

Pre-Columbian Art Syllabus Spring 2017

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 (during office hours)

Email: 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/Expectations

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 history to succeed in this class; however, consistent attendance at lectures, thorough note taking and review of course material, as well as active engagement in class discussions, are fundamental to your success in this course. Students who are unable to commit to punctual attendance should consider taking this course at another time, as persistent tardiness will result in penalties.

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 on exams are also available on Blackboard; they are located in the Content folder, arranged according to examination period and culture.

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 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) Required readings are assigned from the following texts:

Rebecca Stone, *Art of the Andes: From Chavin to Inca*, Third Edition

Michael Coe, *Maya*, 8th edition

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

2) Required 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; they will constitute 75% of your overall grade. These exams will not be cumulative, but will only cover material from each section. Exams will be given at the completion of each section and will consist of slide identifications, identifications plus explanations of the significance of specific artworks, prompted discussions of specific artworks, and either comparisons of works or an essay. The first exam will cover ancient Andean cultures of South America. The second exam covers Pre-Classic and Classic Mesoamerican cultures. Tentative dates for the first two exams are indicated in the following calendar. Be advised that these dates can change. The third/final exam will cover Classic Maya, Epi-Classic and Post-Classic cultures of Mesoamerica. It will be given in our regular classroom on Monday, May 8th, from 10:00 am to 12:45 pm. **ALL STUDENTS MUST TAKE THE FINAL EXAM ON THE SCHEDULED DAY AND TIME. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Specific works that you are required to know for exams are available in BLACKBOARD. These are the only works that you must memorize and be able to discuss thoroughly on exams.

NOTE: It is very important that you keep up with the assigned reading for this course; that you attend all class meetings and take notes on the lecture content; and that you review your lecture notes and images of the artworks frequently in preparation for exams. I do not offer extra credit assignments for this course.

Written Assignment

The remaining 25% of your grade in this class consists of a formal, 5-page discussion of ritual sacrifice in the art of the Paracas and Nazca cultures. For each culture you should consider the following:

- 1) The kinds of sacrificial practices and rituals depicted or suggested in the images and forms (Bloodletting? Decapitation? Auto-sacrifice?).
- 2) How these activities are portrayed or implied and in what contexts.
- 3) The cultural significance of the images. In other words, how do the sacrificial practices imaged or implied relate to cultural belief systems?

You must support your discussion with analysis of specific Paracas and Nazca images of human sacrifice or related activities from the Blackboard Exam 1 Review. These are the only images you should consider in your discussion. Since this is not a lengthy paper, you should introduce your topic in a single paragraph, and then proceed with your discussion. Students typically elect to discuss the embroidered imagery of Paracas textiles first, followed by a discussion of Nazca ceramic imagery. Your essay should deal with pertinent textual and lecture content, as well as class discussions of the material; it is not meant to be an opinion piece. You may, however, support certain interpretations presented in your text and in the lectures.

Your essay must be typed in a legible 12 pt. font; it should be double-spaced, with standard one-inch margins. Do not add spaces between paragraphs. Do include a separate title page and number the pages of your text. Your essay should be free of grammatical and spelling errors and written in coherent paragraphs of appropriate length (between five and eight sentences). Assistance with your written expression is available without charge at the Writing Center, which is located in the main library.

The essay is to be written in your own words. It must demonstrate your knowledge of pertinent information presented in both lectures and the text and reflect your critical thought about the subject. You may cite the author of your text and BRIEFLY quote her, but an essay that is essentially a compilation of quotes from the text, or is cut and pasted from the text, will not receive credit. Furthermore, any wording that is borrowed (from any printed or online source) must be cited properly and set off by quotation marks. Using someone else's words or ideas without giving them proper credit is plagiarism. Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course. Should you choose to present someone else's original wording as your own, be advised that your essay will be given to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, which will result in a formal inquiry.

A hard copy of your paper is due during class on Friday, February 10th.

Be advised that the minimum required length for this paper is five full pages of text and that I will penalize papers that do not meet this requirement.

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.

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. I may call roll promptly at 8:30 or circulate an attendance sheet for you to sign.
- More than 3 absences or 5 late arrivals to class will result in the student’s final average being lowered by 5 points.
- More than 6 absences may result in the student being dropped from the class with either a “W” or an “F.” Students who stop coming to class are responsible for dropping the course.
- Requests for excused absences due to teacher accreditation examinations, medical or pharmacy school interviews, or UTEP sponsored activities, must be accompanied by official documentation of these activities. Without proper documentation, these absences (if increasing your total absences to 4 or more) will be penalized.

