

# Art in Mexico: Ancient to Modern

## Fall 2023

Course: ARTH 3357 Art in Mexico: Ancient to Modern  
CRN: 15096

This course is an introduction to the rich and varied history of art and architecture of Mexico from the Conquest through the middle of the twentieth century. 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. Graduate students are welcome, but they are required to complete additional work in order to receive graduate credit for this class.

ARTH 3357 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. Students from other disciplines may fulfill their 3000- Level Fine and Performing Arts elective with this course, as there are no pre-requisites for ARTH 3357.

### Required Text:

There is a single text required for this course, which students should acquire prior to the beginning of classes on August 22nd: *Art and Architecture in Mexico*, by James Oles, Thames and Hudson, ISBN-978-0-500-20406-1. It is available in hard copy at the [UTEP Bookstore](#) or on Amazon.com.

### Instructor Information:

Instructor: Anne Perry

Office Hours: MW 11:30-1:00 in FFA A354

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, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and here at UTEP. She and her family have lived in El Paso for many years.

### Course Format: In Person on MWF 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 some readings, Smarthistory videos and assignments, to review works for exams, **to take exams** and to view announcements and other communications from the instructor.

## Technical Requirements:

Some 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](#). They are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

For technology support: [TS.UTEP.EDU](mailto:TS.UTEP.EDU) | or call 915-747-4357 (HELP)

## Blackboard Learn

Please make sure you can access your ARTH 3357 Art in Mexico 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. Powerpoint lectures, exams, announcements, instructional videos, web links to art sites, the course schedule, the written assignment, 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](https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/BB_Students.html)

## Modules

With the exception of assigned readings from your required text, course content is delivered in modules. We have three modules, which correspond to major units of study for the Viceregal and early Twentieth Century. All 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 the writing assignment. Whenever you open our course in Blackboard you will always land on the Course Content page with the unit modules at your fingertips. Each unit module is arranged by week and lists all tasks that we will complete during each week. Exams will be available on specific days between midnight and 11:59 pm, and you will access them in the designated module. Your written assignment will be due well 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 Viceregal and early twentieth-century art in Mexico 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, research and critical thinking skills, leading to increased competency and confidence in the articulation of ideas.
- a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding the creation of works of art.

## 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 required works (and associated material) from each unit. Exams may consist of any of the following: slide identifications, short answer questions, slide comparisons, discussions and longer essays. The first unit exam will cover the art and architecture of 16<sup>th</sup>-Century Viceregal Mexico. The second exam covers the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The third unit exam will cover the twentieth century and will be available during Final Exams week, on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, between midnight and 11:59 pm. **Students 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.**

### Research Paper 25% of your final grade (Due Monday, 11/27)

Students will research a specific topic in Mexican art of the modern era (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) of their choosing and write a 7-page paper on that topic. Each student is expected to submit a written proposal of their research topic to the instructor by Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Your topic must be cleared with the instructor before you begin your research. **Your completed paper must be submitted in the original assignment on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.** This paper counts for 25% of your course grade.

On the due date, you will submit a clear and coherent paper of at least 7 full pages in length. Your text must be in Word format, double-spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with standard one-inch margins. It must be organized into coherent paragraphs. Do not include extra spaces between paragraphs. Do include a cover page with your name, the date, the course number, and the title of your paper.

As is the case for any paper submitted for college credit, your paper must be written entirely in your own words. Any excerpt, quotation, description, idea, thought or concept that belongs to another person--whether from a book, article, or the Internet-- must be correctly documented. Plagiarism is not tolerated in this class. If any portion of your paper is plagiarized you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict resolution, which could result in a zero on the work in question, a failing grade in the course, disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal. For some tips on avoiding plagiarism, see: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf>. Furthermore, if your paper contains an excessive number of quotes from other sources, it will be returned to you without a grade and you will not receive credit for this assignment.

If you need help with technical aspects of writing (grammar, punctuation, organization into coherent paragraphs, etc.) or your written expression in general, please seek assistance at the [Writing Center](#) in the main library well before the due date.

For instructions on proper citation of sources in the Chicago style/Notes and Bibliography system, consult the [Purdue Owl Online Writing Lab](#).

## Conducting Research

The [ARTH 3357 Research Guide](#) compiled by librarian Joy Urbina will be an invaluable resource as you look for your topic and research your paper. The [UTEP Library Art Research Guides](#), compiled by librarian David Flores, should also be a helpful resource. You may also want to check out the [ICAA Documents of Latin American and Latino Art](#), a digital archive of primary source material and critical texts of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

You will need to devise some keyword searches to find the sources for your project. WorldCat is a good place to search for books about your topic. Some of the most useful article databases include JSTOR, Art Source, Grove Encyclopedia of Art, and the [Bibliography of the History of Art \(BHA\)](#), which is available for free at the Getty Research Institute.

