

ARTH 204 001 Survey of Latin American Art

Class time: Monday and Wednesday 12:00-1:15

Location: Robinson Hall B113

Professor: Michele Greet

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Phone: (703) 993-3479 (email is best)

Office: Robinson Hall B 371A

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:00-4:00 or by appointment

Course Description: From Macchu Picchu to Frida Kahlo, this course will survey major developments and innovations in Latin American painting, sculpture, and architecture. Beginning in the Pre-Columbian era, this course will cover Aztec, Mayan, and Incan art, art of the Viceroyalties of New Spain and Peru, as well as important trends in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Latin American art. Through lectures, assignments, and visits to area museums, students will acquire a historical framework for further study in art history.

Course Format: The classroom experience is the core of the course. Class sessions comprise lecture/discussions on selected aspects of material introduced in that day's reading assignment. Tests derive from both what we cover in class and the readings, thus **careful note taking** is essential to your success in the course.

Objectives:

- To become familiar with major periods/trends in Latin American art
- To learn about these periods in their historical context and to recognize their formal/stylistic traits
- To develop analytical and interpretive skills and use them to discuss and write about works of art

Course Requirements:

- **Readings:** complete all reading **before** the class. If a reading is listed under February 1, for example, it should be completed **before** class on the 1st.
- **Participation:** (5% of your grade) Participation refers to both the content of your verbal contributions as well as your attention and response to others' comments. The GMU catalogue reads: "Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register...instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as *de facto* evidence of non-participation." Everyone starts with a B as a participation grade. You will maintain that grade by simply coming to class (missing no more than 3 classes over the semester). To get an A for participation you need to actually contribute to class discussions. Your participation grade will be reduced according to attendance after 3 absences. You will not pass the class if you miss more than 50% of the class sessions no matter how well you do on other assignments.
- **Paper:** (20% of your grade) 3-4 pages, a review of an exhibition of Pre-Columbian art at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC. Specific assignment to be handed out in class.
- **Quiz:** (15% of your grade)
- **Mid-term:** (30% of your grade)
- **Final:** (30% of your grade)

Grading Standards:

C is the average expected performance of a college Student. To receive a C you must complete all readings and assignments on time, demonstrate a basic knowledge of the material, and write competently (all assignments must be well organized and have correct spelling and grammar). To receive a B your work must be substantially better than average and to receive an A truly exceptional. A work is meticulously researched, well written, and imaginative and goes above and beyond the assignment.

A+	98-100	C+	77-79
A	93-97	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D	60-69
B	83-86	F	59 and lower
B-	80-82		

Technology Requirements:

- GMU requires you to activate your GMU e-mail account to receive official campus communications. If you prefer to use another address, you must activate the e-mail forwarder. I will use GMU addresses exclusively.
- Blackboard
- All written work must be word-processed, spell-checked, and printed on a quality printer

Policies:

- Students are responsible for all material covered in class (announcements, lectures, discussions) whether you are present or not.
- Late assignments are not acceptable. Any work turned in late without a valid written excuse (i.e. doctor's note) will be graded down one grade per class late. If an assignment is not turned in by the last day of class you will be given a 0 for that assignment. If you are having difficulty completing an assignment please see me well before the assignment is due. If I am aware of your circumstances I am more than willing to work with you.
- Make-up exams or extensions will be granted only in the case of documented emergencies.
- GMU operates with an **Honor Code**. It is clearly defined in the catalogue (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>) **Plagiarism** (presenting someone else's ideas or words as your own without proper acknowledgement) violates the Honor Code. I will notify the Honor Committee concerning possible infractions.
- All work must be submitted in hard copy. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted.
- Cell phones must be **turned off** during class.
- Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities, in accordance with law and university policies. Students requiring accommodations must register with the University's Disability Resource Center and produce documentation. Please do this well **before** the first test or presentation in case alternate arrangements need to be made.
- If English is your second language, I encourage you to turn in a rough draft of your paper at least one week before it is due. If needed I will recommend that you work with the Writing Center. **All papers must be in good standard English.**

Important dates:

Jan. 26	Last day to add classes
Feb. 15	Quiz

Feb. 19	Last day to drop classes (67% tuition penalty)
Mar. 2	Mid-term exam
Mar. 7-13	No class: Spring Break
Mar. 28	Paper due
May 2	Last day of class
May 9	Final Exam: 10:30-1:15

Text books:

Miller, Mary Ellen. The Art of Mesoamerica: From Olmec to Aztec (World of Art), 4th ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 2006.

Stone-Miller, Rebecca. Art of the Andes: From Chavín to Inca (World of Art), 2nd. ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 2002.

Donahue-Wallace, Kelly. Art and Architecture of Viceregal Latin America, 1521-1821. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008.

Lucie-Smith, Edward. Latin American Art of the 20th Century (World of Art), 2nd ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 2004.

Lectures and reading assignments:

Jan. 20 Introduction and overview

Jan. 25 Olmecs
Miller chapter 1 and 2

Jan. 27 Teotihuacan
Miller chapters 3 and 4

Feb. 1 Maya
Miller chapters 5 and 6

Feb. 3 No class; I'm at a conference

Feb. 8 Maya
Miller chapters 7 and 8

Feb. 10 **Film: "Mayans"**

Feb. 15 **Quiz**
Aztec
Miller chapter 9

Feb. 17 Paracas and Nasca
Stone-Miller chapters 1 and 3

Feb. 22 Moche, Tiwanaku and Wari

Stone-Miller chapter 4 and 5

Feb. 24 Incan Art
Stone-Miller chapters 6 and 7

Feb. 29 Review

Mar. 2 **Mid-term exam**

Mar. 7/9 Spring Break

Mar. 14 **Film: “When Worlds Collide”**
Donahue-Wallace chapters 1 and 2

Mar. 16 Colonial Art
Donahue-Wallace chapters 3 and 4

Mar. 21 No class; I’m at a conference

Mar. 23 Colonial Art
Donahue-Wallace chapters 5 and 6

Mar. 28 Colonial Art
Paper Due

Mar. 30 Colonial Art
Donahue-Wallace chapters 7 and 8

Apr. 4 Nineteenth Century: Independence
Dawn Ades, Art in Latin America: The Modern Era, 1820-1980, 1989. Chapter 1
“Independence and its Heroes” (7-25), and Chapter 2 “Academies and History Painting”
(27-39). Blackboard.
Lucie-Smith Introduction

Apr. 6 First Modern Movements
Lucie-Smith chapter 1 and 2

Apr. 11 **Film: “The Walls of Mexico”**

Apr. 13 Mexican Muralism
Lucie-Smith chapter 3

Apr. 18 Indigenism and Social Realism
Lucie-Smith chapter 4

Apr. 20 Latin American artists abroad
Lucie-Smith chapter 5

Apr. 25 Women artists in Mexico

Lucie-Smith chapter 6

Apr. 27 Toward Abstraction
Lucie-Smith chapters 7 and 8

May 2 Review

May 9 **Final Exam 10:30-1:15**