

Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture Online

Syllabus: Summer I, 2021

Course: ARTH 3353 Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture CRN 31164

This online course is an introduction to the rich and varied history of art and architecture of ancient Mesoamerica and South America. Major monuments and art objects in a variety of media will be studied in terms of style and original socio-political or sacred context. This class is geared for students at the Junior-Senior level from all academic disciplines with an interest in the artistic heritage of Latin America. Graduate students must complete additional work in order to receive graduate credit for this course.

ARTH 3353 can be used to fulfill either the Latin American requirement or an elective requirement for the art history major or the upper-division elective for the art history minor.

Required Texts:

Rebecca Stone, *Art of the Andes: From Chavin to Inca*, Third edition, Thames and Hudson, 2012. ISBN: 9780500204153 Available in paperback at [UTEP Bookstore](#) and [Amazon.com](#)

Mary Ellen Miller, *The Art of Mesoamerica: From Olmec to Aztec*, Sixth edition, Thames and Hudson, 2019. ISBN: 9780500775035

Available in paperback and digital edition at UTEP Bookstore or in paperback from Amazon.com

Michael Coe, *The Maya*, Ninth edition, Thames and Hudson, 2015. ISBN: 9780500291887

Available in paperback and digital edition at UTEP Bookstore or in paperback from Amazon.com

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Anne Perry

Virtual Office Hours: MW 11:30-1:00 To join me in my virtual office, click on Virtual Office Hours in the Blackboard course menu. When you join the Virtual Office Hours session provide your proper name as it appears on your id and the number 3353. It will tell you that you are joining the room for History of Art II---no worries, that is correct, as my virtual office is there! You will need to enable your microphone and webcam (see the icons at the bottom of the page) after you have joined the session.

Email: Use Blackboard email or aperry@utep.edu

Technical Requirements:

All course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the most supported browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications with the LMS. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

Make sure you have the following:

- UTEP email account
- Access to a PC or Mac computer with a strong, stable internet connection (the UTEP Library 2nd floor computer lab is open during Summer I)
- Firefox and Chrome browsers
- Microsoft Word (for written assignments) and Powerpoint (for viewing lectures)

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the [Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.](#)

For technology support: [TS.UTEP.EDU](https://www.utep.edu/technology-support) | or call 915-747-4357 (HELP)

Blackboard Learn

Please make sure you can access your Pre-Columbian Blackboard link from the my.utep.edu page (click on the orange button and sign in). Knowledge of Blackboard is a requirement for this class. All course work will be completed through Blackboard. Powerpoint lectures, exams, announcements, instructional videos, web links to art sites, the course schedule, assignments, as well as grades will be posted there. You must have access to a strong internet connection either at home or school. A strong Internet connection is especially important when taking exams. For more information about **remote learning** go to:

<https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/learningremotely.html> or the **Blackboard for Students** site at: https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/BB_Students.html

Modules

Course content is delivered in modules. We have three modules, which correspond to major units of study for South America and Mesoamerica. All of the material that you will need to read or view, including Powerpoint lectures, PDFs, online articles, videos, etc., will be available and accessible in each module, as will Discussion Board forums and the writing assignment. Whenever you open our course in Blackboard you will always land on the Course Content page with the modules at your fingertips. Each module is arranged by day and date and lists all tasks that you should complete each day. Exams will be available on specific days between 7am and 11pm, and you will access them in the module. You should complete all of the tasks in the order listed before you move on to the next day, with the exception of the discussion board and written assignments. Discussion board forums will be introduced on specific days, but all discussion board forum postings and your replies to two classmates' posts will not be due until the following Friday night by 11:00 pm and Saturday night by 11:00 pm, respectively. Your paper will be assigned on one date, but due some time later.

Course Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will have:

- a basic knowledge of major monuments of Pre-Columbian art in a variety of media, including architecture.
- basic competency in the fields of stylistic and iconographic analysis of works of art, which they may apply to further classroom or viewing experiences.
- the opportunity to improve written expression and critical thinking skills, leading to increased competency and confidence in the articulation of ideas.
- a deeper understanding of the methods of making and issues surrounding the creation of works of art.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for ARTH 3353 Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture.