Use only quality reputable scholarship. Wikipedia is not peer-reviewed and is thus not reputable, but some entries have bibliographies at the end and those may be useful. Major peer-reviewed research journals for art history include *The Art Bulletin*, *Art Journal*, *Leonardo*, *The Burlington Magazine*, *Art News*, *ArtForum*, *American Art*, *Winterthur Portfolio*, *Art International*, *Studio International*, *October*, *Grey Room*, *Flash Art*, and *Art History* (published in the UK). These are good places to search for scholarly articles in English, but there are many other good journals as well. [Sacramento State University Library's guide to research in Latin American and Latino art history](#) is also a good resource.

**GRADING:** Final grades for this course will be based on the results of three examinations, three online class discussions and the essay. Your grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Three Exams      75% (25% each)  
Research Paper.   25%

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 experiencing a personal or family emergency. I will take attendance before most lectures. More than three absences will result in your final numerical average being lowered by two points. Excessive absences (more than six) may result in your being dropped from the class.

If you become ill and exhibit flu-like symptoms, please remain at home until better. You should also be tested for Covid. Be sure to contact me at [aperry@utep.edu](mailto:aperry@utep.edu) to inform me of your situation if you do contract the virus.

**COMMUNICATION:** There are a couple of ways to email me: through my regular UTEP email account at: [aperry@utep.edu](mailto:aperry@utep.edu) or through Blackboard Course Messages, which you access in the Course Menu. Be sure to use your UTEP email account when you contact me. I try to respond to emails immediately but 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 your syllabus or Blackboard daily 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 **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 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.

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). If your browser will not allow you back into the test, you should email me at [aperry@utep.edu](mailto:aperry@utep.edu) immediately.

**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 the instructor. 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 students will write a paper for this course, it is important to understand prohibited practices. 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. You are also responsible for adhering to the instructor's rules on exams; to do otherwise is considered scholastic dishonesty. All suspected incidences of academic dishonesty will be referred to the office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution 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 at their [AIM PORTAL](#). CASS staff are the only individuals who can validate and, if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities. They also hire notetakers for classes.

## Course Calendar

### UNIT ONE- THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

All additional readings/videos are available in Blackboard Unit One

#### WEEK ONE (8/28-9/1)

Lecture: Mexico-Tenochtitlan: City of Moctezuma & Cortés; La Mapa de Cortés

Read Syllabus; Buy or rent text: James Oles, Art and Architecture in Mexico, ISBN: 9780500204061 available in [UTEP Bookstore](#)

Read Mundy: "[Mapping the Aztec Capital: The 1524 Nuremberg Map of Tenochtitlan, Its Sources and Meanings](#)" prior to class on Friday

#### WEEK TWO (9/4-9/8)

##### **(M/4) Labor Day Holiday**

Lecture: 16<sup>th</sup>-century Urban Planning and Architecture

Read Donahue-Wallace, "[Colonial Cities](#)" for class on Wednesday

Text: Read Chapter 2 pp. 54-61

Study Required Works: Exam 1

#### WEEK THREE (9/11-9/15)

Lecture: Featherwork and Painted Manuscripts of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century

Text: Read Chapter 1 pp. 18-31

Read [Farago, "Mass of St. Gregory," PDF](#)

Read [Painting Aztec History](#)

Read [Frontispiece of the Codex Mendoza](#)

Read [Bernardino de Sahagún and collaborators, Florentine Codex](#)

Study Required Works: Exam 1

## WEEK FOUR (9/18-9/22)

Lecture: Architecture and Sculpture of the Missions

Text: Read Chapter 1 pp. 31-46

Read: [Mission Churches as Theaters of Conversion in New Spain](#)

Read: [St. Michael the Archangel in Huejotzingo](#)  
[Atrial Cross at Acolman](#)

Study Required Works: Exam 1

## WEEK FIVE (9/25-9/29)

Lecture: Frescoes in the Missions; Panel Painting: The 16<sup>th</sup> Century

Text: Read Chapter 1 pp. 46-53; Chapter 2 pp. 61-66

Watch: [Murals from New Spain, San Agustín de Acolman](#)

Read: [The Convento of San Nicolás de Tolentino, Actopan, Hidalgo](#)

Study Required Works: Exam 1; Prepare for Exam 1

## WEEK SIX (10/2-10/6)

Lecture: Baroque Painting of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century; Baroque Architecture and Sculpture  
18<sup>th</sup>-Century Panel Painting

Text: Read Chapter 2 pp. 66-97; Chapter Three to p. 107

Watch: [Virgin of Guadalupe](#)

Watch: [Jerónimo de Balbás, Altar of the Kings \(Altar de los Reyes\)](#)

Study Required Works: Exam 2

(F 10/6) UNIT ONE EXAM (Viceregal Mexico: The Sixteenth Century)  
Available midnight-11:59 pm in Unit One

## UNIT TWO – THE SEVENTEENTH THROUGH NINETEENTH CENTURIES

All additional readings/videos are available in Blackboard Unit Two

## WEEK SEVEN (10/9-10/13)

Lecture: 18<sup>th</sup>- Century Painting continued; La Real Academia de San Carlos and the Academic Tradition  
Scientific Expeditions, Romantic Travelers and Costumbrismo

