

# ARTH 399: PRE-COLUMBIAN AND EARLY COLONIAL ART OF MESOAMERICA SYLLABUS – FALL 2011

Dr. Penny C. Morrill – pmorrill@gmu.edu  
Tues./Thurs. 1:30-2:45 p.m. Enterprise Hall 174

Texts: Mary Ellen Miller, *The Art of Mesoamerica*, 4th ed., New York: Thames and Hudson, 2006; readings made available by professor

Grade: paper – 20%; 3 tests – each 18%; final – 20%; pop quizzes – 6%

Assignment: Please choose a pre-Columbian work of art at Dumbarton Oaks in Georgetown or a colonial monastery and write a 8-page paper that will be due Dec. 8. If pre-Columbian, please provide an overview of the culture and people who produced the piece. If colonial, please describe the architecture and mural cycle. You may include only one internet reference (no Wikipedia). Include footnotes and a bibliography.

Aug. 30 T – Introduction

Sep. 1 Th – General Overview: geography, cultural areas/ Olmecs  
Readings: M. E. Miller, Introduction

Sept 6 T – Olmecs  
Readings: M.E. Miller, Ch. 2

Sep. 8 Th – The Calendar  
Readings: M.E. Miller, Ch. 3

Sep. 13 T – The Calendar

Sep. 15 Th – The Late Formative Period

Sep. 20 T – Teotihuacan  
Readings: M.E. Miller, Ch. 4

Sep. 22 Th – Teotihuacan

Sep. 27 T – Monte Albán  
Readings: M.E. Miller, Ch. 5

Sept. 29 Th – El Tajín and a description of the ballgame

Oct. 4 T – TEST

Oct. 6 Th – Early Classic Maya

Readings: M. E. Miller Ch. 6

Oct. 11 T – No class

Oct. 13 Th – Early Classic Maya

Oct. 18 T – Late Classic Maya

Readings: M. E. Miller Ch. 7

Oct. 20 Th – Late Classic Maya

Oct. 25 T – Tula and Chichén Itzá

Readings: M. E. Miller Ch. 8

Oct. 27 Th – Early Post-Classic

Nov. 1 T – TEST

Nov. 3 Th – Aztecs

Readings: M. E. Miller Ch. 9

Nov. 8 T – Aztecs

Nov. 10 Th – Aztecs

Nov. 15 T – Conquest

Nov. 17 Th – TEST

Nov. 22 T – Early Colonial

Nov. 24 Th – no class

Nov. 29 T – Early Colonial

Dec. 1 Th – Early Colonial

Dec. 6 T – Early Colonial

Dec. 8 Th — Early Colonial. Turn in paper