

ARTH 204-001 Survey of Latin American Art
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY | Spring 2019
Tuesday/Thursday 3:00pm – 4:15pm | Exploratory Hall L003

Instructor: Dr. Jeanette Nicewinter

Contact Information: jnicewin@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 2:00pm – 3:00pm (before class); Tuesday & virtually by appointment

- Office hours will be held in Robinson B 373A
- Email is the best way for us to communicate. I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the week (M-F) and within 48 hours on the weekend (Sat & Sun).

Course Description: This course surveys the major developments in Latin American art from the pre-Columbian period until the present day in the Andes (Peru and Bolivia) and Mesoamerica (Mexico, Central America). Broadly, this course covers an array of media (painting, sculpture, architecture, earthworks, metalwork, weaving and ceramics, among others) within its historical, political, religious, ideological, and economic contexts. Specifically, in-class lectures, readings, and museum visits focus on case studies of select regions and their artworks to understand the role of the visual arts within the various cultures of Latin America.

Course Objectives:

Throughout this course we will...

- Explore the artistic characteristics of major artworks and artists of Mesoamerica and South America ranging from the Formative Period until the present
- Consider the context (social, historical, economic, religious) in which artworks were produced, consumed, and displayed during prescribed time periods
- Examine the art-historical research, including its methods and theories, that has led to the current understanding of Latin American art

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to...

- Recognize the formal and stylistic traits of Latin American art
- Identify, discuss, and analyze artworks from Latin America
- Describe the factors surrounding the creation, consumption, and display of artworks in ancient, colonial, and modern/contemporary Latin America

Required Texts:

- Miller, Mary Ellen. The Art of Mesoamerica: From Olmec to Aztec (World of Art), 5th ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 2012.
- Stone-Miller, Rebecca. Art of the Andes: From Chavín to Inca (World of Art), 3rd ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 2012.
- 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

* If a student has a special learning condition or needs special equipment, please notify the instructor early in the semester.

Attendance & Participation (100 points; 22.22%)

I expect you to attend all lectures and class activities prepared to actively participate. Excused absences will be accepted for medical reasons (which may require medical documentation) and for other reasons with proper documentation (dean's email, court summons, etc.). Excused absences are granted if the professor is notified of the absence PRIOR to the start of class. Four unexcused absences are accepted before your attendance and participation grade is reduced by 10 points for each subsequent absence. If you accrue nine or more unexcused absences then your attendance and participation grade for the class is a 0.

4 unexcused absences = 100 points

5 unexcused absences = 90 points

6 unexcused absences = 80 points

7 unexcused absences = 70 points

8 unexcused absences = 60 points

9+ unexcused absences = 0 points

Readings

Readings are required for each class and are listed on the course date in the schedule below. These readings should be completed prior to class time so you can participate in the class discussions. Be sure to take notes during class so you review them in preparation for the next segment. The in-class lectures and associated activities will deepen and reinforce your comprehension of the material.

Map Quiz (25 points; 5.56%)

Before we can talk about the cultures and countries of Latin America, you should know where they are located. Therefore, a quiz on the map of Latin American countries is on Blackboard and due on Thursday, February 7th by 2pm. You may not use your textbooks or Internet resources for the quiz.

Late quizzes will be given a grade of "0."

Exams (200 points; 44.44%)

A midterm and a final exam will test your knowledge of image identification, vocabulary, and topical content. Each exam will be administered in class. Each exam is worth 100 points.

Exhibition Review (100 points; 22.22%)

* consult the assignment guidelines on Blackboard

For this portion of the assignment, you must go to one exhibition of Latin American art in Washington DC Virginia and write a review of the exhibition. There is a list of acceptable exhibitions on Blackboard. You may only attend a museum not on this list if it is approved by the instructor. Following your visit, you will write a 900 to 1500-word (3 to 5 pages) paper about the exhibition and your analysis of it.

- **Due by 2pm on April 18** on Blackboard and as a hard copy in class.

Contemporary Artist Discussion Post (25 points; 5.56%)

Pick one contemporary Latin American artist (1950 to present) and post a brief paragraph (3 to 5 sentences) about their work on the Discussion Board on Blackboard. The artist cannot be one that we have previously discussed in class. Include links to information that you used to write your paragraph (videos included). I recommend being creative and pulling in artists and art forms that we haven't previously discussed (photography, film, fashion, etc.), but the choice of artist is entirely yours.

