

# **Pre-Columbian Art Syllabus Spring 2015**

## **Course Information**

**Course title:** Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture

**Course prefix and number:** ARTH 3353

**Course meeting location:** Fox Fine Arts A458

**Course meeting times:** MWF 8:30-9:20

## **Instructor Contact Information**

**Instructor's name:** Anne Perry

**Instructor's office #:** Fox Fine Arts A354

**Instructor's office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30 – 1:00

**Instructor's phone & email:** 747-8744 or 747-5181

Email: [aperry@utep.edu](mailto:aperry@utep.edu)

## **Instructor Introduction**

Professor Perry has a long-standing passion for the visual arts. She studied art history at the University of New Mexico, where she received her M. A. in Pre-Columbian art. She has taught a variety of art history courses at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and here at UTEP. She and her family have lived in El Paso for many years.

## **Course Description**

This 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 to students at the Junior-Senior level from all academic disciplines with an interest in the artistic heritage of Latin America. Students need not have had any prior experience in art to succeed in this class; however, consistent attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions are fundamental to an understanding of the material presented in this course. Those who are unable to commit to PUNCTUAL attendance at every lecture should consider taking this course at another time.

## **Course Format**

Course material is presented in a lecture format, utilizing digitized images of artworks. Images of specific works the student must be able to identify and discuss for each exam are also available on Blackboard; they are located in the Content folder, arranged according to examination period and culture. This is a technology- enhanced course and will require the completion of web-based tasks at home or in computer labs on campus.

## **Course Prerequisite Information**

Students with Junior or Senior status and above may enroll in this course. Graduate students will be required to complete additional work in order to receive graduate credit for this course.

## **Course Goals and Objectives**

Goals and objectives targeted in ARTH 3353 include the following:

- Students will gain experience in art historical methods of inquiry, including formal and iconographic analysis of artworks viewed in class.
- Students will gain a basic knowledge of the cultural history of Mexico and South America as revealed through the arts.
- Students will understand the importance of the visual arts and architecture in Mexico and South America in both the historical and the aesthetic sense.

## **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.
- the ability to reconstruct some of the key events in the rich and varied history of Mexico and South America.

# **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

## **Required Texts and Materials**

**1) Weekly readings are assigned from the following texts & articles:**

Rebecca Stone, Art of the Andes: From Chavin to Inca, Third Edition  
Michael Coe, Maya, 8<sup>th</sup> edition  
Mary Ellen Miller, The Art of Mesoamerica, fifth edition

**2) Reading on Blackboard:**

Carolyn Dean, "The Inka Married the Earth..."

**3) Images required for exams are in texts and the BLACKBOARD Content section**

**4) Students are required to bring either a notebook or recording device to lectures. Laptops may be used for note taking purposes only.**

## **Exams**

There will be three exams in this course, which will constitute 90% of your overall grade. These exams will not be cumulative, but will only cover material from each unit. Exams will consist of the following: slide identifications, short answer questions, slide comparisons, discussions and an essay. The first exam will cover South American cultures. The second exam covers Pre-Classic and Classic Mexican cultures (including Pre-Classic Olmec and West Mexican, Pre-Classic through Classic period Teotihuacan and Zapotec cultures, as well as the Mesoamerican ballgame and Classic Veracruz style). Tentative dates for the first two exams are indicated in the following calendar. Be advised that these dates can change. The final exam will cover Classic Maya, Epi-Classic and Post-Classic cultures. It will be given in our regular classroom on Monday, May 11 from 10 am to 12:45 pm. **ALL STUDENTS MUST TAKE THE FINAL EXAM ON THE SCHEDULED DAY AND TIME. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Specific images that you are required to know for all of these exams are available in BLACKBOARD. Images may be downloaded or printed at your convenience.

## **Participation**

10% of your grade in this course will be based upon participation, specifically your preparation for lectures and participation in discussions initiated by the instructor, punctual attendance at lectures, and note taking. It is very important that you take thorough notes on material presented in class (including class discussions) and that you read assigned pages in your text or assigned e-readings prior to lectures.