Course Requirements

Exams (3) 60% of your final grade

There will be three exams in this course, which will constitute 60% your overall grade. These exams will not be cumulative, but will only cover material from each module. Exams may consist of any of the following: slide identifications, short answer questions, slide comparisons, discussions and longer essays. The first module exam will cover South American cultures. The second module exam covers Pre-Classic Olmec and West Mexican styles and Pre-Classic through Classic period Teotihuacan and Zapotec cultures, as well as the Mesoamerican ballgame and Classic Veracruz style. The third module exam will cover Classic Maya, Epi-Classic and Postclassic cultures and will be available on Monday, July 6th from 7am until 11pm. All students must take the third exam on this day. You are not permitted to use any type of study materials during exams.

Discussion Board Forums (3) 30% of your final grade

Discussions are, and always will be, an important component of the study of ancient cultures. Archaeology can tell us only so much about the original circumstances for the creation of artworks of the caliber that we have been studying; sometimes we learn through observation, analysis and inference----and these are skills that I encourage in my classroom. The discussion board forums are not busywork; they are opportunities for us to analyze, share and reflect upon the meaning and significance of objects created by highly skilled artisans and artists, typically for elite members of ancient societies. Opinions expressed in posts and replies must be thoughtful and entirely appropriate to the subject, calmly stated and non-judgmental. There will be three discussion board assignments. All posts will be due on Fridays by 11pm. Replies to 2 classmates' posts will be due on Saturdays by 11pm. Unless otherwise specified posts should be approximately 150-200 words in length, and each reply should be about 50 words. To submit your forum post simply click on the link to the discussion board forum that is provided when the discussion board forum topic is assigned in the module. Once on the DB Forum page, click on Create Thread to see the prompt and write your entry in the Message area. You may save a draft or click submit to post your entry.

NOTE: The discussion board forums give us an opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions and to learn from each other. It is everyone's responsibility to make appropriate contributions to each forum whether posting a response or replying to a classmate's response. Think before you write a post or reply! Do not use ALL CAPS, as it indicates that you are shouting at the recipient. Any kind of harsh, aggressive, sarcastic or otherwise inappropriate language will result in a reprimand or a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution if the behavior is repeated.

Essay 10% of your final grade

For this assignment you will write a formal 3-page discussion of the imagery of the AMB in Nazca ceramics. Consider its relationship to human sacrificial activity, Paracas imagery, the theme of agricultural fertility and *AYNI*, as well as the meaning of this hybrid being (and its variants) in ancient Nazca culture. Support your conclusions with discussion of specific images

of the AMB from the Nazca Powerpoint lecture. Your essay is due by 11:59 pm on Monday, June 21. Submit your essay with the original assignment in Module One.

GRADING: Final grades for this course will be based on the results of three examinations, three online class discussions and the essay. Your grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Three Exams	60% (20% each)
DB Forums	30% (10% each)
Essay	10%

Grading Standards and Criteria: All grades are calculated using percentages and converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

90% and above	= A - excellent work
80% and below 90%	= B - above average work
70% and below 80%	= C - average work
60% and below 70%	= D - below average work
Below 60%	= F - unsatisfactory work, failing

No extra credit will be offered in this course. Students hoping to raise their grades should communicate with the professor about strategies for improved performance on assessments.

Course Policies

COMMUNICATION: There are a couple of ways to email me: through Blackboard email, which you access in the Course Menu or through my regular UTEP email account at: aperry@utep.edu. Be sure to use your UTEP email account when you contact me. I will be essentially available and checking my UTEP email every day between noon and midnight. I try to respond to emails immediately, but will most assuredly get back to you within a day's time. I am not a morning person, however, so please understand that emails sent to me in the morning will be read later in the day. I will often communicate with the class through the Announcement tool on Blackboard, so you should check there (click on Announcements in the course menu) frequently for updates and reminders.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: You are expected to check Blackboard daily and to keep up with class activities. In a summer class a lot of work is packed into a relatively short period of time, so it will be hard to catch up if you let yourself fall behind. You must take exams and contribute to discussions during the window of time in which they are open, unless there is some sort of **serious emergency** (not a conflict that you schedule) that makes it impossible, and that can be documented with a note from an appropriate professional. It is also your responsibility to turn in your paper on time. If you miss a deadline due to circumstances outside of your control, communicate with me immediately, so that we may determine the best course of action to take.

NOTE: Technical glitches (such as your browser shutting down before the allotted time for an exam has expired) are sometimes part of the Blackboard experience. If this happens, quickly reopen the browser and reenter the exam. This type of problem should not occur if your internet connection is stable and you are using Firefox (or Chrome).