Due April 29 at 11:59pm (I will review them and put them into a PowerPoint prior to class on 4/30)

IMPORTANT DATES

February 7 2pm	Map Quiz Due on Blackboard
March 7	Midterm Exam
April 18 2pm	Exhibition Review Due
April 29 11:59pm	Contemporary Artist Discussion Post
May 9 1:30pm	Final Exam

Evaluation and Grading Policy (450 points total)

Final grades consist of two (2) exams, the exhibition review, map quiz, contemporary artist discussion and attendance and participation. Failure to complete any requirement will result in a grade of “0” for that assignment.

The following grading scale will be used for exams, papers, and final grades:

A+ = 100 – 98 A = 97 – 93 A- = 92 – 90	Work in this range is superior and above satisfactory. Assignments must reflect an excellent understanding and communication of the material and must be presented in a clear fashion and in nearly flawless language.
B+ = 89 – 87 B = 86 – 83 B- = 82 – 80	Work in this range is more than satisfactory. The work reflects an above average understanding of the material and contains little to no errors in grammar, syntax, spelling, and usage.
C+ = 79 – 77 C = 76 – 73 C- = 72 – 70	This range indicates that the work is competent, adequate, and satisfactory. The work reflects an effective understanding of the majority of the material and will not contain excessive errors in grammar, syntax, spelling, and usage.
D = 69 – 60	Work in this range is inadequate and unsatisfactory in terms of the fulfillment of the assignment and its presentation. The work contains serious errors in grammar, syntax, usage or spelling.
F = 59 & below	This grade is assigned to work that fails to complete an assignment in a competent or timely manner.

Final grades are official and will not be changed following submission to the university. If you have questions concerning your grade prior to the end of the semester, please contact me. It is the student’s responsibility to stay up to date on their standing in the course since no grade changes will be offered following the submission of final grades.

COURSE POLICIES

Make-up and Extension Policy

Since images are shown for exams, it is difficult to give make-up exams. Please make every attempt to attend exam days. Make-up exams will only be given in documented emergency situations (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.) and will only be given at the discretion of the instructor. Make-up exams will only be given if the instructor is **notified within 24 hours of the exam’s finish**. Exams must be taken within one week of the original date of the exam.

Extensions on assignments will only be given in documented emergency situations and at the discretion of the instructor. **Late assignments will be given a grade of “0.”**

Email

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

Required and recommended readings, assignments, and discussion readings will be posted on Blackboard. I recommend checking Blackboard at least once a week to stay up to date with course content. Please familiarize yourself with the Blackboard page at the beginning of the semester.

Grades will be posted to Blackboard within a week of submission, unless otherwise informed by the instructor.

Classroom Conduct

I expect each student to attend class prepared for that day's topic. Appropriate behavior is expected at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, not distracting other students and/or the instructor, being respectful, critically engaging with other students without being aggressive, and staying on topic. If you are in doubt about what is appropriate behavior by my standards, please ask in advance.

Laptops may only be used for course-related purposes. If laptop use is being abused (i.e., not being used for course-related purposes), I reserve the right to ban laptops from the classroom unless a student has a documented learning need.

Cell phones should be placed on silent and should be placed out of sight. If you're going to take notes with your phone, then inform the instructor early in the semester.

Academic Dishonesty Plagiarism is taken very seriously and is included in GMU's Honor Code

(<https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/full-honor-code-document/>). Plagiarism is when you take someone else's words and use them as your own without proper citations (for this class, Chicago Manual of Style). You cannot use more than TWO WORDS in a row from a source without giving a citation. Self-plagiarism (taking your own words from a paper for one class and using them in a paper for another class) is also a serious offense. If you are unsure of how or when to cite a source and/or what plagiarism is, then talk to the instructor, the library, or the Writing Center. Possible infractions of the Honor Code will be brought to the attention of the Honor Committee.

For real: this is serious. In certain cases, you can be expelled for plagiarism.

Accommodations

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.