You are responsible for all information presented during lectures, including announcements. Borrow notes from a classmate if you miss a lecture.

Classroom Etiquette:

- Cell phone use is not allowed during lectures. If you are expecting an emergency call, please leave the classroom quietly and take the call.
- Food and beverages are allowed in this classroom, provided that each student takes responsibility for keeping his or her area clean.
- Chronic tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful to your instructor and your fellow students, and is also one of your instructor’s pet peeves! Be on time for class meetings.

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

Policy for Make-up Exams:

Makeup exams are available by arrangement and approval of the instructor and must be accompanied by either a doctor's note or documentation of a death in the immediate family. 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.

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, 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. I cannot provide accommodations for a student if I have not received official notice from CASS documenting the student's eligibility and requirements. Each student registered with CASS needs to speak with me about their accommodations in the classroom and testing procedures on examination days at the beginning of the semester or as soon as they are registered with CASS.

Course Calendar

WEEK ONE (1/16-1/20)

(W/18) OUR FIRST CLASS MEETING

Syllabus overview; Introduction to Pre-Columbian art

Read Stone, Chapter 1 and begin Chapter 2

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

Read Stone, Chapter 2

WEEK TWO (1/23-1/27)

(M) Chavin de Huantar

Read Stone, Chapter 3 to p. 72

(W) Paracas Textiles

(F) Paracas Textiles continued

Read Stone, Chapter 3, pp. 72-90

WEEK THREE (1/30-2/3)

(M) Nazca Ceramics

Read Stone, begin Chapter 4

(W) Nazca Geoglyphs;

Moche Ceramics: Anthropomorphic Portrait Vessels

Read Stone, Chapter 4

Moche Ceramics: Portrait Heads

(F) Moche Ceramics: Portrait Heads continued

Work on written assignment

WEEK FOUR (2/6-2/10)

(M) Moche: Erotic themes; War and Sacrifice

Read Stone, Chapter 5

(W) Moche War and Sacrifice continued

(F) Written Assignment Due in Class

Tiwanaku

Read Stone, Chapter 7

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

WEEK FIVE (2/13-2/17)

(M) Inca Culture and Architecture

(W) DVD: Lost City of the Incas

(F) EXAM - Section 1 (South America)

Read Miller, Chapters 1 and 2

WEEK SIX (2/20-2/24)

(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 (2/27-3/3)

(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 (3/6-3/10)

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

(W) Teotihuacan: Feathered Serpent Pyramid

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

WEEK Nine (3/13-3/17)

SPRING BREAK - NO CLASSES

WEEK TEN (3/20-3/24)

(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 (3/27-3/31)

(M) The Ballgame and Classic Veracruz Style

(W) EXAM - Section 2 (Pre-Classic and Classic Mesoamerican Cultures)

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

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

(F) NO CLASSES - Cesar Chavez Day

WEEK TWELVE (4/3-4/7)

(M) 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 (4/10-4/14)

- (M) Palenque: Western Jewel of the Maya Realm
(W) Palenque continued; Sculpture of Piedras Negras
(F) NO CLASSES - Spring Study Day

WEEK FOURTEEN (4/17-4/21)

- (M) Sculpture of Yaxchilan; Painted Walls of Bonampak
Read Coe, Chapter 6 to p. 178
(W) Puuc Style of Uxmal and the Yucatán
Read Miller, Chapter 8 to p. 205
(F) NO CLASS - Work on Final Essay Outline-Essay available on Blackboard

WEEK FIFTEEN (4/24-4/28)

- (M) Epi-classic Cacaxtla and Xochicalco
Read Coe, Chapter 7 to p. 200 and Miller, Chapter 8 pp. 208-230
(W) Postclassic Tula and the Toltecs; Aztec History and Myth
Read Miller, Chapter 9
(F) Late Postclassic Aztec Sculpture
Read Miller, Chapter 8 pp. 205-207

WEEK SIXTEEN (5/1-5/5)

- (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 Mesoamerican Cultures)

**MONDAY, May 8
10:00 AM - 12:45 PM
Regular Classroom**

The final essay will be written during the exam. You may bring a 3x5" index card with an outline of your essay to the exam. No other information is allowed on the card.