

Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture

Syllabus: Fall 2024

Course: ARTH 3353 Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture
CRN 11191

Lectures: MWF 8:30-9:20 Room: Fox Fine Arts A458

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 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. It can also be an upper division Fine and Performing Arts elective for students in other disciplines.

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: 9780500204504
Available in paperback and digital edition at UTEP Bookstore or in paperback from Amazon.com

Michael Coe, [The Maya](#), Tenth edition, Thames and Hudson, 2022. ISBN: 9780500295144
Available in paperback at UTEP Bookstore or in paperback from Amazon.com

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Anne Perry

Office Hours: MW 11:30-1:00

Office: Fox Fines Arts A 354

The office hour is a way for you to communicate directly with me in a somewhat more personal manner, if you have questions or concerns about course material, requirements, etc. If you prefer to contact me in writing please do so via email at: 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, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and here at UTEP. She and her family have lived in El Paso for many years.

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
- 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) | or call 915-747-4357 (HELP)

Course Format: In Class and Online

Course material is presented in a lecture format, utilizing visual material in the form of digitized images. Discussion of and an exchange of ideas about the material presented is enthusiastically encouraged. This is a technology- enhanced course: students will utilize the online environment, Blackboard, to access readings, Smarthistory videos and essay assignments, to review works for exams, to take exams and to view announcements and other communications from the instructor.

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. As noted, some course work will be completed through Blackboard. 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. You will find that both of these informational sites have the answers to most of your tech or Blackboard questions.

Modules

Course content is delivered in modules. We have three modules, which correspond to major units of study for South America and Mesoamerica. Much 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 week and lists all tasks that you should complete during each week. Exams will be available on specific days between midnight and 11:59 pm, and you will access them in the module.

Your written assignment will be due sometime after the assignment is provided, but within the original assignment area. To learn how this works, [view this informational video about assignments in Blackboard](#).

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) 75% of your final grade

There will be three exams in this course, which will constitute 75% 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, December 9th, from midnight until 11:59 pm. All students must take each exam during its window of availability.

You are not permitted to use any type of study materials during exams. Cutting and pasting partial or full responses to exam questions from my Ppt. lectures, reviews or other sources is strictly forbidden and will result in the student's exam being referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for a formal inquiry.

Written Assignment (1) 15% of your final grade

For this assignment you will write a 4-5-page discussion of the imagery of the AMB in Nazca ceramics. Consider the AMB's relationship to Paracas imagery, human sacrificial activity, the theme of agricultural fertility and *AYNI*, as well as the meaning of this hybrid being (and its variants) in ancient Nazca culture. Submit your essay with the original assignment in Module One.

Discussion Board Forums (2) 10% of your final grade

The discussion board forums 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 two discussion board assignments. All posts will be due on Fridays by 11:59 pm. Replies to 2 classmates' posts will be due on Saturdays by 11:59pm. Unless otherwise specified posts should be approximately 250 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.

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).

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

Three Exams	75% (25% each)
Essay	15%
Discussion Boards	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

ATTENDANCE: You are expected to attend all class meetings unless ill or in the midst of a personal or family emergency. I will take attendance before most lectures. Be advised that more than four absences will result in your final class average being penalized by three points and that excessive unexcused absences will result in your being dropped from the class.

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. Be sure to contact me at aperry@utep.edu to inform me of your situation.

COMMUNICATION: There are a couple of ways to email me: through Blackboard Course Messages, 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 try to respond to emails quickly and will most assuredly get back to you within a day's time. 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 frequently and to keep up with class activities. You must take exams 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 written assignment on time. If you miss a deadline due to circumstances outside of your control, communicate with me immediately, so that we may decide 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: Makeups will be permitted for assignments missed due to illness, family emergency, or a serious situation beyond your control. 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 a week may 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 HONESTY: Since you will complete a written assignment for this course it is important that you do not plagiarize any portions of your discussion. 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. The use of AI to write your paper is also considered to be plagiarism and is not allowed in this course. 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 Community Standards 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>.

Note: You do not need to cite information gained from the Powerpoint lectures. However, you are expressly forbidden to cut and paste any portion of your discussion from Powerpoint lectures or reviews.

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 at their [AIM PORTAL](#). CASS staff are the only individuals who can validate and, if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities and hire notetakers for classes.

CAMPUS RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE: UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources and assistance.



Course Calendar

Module One

WEEK ONE (8/26-8/30)

Lectures: Introduction to the Andean Region; Chavín Culture

Purchase textbooks or at least Stone, *Art of the Andes*, third edition, ISBN: 9780500204153

Read Stone Chapter 1: Introduction; Chapter 2: Early and Chavín pp. 36-55

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

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

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

WEEK TWO (9/2-9/6)

(M/2) LABOR DAY – NO CLASSES

Lectures: Paracas Culture and Embroidered Imagery

Read Stone Chapter 3: Paracas and Nasca pp. 56-72

View and Read the Ppt Lecture: Paracas

Read PDF, [“Human-Animal Imagery, Shamanic Visions, and Ancient American Aesthetics”](#)

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt: Paracas

WEEK THREE (9/9-9/13)

Lectures: Nazca Culture and Ceramics; Nazca Geoglyphs

Read Stone Chapter 3: pp. 72-90

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Nazca

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt.: Nazca

Written Assignment: Write a 4-5- page discussion of the imagery of the AMB in Nazca ceramics. After identifying the major characteristics of the classic AMB, consider this mythical being's relationship to Paracas imagery, human sacrificial activity, 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 findings and interpretations with discussion of specific images of the AMB presented in lectures. Generalized statements without consideration of specific images do not constitute a thorough study of the AMB. Your essay, completed in Microsoft Word format, is due Friday, 9/20 by 11:59 pm. Submit your essay in the assignment, as indicated.

