

SPANISH COLONIAL ART OF THE AMERICAS

Fall 2024

Course Information

Course prefix and number - ARTH 3355 CRN 17235

Course meeting location – Fox Fine Arts Room A458

Course meeting times – MWF 9:30-10:20

Instructor Information

Instructor's name – Anne Perry

Instructor's office # - Fox Fine Arts Room A354

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

Instructor's phone # - 747-8744 **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, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and here at UTEP. Her courses form the Latin American component of the art history course offerings and also include the mandatory non-western requirement (African art) and one half of the required freshman art history surveys here at UTEP. She also offers the Senior Art History Seminar to art history majors during the fall and spring semesters.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the rich and varied history of Spanish Colonial art and architecture of Mexico and its hinterland--the US Southwest. Major monuments and art objects in a variety of media will be studied in terms of style, iconography and original cultural 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, because some of the material presented in class is not duplicated in textbooks, regular attendance at lectures, note taking and participation in class discussions are fundamental to an understanding of the material presented.

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.

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 Spanish Colonial art in Mexico and the US Southwest 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 Requirements

Required Texts and Materials

1) Weekly readings are assigned from the following texts:

Donna Pierce et. al., *Painting a New World: Mexican Art and Life 1521-1821*

Check *Get Textbooks.com* at: <https://www.gettextbooks.com/isbn/9780914738497/>

Several copies are available on Amazon.com. One copy in Special Collections, UTEP Library

James Early, *Presidio, Mission and Pueblo: Spanish Architecture and Urbanism in the United States* (used hard copies available online at AbeBooks Amazon, ebay)

Free version available to read at: <https://archive.org/details/presidiomissionp0000earl>

2) Various readings in PDF format and online are available/accessible in Blackboard modules

3) Powerpoint Lectures are available in Blackboard modules

4) Images required for exams are available as Powerpoints in Blackboard modules

Exams

There will be three exams in this course, which will constitute 75% of your overall grade. These exams will not be cumulative, but will only cover material from each of three units. Exams may consist of the following: slide identifications, slide comparisons, discussions and an essay.

Tentative dates of availability for the first two exams are indicated in the following calendar. Be advised that these dates can change. **All exams will be available in Blackboard between midnight and 11:59 pm on their specific dates only. All exams are closed book; you may not use any study materials while you take exams.**

The third exam will be available in Blackboard from midnight to 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, December 11th. Images of specific works that you are required to know for each of these exams are available in each Blackboard module.

Paper

25% of your course grade consists of a 7-page research paper on a US Southwest mission church of your choosing. Your discussion will include a brief description of the church and its original context (the mission complex) and a comparison of your church with Mexican and other US

southwestern mission churches. Your paper is due in class on Monday, December 2nd. See the last page of this syllabus for specific details of the assignment.

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

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.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: You are expected to check your email and to keep up with class. 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 an email or note from an appropriate professional. It is also your responsibility to turn in your paper on time. If you miss a deadline due to serious circumstances outside of your control, communicate with me immediately, so that we may determine the best course of action to take to get you back on track. Failure to do so may result in your being dropped from the class.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS/MISSED ASSIGNMENTS: Makeups will be permitted for assignments missed due to illness, family emergency, or a serious situation beyond your control.

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.

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

EXTRA CREDIT: I do not offer extra credit for this course.

INCOMPLETES: will be considered for students who have satisfactorily completed the majority of assignments and have serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All Incompletes are at the discretion of the instructor and the approval of the Department chair.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: 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. Note also that you are not allowed to use artificial intelligence to write your paper. You are also responsible for adhering to the instructor's rules on exams. All suspected incidences of academic dishonesty will be referred 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>.