LATE ASSIGNMENTS/MISSED ASSIGNMENTS: Students who miss a major assignment, such as an exam, or fail to turn in the paper on the due date, and do not contact me within 48 hours will be dropped from the course.

TO DROP THIS COURSE: Please contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, please contact me. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an F for the course.

INCOMPLETES: will be considered for students completing satisfactory or better work and having serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All I grades are at the discretion of the instructor and the approval of the Department chair.

PASS/FAIL: The pass/fail option is not available for this course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Plagiarism is the use of the ideas, information, or words of another author or fellow student without giving proper credit to your source. You are responsible for citing your sources as indicated by the instructor and, in cases where you directly quote from a source, for enclosing those words that are not your own in quotation marks. Failing to give proper credit to your sources in these ways is academic dishonesty. You are also responsible for adhering to the instructor's rules on exams. I will refer all suspected incidences of academic dishonesty to the office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for investigation. See UTEP policy on this issue at <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>. For some tips on avoiding plagiarism, see: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a disability and need class accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in the Student Union Building East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS staff are the only individuals who can validate and, if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

NETIQUETTE- a friendly reminder

- Always consider your audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings you make in the discussion board forums.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a F2F situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

Course Calendar

Module 1: South America

Monday, June 7-June 15

Text: Rebecca Stone, *Art of the Andes*

(M/7) Read Stone Chapter 1: Introduction; Chapter 2: Early and Chavín pp. 36-55

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Andean Intro and Chavin

Read article, "[Complexity and Vision: the Staff God at Chavín de Huántar and Beyond](#)"

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt.: Chavin Culture (pay special attention to the Lanzón content, as you will be expected to write a detailed discussion about it on the first exam)

(T/8) Read Stone Chapter 3: Paracas and Nasca pp. 56-72

View and Read the Ppt Lecture: Paracas

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt: Paracas

Discussion Board Forum # 1 – Opens Today (Your post is due by Friday, June 11 @11:59 pm.

Replies to two of your classmates' posts are due by Saturday, June 12 @ 11:59 pm)

W/9) Read Stone Chapter 3: pp. 72-90

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Nazca

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt.: Nazca

Assignment: Write a formal 3-page discussion of the imagery of the AMB in Nazca ceramics. Consider its relationship to human sacrificial activity, Paracas imagery, the theme of agricultural fertility and *AYNI*, as well as the meaning of this hybrid being (and its variants) in ancient Nazca culture. Your essay (in Microsoft Word format) is due by 11:59 pm on Monday, June 21

R/10) Read Stone Chapter 4: Moche

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Moche

Watch Video: [Moche Portrait Head Bottle](#)

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt.: Moche

(F/11) Discussion Board Forum # 1 Post is due by 11:59pm

Read Stone Chapter 5: Tiwanaku and Wari pp. 127-142

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Tiwanaku

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt.: Tiwanaku

Study for Exam 1

(S/12) Replies to 2 of your classmates' Forum # 1 posts due by 11:59 pm

(M/14) Read Stone Chapter 7: Inca pp. 194-224

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Inca

Read PDF: *The Inka Married the Earth...* by Carolyn Deane

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt.: Inca

Make sure you have the Miller text by Tuesday

(T/15) Module 1 Exam: South America (available midnight until 11:59 pm)

Read Miller, Chapter 1: Introduction

Module 2: Pre-Classic and Classic Mesoamerica

June 16- June 23

Text: Mary Ellen Miller, *The Art of Mesoamerica*, sixth edition

(W/16) Read Miller Chapter 2: The Olmecs: Establishing Mesoamerican Foundations

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Introduction to Mesoamerica and Olmec

Read article, "[Offering #4, La Venta](#)".

Study Exam 2 Required Works Ppt: Olmec

Discussion Board Forum # 2 - Opens Today (Your post is due by Friday, June 18 @ 11:59 pm)

Replies to two of your classmates' posts are due by Saturday, June 20 @ 11pm)

(R/17) Read Miller Chapter 3 pp. 60-65 and 73-76

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Pre-Classic Zapotec Culture at Monte Alban

Study Exam 2 Required Works Ppt.: Pre-Classic Zapotec

Make sure you have the Coe text for next week

(F/18) Discussion Board Forum # 2 Post is due by 11:59 pm

Read Miller Chapter 3 pp. 53-58

Read and View the Ppt. Lecture: Pre-Classic Ceramics of West Mexico

Study Exam 2 Required Works Ppt. Pre-Classic Ceramics of West Mexico

(S/19) Replies to 2 of your classmates' Forum # 2 posts due by 11:59 pm

(M/21) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT/DISCUSSION OF AMB DUE BY 11:59 PM