## **Grading Standards and Criteria**

Evaluation of student performance for this course is done in the following manner:

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

**90% & above = A** - excellent work

**80% & below 90% = B** - above average work

**70% & below 80% = C** - average work

**60% & below 70% = D** - below average work

**Below 60% = F** - unsatisfactory work, failing

## **Computer Access to Blackboard**

**All of the images you are required to know for exams will be delivered via BLACKBOARD, which you access by following the steps outlined below:**

Go to UTEP portal at <https://my.utep.edu> and log in.

Your user name is your e-mail id and your password is your e-mail password. If you do not have an id and password, call the Helpdesk at 747-5257. You **MUST** have a UTEP email ID to access BLACKBOARD.

Once you are in the **My.Utep** space, you can find the link to BLACKBOARD near the top of the webpage. Your courses appear on the BLACKBOARD homepage. Click on **Pre-Columbian Art AH 3353-001** to enter our course. Click on CONTENT in the menu on the left. Powerpoint presentations of required images are filed in exam order and arranged by culture.

# Course Policies

## Attendance Policy:

The College of Liberal Arts policy on attendance is very clear:

**“The student is expected to attend all classes and laboratory sessions.** It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. When in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.”

**Because attendance at lectures is crucial to your successful completion of this course, the following stipulations have been adopted:**

- Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. More than 6 absences may result in the student being dropped from the class with either a “W” or an “F.”
- Chronic tardiness is a disruptive and disrespectful behavior that undermines everyone’s ability to focus. Students who are frequently late can expect to see a reflection of this behavior in their final grade for the course.
- Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student. Borrow notes from a classmate if you miss a lecture.

## Exam Etiquette:

- Be in your seat and ready to begin on time. Latecomers will not be shown the images they have missed.
- No talking or communicating in any manner with another person during the exam. Please make sure your phone is turned off.
- Take home essays are to be written in the student’s own words. Original words and ideas taken from sources other than lectures must be cited. Using someone’s idea or original wording and passing it off as your own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course. **Students who plagiarize any portion of their essay will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for disciplinary action.**

### PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT

**Cheating/Plagiarism:** Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

**Policy for Make-up Exams:**

**Makeup exams are available by arrangement and approval of the instructor. To qualify for a makeup exam the student must meet one of these criteria:**

Student missed exam due to his/her serious illness. The makeup request must include a doctor's note. Routine doctor and dentist visits will not be considered as valid excuses for missing an exam.

Student missed exam due to a death in the immediate family. Documentation must be provided.

**Absences due to work related and child-care issues will not entitle the student to a makeup exam. Makeups are given during the instructor's office hours. As per official UTEP policy, makeups are not given for the final exam. No exceptions.**

**Policy for Extra Credit:**

I do not offer extra credit for this course.

**Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail Policies**

Incompletes or I grades 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.

Students hold the full responsibility for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a W. Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade for their performance in the course.

ARTH 3353 is a grade-based course and is not available for audit or pass/fail options.

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

# Course Calendar

## WEEK ONE (1/19-1/23)

### **(W/21) OUR FIRST CLASS MEETING**

Syllabus overview; Introduction to Pre-Columbian art

Read Stone, Chapters 1 and 2

(F) Introduction to the ancient Andean Culture area and Chavin Culture

## WEEK TWO (1/26-1/30)

(M) Chavin de Huantar

Read Stone, Chapter 3

(W) Paracas Textiles

(F) Paracas Textiles continued: Nazca Ceramics

## WEEK THREE (2/2-2/6)

(M) Nazca Ceramics and Geoglyphs

Read Stone, Chapter 4

(W) Nazca Geoglyphs;

Moche Ceramics: Anthropomorphic Portrait Vessels

Moche Ceramics: Portrait Heads

(F) Moche Ceramics: Portrait Heads continued

Begin essay for Exam 1 (essay is available on Blackboard)