Text: Read chapter 3 pp. 108-131; Chapter 4

Watch: [Casta Paintings: Constructing Identity in Spanish Colonial America](#)

Read: [Spaniard and Indian Produce a Mestizo, attributed to Juan Rodríguez Juárez](#)

Read [The Academy of San Carlos](#)

Read [Early Scientific Exploration in Latin America](#)

Study Required Works: Exam 2

## WEEK EIGHT (10/16-10/20)

(M 10/16) PAPER TOPIC IS DUE BY 11:59 PM. SUBMIT TO: [aperry@utep.edu](mailto:aperry@utep.edu)

Lecture: Neoclassicism and Nationalism; National Identity: The Landscapes of José María Velasco;  
Regional Artists: Estrada, Bustos; The Porfiriato and the Indian

Text: Read Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 pp. 198-206

Watch: [José María Velasco, \*The Valley of Mexico from the Santa Isabel Mountain Range\*](#)

Study Required Works: Exam 2

## WEEK NINE (10/23-10/27)

Lecture: Modernismo: Ruelas, Herrán and Goitia

José Guadalupe Posada: Printmaker of the Porfiriato and the Revolution

Text: Read Chapter 6 p. 206 to end of chapter; Work on Research Paper

Read Dawn Ades, ["Posada and the Popular Graphic Tradition"](#)

(F 10/27) UNIT TWO EXAM – 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries (to Chapter 6, p. 206)

Available midnight-11:59pm in Unit Two

## UNIT THREE- THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

All additional readings/videos are available in Blackboard Unit Two; links also provided here

## WEEK TEN (10/30-11/3)

Lecture: The Mexican Mural Movement of the 1920s: The ENP Murals

Diego Rivera: The SEP Murals

Text: Read Chapter 7 pp. 234-246

Study Required Works: Exam 3; Work on Research Paper

**(F 11/3) Course Drop Deadline**

## WEEK ELEVEN (11/6-11/10)

Lecture: Other Currents of the 1920s; Diego Rivera: Mural for National Palace and Mural in the Cortés  
Palace, Cuernavaca

Text: Read Chapter 7 pp. 246-270

Study Required Works: Exam 3; Work on Research Paper

## WEEK TWELVE (11/13-11/17)

Text: Read Chapter 7 pp. 271-274

Lecture: Diego Rivera in the United States: *Detroit Industry*; A Major Setback at Rockefeller Center

José Clemente Orozco in the United States: *The Epic of American Civilization* at Dartmouth College

Orozco's Program in the Hospicio Cabañas, Guadalajara

Read: [Diego Rivera, \*Detroit Industry Murals\*](#)

Watch: [Diego Rivera: Man Controller of the Universe](#)

Read: [Orozco at Dartmouth](#)

Study Required Works: Exam 3; Work on Research Paper



## WEEK THIRTEEN (11/20-11/24) Thanksgiving Holiday

Lecture: Siqueiros in the United States: *La América Tropical*; Mexican Electricians' Union: *Portrait of the Bourgeoisie*; later works; L.E.A.R. and Taller de Gráfica Popular

Read Dawn Ades, "The Taller de Gráfica Popular"

Text: Read Chapter 8 pp. 278-294

Study Required Works: Exam 3

Complete Research Paper

**(F/24) Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes**

## WEEK FOURTEEN (11/27-12/1)

**(M/27) PAPER DUE BY 11:59 PM. SUBMIT TO: [aperry@utep.edu](mailto:aperry@utep.edu)**

Lecture: Taller de Gráfica Popular continued

Frida Kahlo: From Detroit to Divorce in Self-Portraits

Read: [Frida Kahlo, Introduction](#)

Text: Read Chapter 8 pp.295-end of chapter

Study Required Works: Exam 3

## WEEK FIFTEEN (12/4-12/8)

Lecture: Frida Kahlo and other "Surrealists" at the International Surrealist Exhibition

**(F/8) Dead Day – No Classes**

Write Exam 3 Essay this week:

Compare and contrast Diego Rivera's *Detroit Industry* fresco program in the Detroit Institute of the Arts with José Clemente Orozco's *Epic of American Civilization* fresco program in the Baker-Berry Library at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. As you craft your 900-word discussion consider the following features of the two programs: patron; subject matter and its suitability for the location; references to Mexican culture; attitudes toward religion, technology, industrialization and progress, as well as the overall mood/tone of each program.

Be sure to support your conclusions with discussion of specific images/motifs within each program. You will paste this essay into the final section of the Unit Three exam, available in Unit Three on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Study for Exam 3

## WEEK SIXTEEN (12/11-12/5)

**Wednesday, 12/13 UNIT THREE EXAM (Modernismo-Surrealism)**

**Available midnight-11:59 pm in Unit Three**