Read Miller Chapter 4: Teotihuacan, city of fire, city of water

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Teotihuacan

Study Exam 2 Required Works Ppt.: Teotihuacan

(T/22) Read Miller Chapter 5: pp 110-121

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Classic Zapotec Monte Alban

Study Exam 2 Required Works Ppt: Classic Zapotec Monte Alban

Read: Comparison of 2 Ceramic Figures (in preparation for Module Three exam)

(W/23) Read Miller Chapter 5: pp. 109-112 and 121-127

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: The Mesoamerican Ballgame and Classic Veracruz Style

Study Exam 2 Required Works Ppt: The Mesoamerican Ballgame and Classic Veracruz

Watch Video: [The Mesoamerican Ballgame and a Classic Veracruz Yoke](#)

Discussion Board Forum # 3 – Opens Today (Your post is due by Friday, June 25 @ 11pm)

Replies to two of your classmates' posts are due by Saturday, June 26 @ 11pm)

Module 3: Classic Maya, Epi-classic and Postclassic Mesoamerica

June 24-July 1

Texts: Michael Coe, *The Maya*, ninth edition

Mary Ellen Miller, *The Art of Mesoamerica*, sixth edition

(R/24) Skim Coe Chapter 1: Introduction (optional)

Read Coe Chapter 3: pp. 61-68; Skim Chapter 4: Classic Splendor: The Early Period

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Maya Introduction

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Tikal

Study Final Exam Required Works: Tikal

(F/25) Discussion Board Forum # 3 Post is due by 11:59 pm

Read Coe, Chapter 5: Classic Splendor: The Late Period

Miller, Chapter 7: Late Classic: Maya Cities at their Height

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Copan

Study Exam 2 Required Works: Copan

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Palenque

Study Final Exam Required Works: Palenque

Drop/Withdrawal Date

(S/26) Replies to 2 of your classmates' Forum # 3 posts due by 11:59 pm

(M/28) Module 2 Exam: Pre-Classic and Classic Mesoamerica, midnight-11:59 pm

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Piedras Negras and Yaxchilan

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Bonampak

Study Final Exam Required Works: Piedras Negras, Yaxchilan and Bonampak

Read Miller Chapter 8: Mesoamerica After the Fall of Classic Cities pp. 199-207

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: The Epi-Classic

Study Final Exam Required Works: The Epi-Classic

(T/29) Read Miller Chapter 8: pp. 209-230

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Toltec Culture at Tula and Chichen Itza

Study Final Exam Required Works: Toltec Culture at Tula and Chichen Itza

(W/30) Read Miller Chapter 9: The Aztecs: A New World Found pp. 238-272

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Aztecs

Study Final Exam Required Works: Aztecs

Watch videos: [Coatlicue](#)

[Coyolxauhqui Monolith](#)

[Sun Stone/Calendar Stone](#)

(R/1) View and Review Ppt. Lecture: Late Postclassic Zapotec and Mixtec Culture

Study Final Exam Required Works: Late Postclassic Zapotec and Mixtec Culture

Prepare for Final Exam; Write the essay portion of the final at home and have it ready to paste into the exam when you take it online.

(M/5) Final Exam on Classic Maya, Epi-Classic and Postclassic Cultures will be available between midnight and 11:59 pm. You will paste your pre-written essay into the final section of the exam. Here is the essay prompt. Follow directions carefully.

Discuss the theme of rulership in the imagery of Classic Maya stone sculpture at Tikal, Copan, Palenque, Piedras Negras and Yaxchilán. As you construct your essay, consider the following:

- 1) How are Maya rulers portrayed in sculpted images?
- 2) What activities associated with rulership can be detected at the various sites and how are these events depicted in stone sculpture?
- 3) What earthly and supernatural roles and responsibilities of Maya rulers are suggested by these images and thematic representations?

Support your discussion with specific examples of works from these 5 sites; be sure to discuss at least one sculpture from each site.

Your essay should be approximately 750 words, which will be between two and three pages in a standard format (12 pt. font, double-spaced, 1" margins all around with no extra spacing between paragraphs). You will write this essay prior to the final exam on Monday, July 5th before 11:59 pm. The essay will be worth 50% of the final exam grade.