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 via their [AIM PORTAL](#) 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 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)

(M) FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

Introduction and Syllabus Review

Read Pierce et. al., pp. 25-33

(W) Mexico-Tenochtitlán: City of Moctezuma and Cortés

Read Donahue-Wallace, "Colonial Cities," available in Blackboard (PDF format may be printed)

Read: [Map of Cholula from *las relaciones geográficas*](#)

(F) Colonial Mexican Cities: A Standard Plan

Read Early, "Friars and Indians: The Architecture of Evangelism," available in Blackboard (PDF format may be printed)

WEEK TWO (9/2-9/6) Continue to read "Friars and Indians....."

(M) LABOR DAY – NO CLASSES

(W) Colonial Mexican Cities: Plateresque style

(F) The Sixteenth-Century Mendicant Complex: Introduction

Read: [Engravings in Diego Valadés's *Rhetorica Christiana*](#)

WEEK THREE (9/9-9/13) Continue to read "Friars and Indians....."

(M) The Atrio: Posa

Watch: [Atrial Cross at Acolman](#)

(W) The Atrio: Posa and Atrio Cross continued

(F) The Atrio: The Open Chapel

WEEK FOUR (9/16-9/20)

(M) Open Chapel continued; The Fortress Church (San Gabriel, Cholula)

(W) Exterior Decoration: Plateresque San Miguel and San Agustín

(F) Basilica of Cuilapán; Purista Santiago Tecali; Tequitqui at Tepoztlán

WEEK FIVE (9/23-9/27)

(M) Interior Decoration of the Church: Ceilings and Altarpieces

The Convento (claustro)

Read Edgerton, "Christian Murals by Indian Artists," available in Blackboard

(W) Fresco Decoration of the Missions: Acolman, Ixmiquilpan, Actopán

(F) Frescoes continued: Huejotzingo, Epazoyucán, Malinalco

Read Pierce et. al., pp. 95-117

WEEK SIX (9/30-10/4)

(M) Frescoes continued

Featherwork of the Mission Schools (Pierce et.al., pp. 94-102)

(W) Featherwork and Painted Manuscripts

Read: [Frontispiece of the Codex Mendoza](#)

(F) Painted Manuscripts of the Early Colonial Period: Las relaciones geográficas

Read: [Map of Cholula from *las relaciones geográficas*](#)

Read Pierce et. al., pp. 17-23; 47-63; 118-122

WEEK SEVEN (10/7-10/11)

(M) Sixteenth-Century Panel Painting: European Style

(W) Sixteenth-Century Panel Painting continued

(F/11) EXAM 1: The Sixteenth Century in Mexico

Available in Blackboard Module One from midnight – 11:59 p.m.

No Face-To-Face Lecture Today

Read Pierce et. al., pp. 17-23; 33-45; 61-68; 126-170

MODULE TWO

WEEK EIGHT (10/14-10/18)

(M) Seventeenth-Century Panel Painting (Watch: [Virgin of Guadalupe](#))

(W) Seventeenth-Century Panel Painting continued

Read Pierce et. al., pp. 17-23; 179-186

(F) High Baroque painting

Review Pierce et. al., pp. 33-45

WEEK NINE (10/21-10/25)

(M) Baroque Architecture and Sculpture

(W) Baroque Architecture and Sculpture continued

Read Early, “Baroque Religious Architecture II,” available in Blackboard

(F) High Baroque Architecture and Sculpture of the 18th Century: Estípite

Watch: [Jerónimo de Albás, Altar of the Kings \(altar de los reyes\)](#)

Read Pierce et. al., pp. 79-91

WEEK TEN (10/28-11/1)

(M) Sacred and Secular in the 18th Century: An Eighteenth-Century Mexican Virgin

Read Pierce et. al., pp. 194-199; 210-211; 244-245

(W) Sacred and Secular in the 18th Century: Las Castas

Read Pierce et. al., pp. 206-209; 222-229; 238-243; 256-259; 267-8

(F) Eighteenth-Century Secular Painting

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

WEEK ELEVEN (11/4-11/8)

(M) La Real Academia de San Carlos and Neoclassical Style

(W) Introduction: Missions of the US Southwest

(F/8) EXAM 2: 17th – 18th Centuries in Mexico

Available in Blackboard Module Two from midnight - 11:59 p.m.

