

THE ANCIENT CITY
Anthropology 3510
Fall 2019

Week 6 Readings: Some Discussion Questions

1. How does Teotihuacan compare to other cities we've studied with respect to (a) layout (b) monumentality (c) the rationale for walls (d) the distribution of rich and poor (e) urban health (f) ethnic diversity?
2. What was the source of political authority at Teotihuacan? Where does it fall on the continuum of hierarchy-heterarchy?
3. Why might people have been attracted to Teotihuacan?
4. How does Caracol typify Mayan urbanism?
5. What fueled the growth of Caracol and how do we know? What were city-country relationships like?
6. In what ways is Caracol like 20th century cities?
7. What are the key features of "sustainable urbanism" at Caracol?
8. What made Maya cities "alluring", for Hutson? Discuss his analysis using the three characteristics that make cities inviting as defined by Virginia Betz.
9. Focus on what Hutson says about the Maya city of Chunchucmil. What features characterize its built environment?
10. What do we learn from Guttiérrez about the layout, ideology, culture, and Spanish contact history of Tenochtitlan? What was distinctive about this city?
11. What's the evidence suggesting that Mesoamerican cities were democratic? What's Tres Zapotes and why is it significant? How do Tenochtitlan and Tlaxcallan combine to create "a tale of two cities"?