Other important resources:

- Diversity
 - Mason values diversity; through the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME), Mason seeks to create and sustain inclusive learning environments where all are welcomed, valued, and supported
- Religious holidays
 - University Life religious holiday calendar <http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/>
it is the obligation of students, within the first two weeks of the semester, to provide faculty members with the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent due to religious observances
- Student privacy
 - Student privacy and student rights under FERPA <http://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/>
- Student services
 - Online Education Services, University Libraries <http://library.gmu.edu/for/online>
 - Writing Center <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>
 - Counseling and Psychological Services <http://caps.gmu.edu/>

CLASS SCHEDULE

*all readings and assignments are due on the date listed. Schedule is subject to change.

T January 22. Introduction to the Class	TH January 24. Introduction to Mesoamerican Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miller Chapter 1, also pages 48 – 58
T January 29. The Olmec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miller Chapter 2 	TH January 31. Teotihuacan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miller Chapter 4
T February 5. Maya <i>Last day to drop with 100% tuition refund</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miller Chapters 6 & 7 	TH February 7. Post-Classic cultures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miller Chapter 8 • Map Quiz Due by 2pm on Blackboard
T February 12. Mexica (Aztec). <i>Final drop deadline</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miller Chapter 9 	TH February 14. NO CLASS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of town for a conference. • Work on exhibition paper.
T February 19. Introduction to South America; Chavín de Huantar/Cupisnique <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone-Miller Chapters 1 and 2 	TH February 21. Paracas & Nasca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone-Miller Chapter 3
<i>February 25: Last day to drop classes</i>	
T February 26. Moche <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone-Miller Chapter 4 • BB: Moche culture, an introduction 	TH February 28. Tiwanaku & Wari <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone-Miller Chapter 5
T March 5. Inka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone-Miller Chapter 7 	TH March 7. MIDTERM EXAM
T March 12. NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK.	TH March 14. NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK.
T March 19. The “Discovery” & the Conquest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BB: Introduction to the Spanish Viceroyalties • BB: An Introduction to New Spain (video) 	TH March 21. 16 th -century Colonial Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donahue-Wallace Chapter 1 and p. 51 to 71
T March 26. Colonial Art: Religious Architecture & Altarscreens c. 1600 – 1800 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donahue-Wallace Chapter 4 and p. 164 – 177 • BB: Altar of the Kings video 	TH March 28. Colonial Art: Painting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donahue-Wallace p. 133 – 140 and Chapter 7
T April 2. The 19 th Century & Independence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BB: Dawn Ades, “Chapter 1: Independence and Its Heroes,” in <u>Art in Latin America: The Modern Era, 1820-1980</u>, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989. • BB: Mexican Independence • BB: Independence from Spanish rule in South America 	TH April 4. Academic Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BB: Ades, “Chapter 2: Academies and History Painting,” in <u>Art in Latin America</u> • BB: The Academy of San Carlos

<p>T April 9. First Modern Movements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BB: Jacqueling Bernitz, “Chapter 1: <i>Modernismo</i> and the Break with Academic Art, 1890-1934,” in <u>Twentieth-Century Art of Latin America</u>, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001. • Lucie-Smith Chapter 2 	<p>TH April 11. Mexican Muralism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucie-Smith Chapter 3 • BB: Mexican Muralism • BB: Rivera, Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in Alameda Central Park
<p>T April 16. Mexican Muralism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BB: David Siqueiros, “Toward a Transformation of the Plastic Arts,” in <u>Mexican Muralism: A Critical History</u> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012), 332 – 334. • BB: “Rockefellers Ban Lenin in RCA Mural and Dismiss Rivera,” <u>New York Times</u>, 10 May 1933. 	<p>TH April 18. Mid-20th Century</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucie-Smith Chapters 5 and 6 • Exhibition Review Due by 2pm as a Word document or PDF on Blackboard AND a hard copy in class
<p>T April 23. Toward Abstraction; Expressionism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucie-Smith, Chapters 8, 10, and 11 	<p>TH April 25. Performance Art and Social Critique</p>
<p>T April 30. Contemporary Latin American Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find one contemporary Latin American artist, write a one-paragraph introduction to their work, and post on the discussion board on Blackboard (videos of the work or the artist discussing the work are also acceptable) • DUE BY Monday (4/29) at 11:59pm 	<p>TH May 2. Course Wrap-up and Exam Review</p>
<p>T May 7. NO CLASS. READING DAY.</p>	
<p>Thursday MAY 9TH 1:30PM – 4:15PM: FINAL EXAM</p>	