

Pre-Columbian Art & Architecture

Syllabus, Fall 2019

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

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 history to succeed in this class, however, regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions are fundamental to an understanding of the material presented in this course.

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 Blackboard online environment to access readings and essay assignments, to review works for exams, and to view announcements and other communications from the instructor.

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) Weekly readings are assigned from the following texts:
Rebecca Stone, *Art of the Andes: From Chavin to Inca*, Third Edition
Michael Coe, *Maya*, 9th edition
Mary Ellen Miller, *The Art of Mesoamerica*, fifth edition
- 2) An assigned reading is available in Blackboard:
Carolyn Dean, "The Inka Married the Earth..."
- 3) Images required for exams are in texts and the BLACKBOARD Content section
- 4) Students must bring either a notebook or recording device to lectures.

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, December 9th, 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 – due Friday, September 20th

The remaining 25% of your grade in this class consists of a **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 at the top, bottom and sides. Indicate paragraphs by indenting five spaces; do not set off paragraphs with extra spaces. 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. Although you are not required to conduct research for this assignment, I know that some of you will. Keep in mind that 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 (5 full pages) is due during class on Friday, September 20th.

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.

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. The images students must know for each exam are grouped according to culture. View a list of computer labs on campus at <http://admin.utep.edu/default.aspx?tabid=58049>.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

Disabilities: I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services in the East Union Bldg., Room 106, within the first two weeks of classes. The Center for Accommodations and Support Services can also be reached by:

Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

Fax: (915) 747-8712

E-Mail: cass@utep.edu

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.
- More than 3 absences 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.
- If a student stops attending lectures they are responsible for dropping the class prior to the drop date.
- 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.
- Food and beverages are allowed in this classroom, provided that each student takes responsibility for keeping their 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! If you cannot commit to consistent and punctual attendance, please take this course at another time.

Exam Etiquette:

- Be in your seat and ready to begin on time. **Latecomers may not have access to the images they have missed.**
- Please make sure your phone is turned off or set to vibrate.

Policy for Make-up Exams:

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. A routine doctor or dentist visit will not be considered as a valid excuse for missing an exam.
- Student missed exam due to a death in the immediate family.

Make ups are given during the instructor's office hours. As per official UTEP policy, make ups are not given for the final exam. No exceptions!

Policy for Late Papers

Late papers will be accepted in the event of extenuating circumstances.

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. Incompletes are issued 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.

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

Course Calendar

WEEK ONE (8/26-8/30)

(M) OUR FIRST CLASS MEETING

Syllabus overview; Introduction to Pre-Columbian art

Homework: Read Stone, Chapters 1 and 2

(W) Introduction to the ancient Andean Culture area and Chavín Culture

(F) Chavín de Huantar

Homework: Read Stone, Chapter 3

WEEK TWO (9/2-9/6)

(M) NO CLASSES – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

(W) Paracas Textiles

(F) Paracas Textiles continued: Nazca Ceramics

WEEK THREE (9/9-9/13)

(M) Nazca Ceramics and Geoglyphs

Homework: Read Stone, Chapter 4

(W) Moche Ceramics: Anthropomorphic Portrait Vessels

Moche Ceramics: Portrait Heads

(F) Moche Ceramics: Portrait Heads continued

WEEK FOUR (9/16-9/20)

(M) Moche: War and Sacrifice

(W) Moche War and Sacrifice continued

Homework: Read Stone, Chapter 5

(F) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS

Tiwanaku

Homework: Read Stone, Chapter 7; Read Carolyn Dean, *The Inka Married the Earth...* available in Blackboard Course Content

WEEK FIVE (9/23-9/27)

(M) Inca Culture and Architecture

(W) DVD: Lost City of the Incas

(F) EXAM 1 (South America)

Homework: Read Miller, Chapters 1 and 2

WEEK SIX (9/30-10/4)

(M) Pre-Classic Olmec Culture and Style

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

Homework: Read Miller, Chapter 3 to p. 64

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

WEEK SEVEN (10/7-10/11)

(M/7) Writing at Monte Alban: Mound J Conquest Slabs

Homework: Read Miller, Chapter 3 pp. 64-68

(W/9) Pre-Classic West Mexican Ceramic styles

(F/11) West Mexican Ceramics continued

Homework: Read Miller, Chapter 4

WEEK EIGHT (10/14-10/18)

(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 (10/21-10/25)

(M) Classic Teotihuacan: Murals, Ceramics and Masks

Homework: Read Miller, Chapter 5 to p. 116

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

(F) Monte Alban: Tomb Murals and Funerary Urns

Homework: Read Miller, Chapter 5 pp. 116-122

WEEK TEN (10/28-11/1)

(M) The Ballgame and Classic Veracruz Style

(W) Introduction to Classic Maya civilization

(F) EXAM 2 (Olmec through Classic Veracruz)

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

Course Drop Deadline – Last day to drop a course with a “W”

WEEK ELEVEN (11/4-11/8)

(M) Classic Tikal and Maya Ceramics

Homework: Read Coe, Chapter 5 to p. 143

(W) Tikal continued

Homework: Read Miller, Chapter 7

(F) Copan: The Easternmost City of the Maya realm

Homework: Continue Miller, Chapter 7; Read Coe, Chapter 5 pp. 146-160

WEEK TWELVE (11/11-11/15)

(M) Palenque: Western Jewel of the Maya Realm

(W) Palenque continued

(F) Sculpture of Piedras Negras and Yaxchilan

WEEK THIRTEEN (11/18-11/22)

(M) Painted Walls of Bonampak and Courtly Figurines from Jaina

Homework: Read Coe, Chapter 6 to p. 183

(W) Puuc Style of Uxmal and the Yucatán

Homework: Read Miller, Chapter 8 to p. 205

(F) Epi-classic Cacaxtla and Xochicalco

Homework: Read Coe, Chapter 7 to p. 215 and Miller, Chapter 8, pp. 208-230

WEEK FOURTEEN (11/25-11/29)

(M) Postclassic Tula and Chichen Itza

(W) Tula and Chichen continued; Aztec History and Myth

Homework: Read Miller, Chapter 9

Final Exam Essay Topic available on Blackboard

(F/29) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY- NO CLASSES

WEEK FIFTEEN (12/2-12/6)

(M) Late Postclassic Aztec Sculpture

Homework: Read Miller, Chapter 8 pp. 205-207; Chapter 9 pp. 267-272

(W) Late Post-Classic Zapotec Culture: Mitla

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, December 9th

Regular classroom

10:00 AM –12:45 PM

You may use an outline of your essay on a 3x5” index card. Include information pertinent to the essay only; DO NOT include Epi-classic or Postclassic material.