

The University of Western Ontario
 Department of Visual Arts
 Fall 2017
VAH 2266F / CLC 2297F / SP 3902F
Pre-Contact American Art & Architecture
 Wednesday 2:30 AM - 4:30 PM – AHB Room 3B04
 Blended Course: Both Online and In-Person Instruction

Professors:**C. Cody Barteet**Email: cbarteet@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-11:00 AM and Thursday 1:00-2:00 PM or by appointment

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Graduate Teaching Assistants:**Lisa Daniels**Email: ldanie2@uwo.ca

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Course Description:

Catalogue Description: Architecture, painting, and sculpture of the indigenous cultures of North, Central, and/or South America prior to European contact.

Prerequisites: 1.0 from VAH 1040 or two of VAH 1041A/B – VAH 1045A/B, or 0.5 or 1.0 essay course Faculties of Arts and Humanities or Social Science, or permission of the Department

Overview: This course will introduce students to the arts of the indigenous peoples of North, Central, and South America from the Prehistoric times until the early colonial era. Relying on a thematic organization, we will consider how artworks, whether weavings, baskets, ceramics, sculptures, paintings, or architecture, reflect the worldviews of the indigenous Americans who created and used them. By using an interdisciplinary approach, we will study these cultures and artworks from the perspectives of art history, anthropology, archaeology, history, and ethnography. Our interdisciplinary perspective will assist us in partially reconstructing the cultural practices of these American societies prior to contact with the Europeans who arrived in the sixteenth century.

Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to assist you in:

- gaining knowledge about artistic and visual cultural production within a series of diverse historical contexts.
- Understanding the issues and debates pertaining to the study of art and visual culture
- gaining familiarity with terminology, stylistic classifications, methods, and theories employed in the study of art and visual culture.
- developing the ability to communicate orally and in writing the knowledge you have acquired about art and visual culture.

Textbook:

Miller, Mary Ellen. *The Art of Mesoamerica*. Fifth Edition. London: Thames and Hudson, Ltd. 2012.

Penney, David W. *North American Indian Art*. London: Thames and Hudson, Ltd., 2011.

Stone, Rebecca R. *Art of the Andes*. Third Edition. London: Thames and Hudson, Ltd, 2012.

Grade Distribution:

Online Quiz 1 (Owl)	15%
Online Quiz 2 (Owl)	15%
Online Assessments and Assignments (Owl)	20%
Essay (6-8 pages)	25%
Final Exam (during Dec. Exam Period):	<u>25%</u>
Total:	100%

* In accordance with Western's Evaluation of Academic Performance, one week prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, you will receive assessment of your work for at least 15% of your final grade. **November 12th** for first term courses and **November 30th** for full-year courses.

General Course & Western Policies:

1. Syllabi and other relevant course information will be posted on OWL (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>).
 - a. To access owl, use your student username and password.
 - b. Students requiring additional OWL support, please speak to myself or your TA or visit: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>
2. Late Assignments: Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Assignments are considered late after the start of class the day they are due. Extensions will be given *only* upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor documenting serious health and bereavement reasons. All other late essays are subject to a 10% penalty per day. For information relating to Western's medical policies see pages 4 & 8 of this syllabus.
3. Attendance of lectures is required and will be monitored.
 - a. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and be prepared for and to participate in all lectures, discussions and/or critiques.
 - b. Students who miss less than 3 classes are not required to seek accommodations for their absences from the lecture. For subsequent absences students will need to seek accommodations (See Medical Accommodation policy below).
 - c. Under Western's regulations, if a student misses 15% of their classes, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, they can be debarred from participation in final tests, evaluations and/or critiques.
 - d. If a student is consistently absent from a three-hour class for one hour, they will exceed the 15% cut off.
 - e. It is the student's responsibility to notify me that you are tardy; otherwise the student may be marked absent.
4. Online participation is mandatory and will be assessed (see Assignments below for more details).
5. Emails:
 - a. Assignments will not be accepted through email.
 - b. Grades will not be discussed through email.
 - c. Be sure to keep emails brief and to the point and use standard formatting. Do not use short form or abbreviated expressions.
 - d. Be sure to identify your name and contact information in the email.
 - e. I will make every effort to reply to your email within one to two business days.
 - i. As I have other professional and personal responsibilities I typically respond to email Monday through Friday during normal "business hours."
 - ii. By all means, if you have not heard from me within two business days, do email me again.
 - f. Only your assigned Western email will be used for communication in this class.
 - i. If your Western email is not your primary email address, please have your Western email forwarded to your primary address, whether it is Gmail, Outlook, etc.
 - ii. For general instructions on how to set up email forwarding, see http://www.uwo.ca/its/email/account/email_forwarding.html
6. At times students may be required to attend relevant lectures and/or technical demonstrations on campus or within London. Failure to attend an important demonstration or lecture without due cause will result in the student researching the technical information for themselves.
7. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and you are responsible for understanding how to use sources in an ethical fashion and for knowing the difference between quoting and paraphrasing. Possession of this syllabus means that you understand that you are required to comply with the Department of Visual Arts' (page 9 of this syllabus) and Western's policies regarding plagiarism. For information concerning Western's Plagiarism and Academic Offences (Scholastic Offences) policies see <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017>.
8. Electronic Devices: You may use a computer in class to take notes. All other activities (e.g. checking email or social media sites, etc.) are discouraged, as this can be distracting to your fellow students and myself.
 - a. Students should turn off all cell phones and similar electronic devices while in the classroom, as ringing and/or vibrating phones are extremely bothersome and distracting.
 - b. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. **If you are found to have an electronic device out during your written examinations, your test will be taken and you will receive a failing mark.**

