

Foundations in Latin American Art (ARTH 3929)

TR 9:30-10:45am in Fleming 103

Professor James Cordova

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Course Description

This course examines Latin America's cultural pluralism and visual production beginning in pre-Columbian times and following through to the present. We will consider issues such as the functions of art (how and why objects and monuments were made, destroyed, and sometimes reused and reinterpreted); the relationship between objects, artists, and the cultures from which they come; and the appropriation of "foreign," as well as historic visual conventions. We will also examine political, religious, and social meanings embedded in works and how they pertain to their historical contexts. This course is intended to provide students with a broad frame of reference for many periods of art and to equip students to look at and communicate critically and articulately about Latin American art. As this is a survey course the emphasis will be on breadth rather than depth; however, supplemental readings will provide focused examinations of particular works, artists, theories, or visual phenomena relevant to the major themes of this course.

Course Readings

Texts

- Scott, John F. Latin American Art: Ancient to Modern (LAA in Course Schedule). Available at bookstore.

CULearn

Additional weekly readings are available on CULearn. To access them, logon to CUConnect at <https://cuconnect.colorado.edu/uPortal/> and click on the course name in the Course List. Then choose "Learning Modules" and click on "Readings".

Each week's readings, as listed in the course schedule, should be read before you come to class so that you will be prepared for the material given in lecture. Students may be asked to give one or more short presentations of the readings assigned that week.

Expectations

Because much of the course's content is conveyed in lectures, attendance is essential and required. Furthermore, success in this class is directly proportional to the time and energy put forth and to regular attendance. Although this is a lecture course, class participation in the form of questions or commentary relevant to the material covered is expected. Students will find that what is covered in the readings may not be covered in

the lectures and vice-versa; rather, readings and lectures are meant to supplement each other. Quizzes and exams will cover information provided in the readings and in lectures. **Students are allowed up to two unexcused absences; each subsequent absence will result in a lower letter grade for the course.**

Students are responsible for all work missed due to absences. If you are absent from class, find another student to whom you can go for information. Unless an emergency prevents you from taking one of the quizzes or exams, **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS.** Also written assignments and final reports must be turned in on the dates given in the class schedule below—late papers will result in a lower letter grade. If you know that you will be absent on a quiz/exam date or a day when a written assignment is due, let me know in advance so that arrangements can be made for rescheduling.

Grading

Grading is based on attendance, class discussions/participation, short essays, a midterm exam, a final paper/project, and a final exam. These are broken down as follows:

Discussion/Participation	10%
In-class assignments	15%
Short Essays	20%
Exams	25%
Final Paper/Project	30%

Short Essays: The professor will determine the scope of these 2-3 page essays roughly one week before they are due. You will receive instructions for each essay later in the semester.

Final Paper/ Project: The scope of this paper/project will be determined by the professor and announced later.

Miscellanea

Writing: Should you need help with writing papers—for this class or others—staff at the Writing Center can help, free of charge. It is located in room E-156 of the Norlin Library. You can make an appointment online at:
<http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/writingcenter.html>

A note on academic dishonesty: Plagiarism, cheating on quizzes, exams, or reports will not be tolerated. Any student found breaking the student honor code will be dealt with according to university policy.

Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.

Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>

Class Schedule (subject to revision except for assignment and exam due dates)

Week 1 (Aug. 25): **Introduction**

(Aug. 27): **Problems with Studying the Arts of Latin America**

Pasztory, Esther, "The Western Discovery of Pre-Columbian Art," pp. 7-13 in Pre-Columbian Art

Bailey, Gauvin Alexander, "Introduction," pp. 4-16 in Art of Colonial Latin America

Lucie-Smith, Edward, "Introduction," pp. 7-20 in Latin American Art LAA, "Introduction," pp. xx-xxiv

