

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

Summer 2021 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group

Maya Myths in Art & Writing

Have you ever been curious about what the ancient Maya believed, or what stories they told to explain the world around them? Thanks to ethnographic work and recent epigraphic decipherments of the Maya script, we are able to understand more clearly what the Maya believed about their world. Scenes represented on ceramic vessels or on stone monuments come to life as we read words spoken by gods and animals alike. Although the content of these stories has changed over time, many connections still exist between ancient Maya beliefs and those of the modern Maya living today. In this reading group, we will study the myths of the ancient Maya and how these myths were represented in art during the Classic period. Using Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariego's *Art and Myth of the Ancient Maya* as our guide, we will analyze the myths passed down through time and preserved in ancient artifacts. Participants will gain a greater appreciation of Maya culture, and will be able to identify key protagonists in Maya cultural history.

Your SASA Educational Ambassador:

Catherine Nuckols-Wilde

Maya Art History and Epigraphy; Latin American Studies at Tulane University

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Group Size: ~ 15

Dates (7 weeks):

Fridays @ 12 pm EDT

-Session 1: Friday, June 25

-Session 2: Friday, July 2

- Session 3: Friday, July 9
- Session 4: Friday, July 16
- Session 5: Friday, July 23: CANCELLED! (see email)
- Session 6: Friday, July 30
- Session 7: Friday, August 6
- Makeup Session: Friday, August 20

Location:(Provided by SASA)

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83483737542>

Zoom Meeting ID

834 8373 7542

Zoom Meeting Password

006177

Week 1: Introduction to Mesoamerica, the Maya and Myths

Readings:

- Chinchilla Mazariegos, *Art and Myth of the Ancient Maya*, Introduction
- Chinchilla Mazariegos, *Art and Myth of the Ancient Maya*, Chapter 1

Week 2: Evaluating sources and drawing comparisons with later texts

Readings:

- Chinchilla Mazariegos, *Art and Myth of the Ancient Maya*, Chapter 2
- Hurwit, "The Shipwreck of Odysseus: Strong and Weak Imagery in Late Geometric Art"

Week 3: Maya and Mesoamerican Cosmogony

Readings:

- Chinchilla Mazariegos, *Art and Myth of the Ancient Maya*, Chapter 3
- Popol Vuh excerpt, pgs. 48-61

Week 4: Young Gods and Their Fathers

Readings:

- Chinchilla Mazariegos, *Art and Myth of the Ancient Maya*, Chapters 8-9 (54 pages)
- Popol Vuh excerpt, 98-113
- Popol Vuh excerpt, 141-176

Week 5: Women in Maya Myth

Readings:

- Chinchilla Mazariegos, *Art and Myth of the Ancient Maya*, Chapters 4-5 (48 pages)
- Popol Vuh excerpt, pgs. 113-125

Week 6: Animals, The Natural World and Their Roles in Myth

Readings:

- Chinchilla Mazariegos, *Art and Myth of the Ancient Maya*, Chapters 6-7 (54 pages)
- Popol Vuh excerpt, pgs. 61-75
- Popol Vuh excerpt, pgs. 76-86
- Popol Vuh excerpt, 125-139
- Popol Vuh excerpt, pgs. 176-177

Week 7: Known Gods in the Classic Maya Pantheon

Readings:

- Stone & Zender, *Reading Maya Art*, pgs.