- c. Unless I provide it, you do not have my permission to use electronic devices to record (sound or video) my lectures, nor to live stream or blog my lectures. Aside from intellectual property concerns, such activities can be distracting and disruptive to our participatory learning environment.
 9. Accommodation for Medical Illness: “Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.”
 - a. Accommodation for missed assignments totaling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, may be arranged with the instructor as long as the student contacts the instructor no later than the day after the assignment is due.
 - b. This accommodation policy excludes the course’s attendance and participation marks. The instructor will NOT make considerations on attendance and participation marks, whether totaling more than 10% or less than 10%, unless the student has arranged accommodation through their Dean’s Office.
 - c. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html
 - i. For downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC); see Medical Documentation heading
 10. Mental Health: “Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”
 11. Disabled Student Policy: For Western’s Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities see <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017>: “In its efforts to accommodate disabilities appropriately, the approach adopted by the University is collaborative, involving the student requesting the accommodation, the instructor, department (or school or program where applicable), and/or Faculty which provides the accommodation, and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in the Student Development Centre which coordinates the request for and provision of accommodation.”
 12. Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: For purposes of this policy “the University has approved a list of dates which are recognized religious holidays which require members of those religions to be absent from the University; this list is updated annually and is available at departmental, Deans’ and Faculty advising Offices.” For Western’s Policy on Religious Holidays see <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017>.
 13. All students will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Code of Student Conduct and treat all members of the Western community with respect (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017>).
 14. Enrollment in the course constitutes an agreement to participate in class (both in the classroom and online) and to take complete all assignments and exams. Makeup exams will not be given except under extreme circumstances.
1. Online Responses:
 - a. Each of you will be required to respond to seven online assignments that can be accessed through the assignment links on Owl. You will be asked to address either a packet of readings or specific questions relating to art works and artists.
 - ii. Although the Assignment’s box allows for copying and pasting from word processing programs, text and encoding errors occur; you will need to proofread and edit each entry carefully before posting it to the class website.
 1. Avoid “stream-of-consciousness” writing.”
 2. Also, despite being completed electronically, these assignments are not to be composed in a “chat room-like” formatting; maintain a professional tone throughout your responses.
 - ii. Unless otherwise noted, you should rely upon your textbook and assigned articles to support your arguments and outcomes.
 - iii. Credibility is often achieved through succinct, clear writing, with answers supported by authoritative sources. For example, “I think grey is a depressing color” is a weaker statement than “Scientists argue that grey elicits a sad response from individuals because . . .”
 - b. As this assignment is completed online, it affords you some flexibility to work at your own speed; however, all deadlines are strict. If you’ve finished your assignment early, by all means post it early.
 - i. Here again, professionalism and courtesy to your fellow students, to the Teaching Assistants, and professor is highly recommended and appreciated. This not only pertains to appropriate tone and syntax, but also expediency and timeliness; in other words, do not wait to the last minute to respond to posts and responses.

- c. Please have all online assignments completed by 5pm on their due date.
 - i. This is important as some assignments specifically relate to the following day's lecture and discussion.
 - d. All responses will be assessed and marked electronically. Assessment criteria are posted on Owl.
 - e. Unless otherwise noted, all posts should be a minimum of 350 words. As a visual guideline, this section on "Online Responses" is **329** words.
2. Quizzes, Tests, and Examinations (including Final Exam):
- a. Final Exam will be cumulative and in-class
 - b. In-class quizzes, tests, and examinations:
 - i. Start at the beginning of class. Time lost due to late arrival to an in-class test will not be made up.
 - ii. Test and exam formats will typically consist of a combination of one or more of the following: multiple choice, slide identifications, and essay questions.
 - c. Online quizzes, tests, and examinations:
 - i. Will be accessed through Owl
 - ii. Must be completed during the allocated time.
 - iii. Are timed and generally consists of multiple-choice formats and/or essay questions.
 - d. Dates: **Online Quiz 1 (Oct. 4); Online Quiz 2 (Nov. 15); Final Exam (TBA)**
3. Visual Cultural Essays:
- a. Will be submitted to Turnitin.com (accessible through Owl).
 - b. Each of you will be required to write a 6 to 8-page research paper.
 - i. Your papers will focus on representations of indigenous peoples of the Americas in popular culture, whether in the traditional arts (painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, etc.) or in print media, TV, movies, video games, and so forth. Your purpose is to consider the veracity of such representations and how they relate to our understandings of indigenous Americans.
 - ii. The essay should include a full discussion of the topic, including proper source citation, and a works cited page—you are required to use Chicago Manual Style formatting.
 - c. It is suggested that you consult with me about your research projects.
 - d. See Research Essay prompt on Owl for detailed guidelines and parameters.
 - e. **Date Due: Nov. 22**
4. Online Peer-Review:
- a. Each of you will submit a complete draft or at least a 2 to 3-page outline of your paper to the Forums section on Owl under the appropriate heading. More details can be found under the resources link.
 - b. You are required to review at least 2 of your classmates' papers for peer review.
 - i. You will follow the general guidelines for reviewing others' works that can be accessed under the resources link.
 - ii. Writing on our course website should be treated as all other formal writing assignments; please use an appropriate tone for each post, keep in mind that your audience is diverse, and edit all entries for clarity, grammar, and mechanics.
 - iii. Professionalism and courtesy to your fellow students, to the Teaching Assistants, and to professor is highly recommended and appreciated. This not only pertains to appropriate tone and syntax, but also expediency and timeliness; in other words, do not wait to the last minute to respond to post your papers by the due date and completing your responses during the reviewing period.
 - c. Dates: **Peer-Review paper submitted by Nov. 1; Peer-Review completed by Nov. 15**