Week 2 (Sept. 1): **First Inhabitants / Early Arts**

LAA, pp. 3-24

Week 3 (Sept. 8): **Unearthing Pre-Columbian "Mother Cultures"**

LAA, pp. 27-48

Porter, James, "Olmec colossal heads as recarved thrones: 'Mutilation,' revolution, and recarving," pp. 21-29 in RES 17/18 (1989)

Rowe, John, "Form and Meaning in Chavin Art" (at <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Anthro/rowe/pub/chavin/index.html>)

Week 4 (Sept. 15): **The Rise and Fall of Classic Civilizations**

LAA, pp. 51-90

Just, Bryan R., "Modifications of Ancient Maya Sculpture," in Res 48 (2005): 69-82.

Week 5 (Sept. 22): **Imperial Arts of Aztec Mexico and Tawatinsuyu**

LAA, pp. 93- 138

Boone, Elizabeth H. "The Coatliques of the Templo Mayor" in Ancient Mesoamerica vol. 10 (1999): 189-206.

Bray, Tamara L., "Inca Iconography: The Art of Empire in the Andes," pp. 169-178 in RES 38 (Autumn 2000)

Week 6 (Sept. 29): **Exam 1**

(Oct. 1 & 3): **The Image of America**

Bucher, Bernadette J., "De Bry's Grands Voyages (1590-1634): The first grand-scale European reportage on America," pp. 129-140 in America: Bride of the Sun

Mills & Taylor, "Two Woodcuts Accompanying a 1509 German Translation of Amerigo Vespucci's Letter to Pietro Soderini (1504)" in Colonial Spanish America (pp. 65-77)

Week 7 (Oct. 6): **Many Worlds Come Together**

LAA, pp. 146-163

Boone, Elizabeth H. and Tom Cummins, "Colonial Foundations: Points of Contact and Compatibility," pp. 11-22 in The Arts in Latin America, 1492-1820

Week 8 (Oct. 13): **Idolatry and Syncretism**

LAA, pp. 142-145 and 187-190

Peterson, Jeanette Favrot, "Synthesis and Survival: The Native Presence in Sixteenth-Century Murals of New Spain" in Native Artists and Patrons in Colonial Latin America (pp. 14-35)

Week 9 (Oct. 20): **Europe as Model?**

LAA, pp. 164-186

Burke, Marcus, "The Parallel Course of Latin American and European Art in the Viceregal Era," pp. 71-86 in The Arts in Latin America, 1492-1820

Week 10 (Oct. 27): **Exam 2**

(Oct. 29): **Searching for New Images of (Latin) America**

LAA, pp. 193-199

Widdifield, Stacie, "Dispossession, Assimilation, and the Image of the Indian in Late Nineteenth Century Mexican Painting," in Art Journal (Summer 1990): 125-32

Week 11 (Nov. 3): **Breaking Away from the Academy**

LAA, pp. 200-202

Sullivan, Edward J., "Notes on the Birth of Modernity in Latin American Art," pp. 18-39 in Latin American Artists of the Twentieth Century

Week 12 (Nov. 10): **The Lasting Impact of 'Los Tres Grandes'**

LAA, pp. 203-209

Debroise, Olivier, "A Cubist at the Crossroads: The Evolution of Diego Rivera 1914-1935," pp. 85-99 in Crosscurrents of Modernism: Four Latin American Pioneers

Kozloff, Max, "Orozco and Rivera: Mexican Fresco Painting and the Paradoxes of Nationalism," pp. 60-71 in Latin American Artists of the Twentieth Century

Week 13 (Nov. 17): **Divergent Paths**

LAA, pp. 210-226

Sims, Lowery S., "Syncretism and Syntax in the Works of Wilfredo Lam," pp. 213-227 in Crosscurrents of Modernism: Four Latin American Pioneers

Week 14 (Nov. 24): **Fall Break (no class)**

Week 15(Dec. 1): **Final Paper due on Thursday, December 3**

Week 16 (Dec. 8): **Exam 3**