

“Ancient Civilisations of the Americas - Part 1 - Mesoamerica: From the Olmecs to the Maya Civilisation”

by Prof Maria Chester



4th November to 2nd December 2019 10:00 am to 12 noon

William Elder Building, 56-58 Castlegate, Berwick, TD15 1JT

This 5 week course is an introduction to the early civilizations of Mesoamerica, an historical region and cultural area of North America stretching from Central Mexico down to Northern Costa Rica. Mesoamerican civilizations were the most developed of the hemisphere.

The pre-contact Americas are a forgotten place for many people. The Americas were one of the most isolated continents compared to Eurasia. Only Australia could compete in its isolation. This is precisely what makes the Americas an interesting place to study, because that isolation makes the New World the perfect place to study the parallelisms in the evolution of societies. PTO

The **Olmec** (3500 BCE -200 BCE) were a “mother culture” to the region. The **Maya** (1500 BCE- 900 CE) developed hieroglyphs and the concept of zero. At the present, scholars can read the Mayan hieroglyphs as they do with any other ancient written language. The rest of the people of the Americas, including the Incas, did not develop writing. We shall study every possible aspect of these advanced Mesoamerican cultures: architecture, art, social organisation, economy, religion and sciences.

DATE	SUBJECT
Monday 4 th November	INTRODUCTION —THE OLMEC
Monday 11 th November	MAYA: PRE CLASSIC (2000 BCE – 250 CE)
Monday 18 th November	MAYA CLASSIC (250 CE – 900 CE) BONAMPAK MURALS
Monday 25 th November	MAYA POST CLASSIC (900 CE – 1521) CHICHEN ITZA
Monday 2 nd December	NEW DISCOVERIES AND LEGACY

Cost of the course is £30.

Ancient civilisations of the Americas Part 2 will run March to April 2020

All are welcome and no previous knowledge is assumed.

If you supply us with your personal data (name, address or email), we will hold this in accordance with our privacy policy, available [here](#) or by request to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX. If you have any queries, please email berwickea@gmail.com or phone Cian McHugh on 01289 303254

To book online, [please click here](#) To book by mail, please fill in the booking form below, and mail to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX along with a cheque in favour of BEA.

Name

Address

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Cheque enclosed £

(Mesoamerica part 1)