No Face-To-Face Lecture Today

Read Early, *Presidio, Mission and Pueblo*, pp. 1-10, pp. 64-72

Read Edgerton, “Religious Architecture in the Most Remote Provinces,” available in Blackboard

MODULE THREE

WEEK TWELVE (11/11-11/15)

(M) Missions of New Mexico: The Stone Missions of Salinas

(W) Salinas Group continued

Read Early, pp. 72-77

(F) Adobe Missions of New Mexico: Acoma, Laguna, Isleta

Read Early, pp. 92-95;

Read: [Mission Church, San Esteban del Rey, Acoma Pueblo](#)

WEEK THIRTEEN (11/18-11/22)

(M) The High Road to Taos: Chimayó, Truchas, Las Trampas

Read Early, pp. 96-121

(W) Texas Missions: San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, La Purísima Concepción

Read Early, pp. 154-175

(F) California Missions: San Diego de Alcalá San Juan Capistrano, San Luis Rey

Read Early, pp. 186-208

WEEK FOURTEEN (11/25-11/29)

(M) California Missions: Mission Santa Barbara; San Juan Bautista

Read Early, pp. 137-153

(W) Arizona Sonoran Desert Missions: San Xavier del Bac

(F/29) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

WEEK FIFTEEN (12/2-12/6)

(M/2) PAPER DUE IN CLASS

San Xavier del Bac continued

(W) Colonial Santos: Santero Paintings and Sculpture in New Mexico

(F/6) DEAD DAY – NO CLASSES

WEEK SIXTEEN (12/9-12/13)

(W/11) Exam 3: Missions of the U.S. Southwest

Available in Blackboard Module Three from midnight - 11:59 pm

PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Write a 7-page paper on a Colonial mission church of your choosing in the US Southwest (choose from the list of missions posted on Blackboard). You will first briefly describe the general setting of the church (layout and composition of the mission complex). Then you must discuss the specific characteristics of the mission church proper, including its construction, exterior architectural style and decoration, as well as interior decoration. Consider the relationship of your chosen mission church to churches of Mexico. How is your chosen example similar to 16th-century Mexican mission churches studied in class? How is it different? Consider the stylistic influences apparent in the construction and decoration. Does it, for example, reflect Baroque or Neoclassical styles rather than 16th-century church styles? Equally important to your discussion is your church's reflection of the cultural and stylistic trends at mission complexes in the US Southwest, as summarized in lectures and in your text. Consider construction, types and significance of exterior and interior decoration, as well as any features that are specifically southwestern in nature.

This is a research paper, but your discussion must reflect YOUR observations and thoughts about the subject. I want to hear your voice as I read your text. Make sure that you cite each and every source of original thought or wording that is not your own, but do not include lengthy quotations in the body of your text. A paper that is wholly or in part copied from any text is unacceptable, and will not receive a grade. Additionally, you are not allowed to use AI to create your text. Your text will be checked for originality in SafeAssign and AI detection apps. Papers that appear to be plagiarized wholly or in part or that are created with AI will be referred to the Office of Community Standards and a formal inquiry will be initiated.

Be sure to include an illustration of your chosen mission church at the end of your paper, not within the text. Illustrations are labeled with a figure number, title and location of the work. Illustrations will not count toward the required page length of your paper.

Your typed, proofread and grammatically correct paper is due in the Blackboard Research Paper assignment on Monday, December 2nd. Late papers will be subject to grade penalties.

Please format your **Word document** as follows:

- 12 pt. font
- 11/2 or double-spaced
- 1" margins on top, bottom and sides
- Indent 5 spaces at the beginning of each paragraph; do not set off paragraphs with empty spaces between them.
- Include a title page with your name, class, and title of your essay.
- Use Chicago Style notes and bibliography. For information about Chicago Style footnotes and bibliography, consult:
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
- Include an illustration of your church labeled figure 1, name and location