WEEK FOUR (9/16-9/20)

Lectures: Moche Culture and Ceramics

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

Study for Module 1 Exam (Chavín-Inca)

(F/20) Written Assignment is Due in the Blackboard Assignment by 11: 59 pm

WEEK FIVE (9/23-9/27)

Lectures: Tiwanaku and Inca Cultures and Architecture

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

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Tiwanaku

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt.: Tiwanaku

Read Stone Chapter 7: Inca pp. 194-224

View and Read the Ppt. Lecture: Inca

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

Study Exam 1 Required Works Ppt.: Inca

(F/27) Exam 1: South America - Available midnight-11:59 pm in Module One

Module Two

WEEK SIX (9/30-10/4)

Discussion Board Forum 1 is available all Week

Lectures: Olmec Culture and Art

Read Miller, Chapter 1: Introduction; Chapter 2: The Olmecs: Establishing Mesoamerican Foundations

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

Watch: [Kunz Axe \(Olmec\)](#); Read article: ["Offering #4, La Venta"](#).

Study Exam 2 Required Works Ppt: Olmec

(F 10/4) Discussion Board Forum 1 Post is due by 11:59 pm

(S 10/5) Your replies to 2 classmates' posts due by 11:59 pm

WEEK SEVEN (10/7-10/11)

Lectures: Pre-Classic Zapotec Culture and Ceramics of West Mexico

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

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

WEEK EIGHT (10/14-10/18)

Lectures: Teotihuacan

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

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Teotihuacan

Study Exam 2 Required Works Ppt.: Teotihuacan

Read Miller Chapter 5: Classic Cities from Coast to Coast

WEEK NINE (10/21-10/25)

Discussion Board Forum 2 is available all week

Lectures: Classic Zapotec Monte Alban

Mesoamerican Ballgame and Classic Veracruz Style

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Classic Zapotec Monte Alban

Study Exam 2 Required Works Ppt: Classic Zapotec Monte Alban

Read: [Comparison-Example pdf.](#)

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](#)

(F 10/25) Discussion Board Forum 2 Post is due by 11:59 pm

(S 10/26) Your replies to 2 classmates' posts due by 11:59 pm

WEEK TEN (10/28-11/1) Friday is last day to drop a course with a "W"

Lectures: Introduction to Maya Culture; Classic Tikal

Skim Coe Chapter 1: Introduction (optional); Chapter 3 The Rise of Classic Society

Read Coe Chapter 4: Classic Splendor: The Early Period to p. 112

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Maya Introduction

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Tikal

Study Module 3 Exam Required Works: Tikal

(F/1) Exam 2: Olmec-Ballgame (available midnight until 11:59 pm) in Module Two

Module Three

WEEK ELEVEN (11/4-11/8)

Lectures: Late. Classic Maya Copan and Palenque

Read Coe, Chapter 4 pp. 112-117; Chapter 5: Classic Splendor: The Late Period

Read 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

WEEK TWELVE (11/11-11/15)

Lectures: Late Classic Stone Sculpture at Piedras Negras and Yaxchilán

The Murals of Bonampak

Puuc Style at Uxmal

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Piedras Negras and Yaxchilán

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Bonampak

View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Puuc Uxmal

Read Coe, Chapter 7 pp. 219-230

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

WEEK THIRTEEN (11/18-11/22)

Lectures: The Epi-Classic Period; Early Postclassic Toltec Culture
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
Read Miller Chapter 8: pp. 209-230
Read Coe Chapter 7 pp. 232-248
View and Read Ppt. Lecture: Toltec Culture at Tula and Chichén Itzá
Study Final Exam Required Works: Toltec Culture at Tula and Chichén Itzá

WEEK FOURTEEN (11/25-11/29)

Lectures: Late Postclassic Aztec Culture and Stone Sculpture
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: [Coatlícue](#)
[Coyolxauhqui Monolith](#)
[Sun Stone/Calendar Stone](#)

(F/29) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASSES

WEEK FIFTEEN (12/2-12/6)

Lectures: Late Postclassic Zapotec and Mixtec Cultures of Oaxaca
View and Review Ppt. Lecture: Late Postclassic Zapotec and Mixtec Cultures
Study Final Exam Required Works: Late Postclassic Zapotec and Mixtec Cultures
Study for Exam 3; Write Exam 3 Essay and have it ready to paste into the exam

(F/6) DEAD DAY – NO CLASSES

WEEK SIXTEEN (12/9-12/13) Final Exams Week

Monday, 12/9

Module 3 Exam Maya-Mixtec (Available midnight-11:59pm) in Module Three

Exam 3 Essay: Discuss the theme of rulership in Classic Maya imagery in stone sculpture from Tikal, Copan, Palenque, Piedras Negras and Yaxchilán. Consider the following as you craft your discussion:

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

Support your findings with discussion of the imagery of specific works of Maya stone sculptures required for the third exam; be sure to discuss at least one sculpture from each of the five sites. Do not include other sculptures, architecture or painting; the subject is rulership in the imagery of stone sculpture.

Your essay should be approximately 900 words, which will be three-four 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 in Word format** prior to submitting it along with your final exam on Monday, 12/9. It is worth 50% of the grade for this exam.

The essay must be written entirely in your own words. Cutting and pasting any portion of the essay will result in a referral to the Office of Community Standards.