## WEEK FOUR (2/9-2/13)

(M) Moche: Erotic themes; War and Sacrifice

Read Stone, Chapter 5

(W) Moche War and Sacrifice continued

(F) **EXAM 1 Essay Due in Class**

Tiwanaku

Read Stone, Chapter 7

Read Carolyn Dean, *The Inka Married the Earth...* available on Blackboard

## WEEK FIVE (2/16-2/20)

(M) Inca Culture and Architecture

(W) DVD: Lost City of the Incas

(F) **EXAM 1 (South America)**

Read Miller, Chapters 1 and 2

**WEEK SIX (2/23-2/27)**

(M) Pre-Classic Olmec Culture and Style

(W) Olmec La Venta: City Planning and Buried Treasures

Read Miller, Chapter 3 to p. 64

(F) Pre-Classic Writing and Calendrics at Zapotec Monte Alban: Danzantes

**WEEK SEVEN (3/2-3/6)**

(M) Writing at Monte Alban: Mound J Conquest Slabs

Read Miller Chapter 3 pp.64-68

(W) Pre-Classic West Mexican Ceramic styles

(F) West Mexican Ceramics continued

Read Miller, Chapter 4

**WEEK Eight (3/9-3/13)**

**SPRING BREAK - NO CLASSES**

**WEEK NINE (3/16-3/20)**

(M) Pre-Classic Teotihuacan: City Planning and Monumental Pyramids

(W) Teotihuacan: Feathered Serpent Pyramid

(F) Classic Teotihuacan: Painted Walls in Palaces and Suburban Dwellings

Essay for Exam 2 available on Blackboard

**WEEK TEN (3/23-3/27)**

(M) Classic Teotihuacan: Murals, Ceramics and Masks

Read Miller, Chapter 5 to p. 116

(W) Classic Zapotec Monte Alban: Architecture & Sculpture - Main Plaza

(F) Monte Alban: Tomb Murals and Funerary Urns

Read Miller, Chapter 5 pp. 116-122

**WEEK ELEVEN (3/30-4/3)**

(M) The Ballgame and Classic Veracruz Style

**(W) EXAM 2 (Pre-Classic and Classic Mexican Culture)**

Read Coe, Chapters 1&4 (skim 2 & 3) and Miller, Chapter 6

**(F) NO CLASSES - Spring Study Day**

**WEEK TWELVE (4/6-4/10)**

**(M) COURSE DROP DEADLINE - last day to drop a course with a W**

Introduction to Classic Maya civilization

(W) Classic Tikal and Maya Ceramics

Read Coe, Chapter 5 to p. 131

(F) Tikal continued; Copan: Easternmost City of the Maya Realm

Read Miller, Chapter 7

**WEEK THIRTEEN (4/13-4/17)**

- (M) Palenque: Western Jewel of the Maya Realm
- (W) Palenque continued
- (F) Sculpture of Piedras Negras and Yaxchilan

**WEEK FOURTEEN (4/20-4/24)**

- (M) Painted Walls of Bonampak and Courtly Figurines from Jaina  
Read Coe, Chapter 6 to p. 178
- (W) Puuc Style of Uxmal and the Yucatán  
Read Miller, Chapter 8 to p. 205
- (F) Epi-classic Cacaxtla and Xochicalco  
Read Coe, Chapter 7 to p. 200 and Miller, Chapter 8 pp. 208-230

**WEEK FIFTEEN (4/27-5/1)**

- (M) Postclassic Tula and Chichen Itza
- (W) Tula and Chichen continued; Aztec History and Myth  
Read Miller, Chapter 9
- (F) Late Postclassic Aztec Sculpture  
Read Miller, Chapter 8 pp. 205-207  
Final Exam Essay Topic available on Blackboard

**WEEK SIXTEEN (5/4-5/8)**

- (M) Late Post-Classic Zapotec Culture: Mitla  
Read Miller, Chapter 9 pp. 267-272
- (W) Late Post-Classic Mixtec Culture and History in the Mixtec Codices
- (F) NO CLASSES - DEAD DAY**

**FINAL EXAM (Classic Maya, Epi-Classic and Postclassic Cultures)**

**MONDAY, May 11**

**10:00 AM - 12:45 PM**

**Regular Classroom**

**Essay will be written during exam - topic is available on Blackboard**