can/will fail</td>
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**Always ask if it’s ok to record a lecture!**
General Note Taking Hazards

You shouldn’t...

- Consider an example too obvious
- Use Roman Numerals
- Overload yourself with abbreviations
- Give up if the lecturer is too fast/too slow
- Stop to ponder for too long
- Over indent or waste space
- Wait for something “important”
- Look only for facts
- Doodle
- Text message or play games on cell phone
- Write love letters
For More Note-taking Info or Help

Drop By SLAC

Student Learning Assistance Center

4th Floor, Alkek Library (Suite 411)

http://www.txstate.edu/slac

512-245-2515

Good Luck!