

SPRING 2009
ANTH 451: CULTURES OF LATIN AMERICA
T/Th 9:30-10:45 ***Instructor: Dr. Jake Fox***



ARTIST'S RECONSTRUCTION OF TENOCHTITLÁN, THE CAPITAL OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE

When Columbus arrived in the Americas in 1492, his encounter with native peoples of the 'New World' began one of the most dramatic chapters in world history. In the decades that followed, Europeans contacted a dizzying array of indigenous American societies, including the vast and powerful empires of the Aztecs and Inkas.

What were these prehispanic cultures like and what happened to them? How is it that a small number of Europeans succeeded in conquering the millions of indigenous people of Latin America? How did these indigenous cultures resist, and eventually adapt to, colonial rule by Europeans? And how did these prehistoric and historic events shape the modern cultures of Latin America? These are just some of the questions we'll address.

Note: This class counts for credit toward the RU International Studies Minor.