

**Draft Syllabus for Public Posting.**

**Final syllabus with detailed weekly assignments will be distributed to enrolled students on the first day of class and on Canvas.**



**Art History 6666**

**Colonial Latin American Art Seminar: Classifying the Natural World Syllabus**

Maya Stanfield-Mazzi, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
University of Florida, Spring Semester, January 8–April 25, 2018 (3 credit hours)  
Mondays Periods 3–5 (9:35–12:35) in Fine Arts C 116A  
Final paper due Friday, April 27 at 5:00 pm  
Email address: mstanfield@ufl.edu      Office telephone: 352-273-3070  
Office: Fine Arts C 117      Office hours: Tuesdays Periods 6–7 (1:55–3:50 pm)

**Course Description**

An important tool for increasing our understanding of nature is the ability to represent it visually. From ancient times, artists in the “New” World used art forms as diverse as sculpture, painting, and embroidery to visualize the natural world. Underlying these images were structures that helped conceptualize the broader world. After Europeans arrived in the New World, Latin American nature (especially that of the tropics) played a large part in the development of western scientific knowledge about the natural world. Again, visual images were key to this progression. From the vantage point of Latin America, this class has two goals: (1) to approach some non-western ways of knowing and visualizing nature, and (2) to consider the implications of Europeans’ coming into direct contact with Latin American nature *and* confronting native ways of knowing nature. By analyzing visual representations related to these goals, we will engage in epistemology that speaks to both human intellectual diversity and nature’s biodiversity.

**Expected Learning Outcomes**

Each student should:

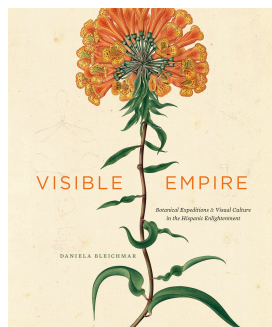
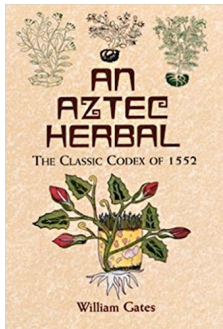
- Engage in the history of science as an art historian.
- Take an epistemological approach to the various examples of the visualization of nature.
- Analyze visual images and their compilations orally and in writing.

- In weekly reading summaries, show the ability to synthesize and summarize authors' arguments in relation to the class topics.
- Identify a feasible research topic in consultation with the professor.
- Hone bibliographic and scholarly paper writing skills to produce a substantial research paper.
- Present the progress of your research to the class in advance of the paper due date. Incorporate feedback into the final paper.
- Complete a constructive peer review of a classmate's paper.

### **Assigned Reading**

**Required** for purchase (but also on reserve):

- William Gates, Martín de la Cruz, and Juan Badiano, *An Aztec Herbal: The Classic Codex of 1552*. Dover Publications, 2000. ISBN: 0486411303
- Daniela Bleichmar, *Visible Empire: Botanical Expeditions and Visual Culture in the Hispanic Enlightenment*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012. ISBN: 0226058530



**Recommended** for purchase (since copies will also be on reserve and/or available as pdf):

- Daniela Bleichmar, *Visual Voyages: Images of Latin American Nature from Columbus to Darwin*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017. ISBN: 0300224028
- Bernardino de Sahagún; translators Charles E. Dibble and Arthur J.O. Anderson, *Florentine Codex: Book 11: Earthly Things (Florentine Codex: General History of the Things of New Spain)*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2012. ISBN: 1607811669
- Kim Todd, *Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis*. Mariner Books, 2007. ISBN: 0156032996



Other required readings are on reserve in the Fine Arts Library and/or on the **Canvas (E-learning)** site for the course, under Files. Visit <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> to log in. Additional class materials, including a copy of this syllabus, will also be posted there.

### **Requirements**

Students should plan to attend every class and participate fully in class activities. For each class students should come having read all of the required readings for that day. They should also come with a short written summary of each reading, not to be turned in but to serve the student throughout the semester. Each week specific students will be assigned to read their brief summaries to the class and lead discussions on their selections using questions they have written in advance. Those summaries will be turned in for evaluation, and should be submitted on Canvas the day they are discussed. The class will be discussion-based but will include viewing of artworks and, if needed, the provision of additional content by the instructor.

If they are not already using a bibliographic management program (Refworks, Endnote, or Zotero), students are asked to take a workshop on one at Library West early in the semester. They should then use the program to format citations for their papers. See

[http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/Registration/public\\_workshops\\_all.aspx](http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/Registration/public_workshops_all.aspx)

Students should complete a roughly 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice related to the course theme, which will be selected in consultation with the professor. In preparation for this, students should meet with the professor to select a topic and submit a brief project abstract and working bibliography on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Each student should also present an illustrated summary of his or her research in class on either April 16<sup>th</sup> or April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students will exchange drafts of their papers to serve as each others' peer reviewers. These drafts are due printed out in class April 16<sup>th</sup>. Peer reviews (completed using a standard questionnaire) are due April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Final papers are due April 27 at 5:00 pm.

**Grade Breakdown\***

Class attendance and participation overall: 25%

Assignment for Week 2, due Week 3: 5%

Summaries and discussion questions on assigned days: 10%

Project Summary and Working Bibliography: 5%

Presentation of research: 10%

Peer review of classmate's paper: 10%

Response to revisions suggested by classmate: 10%

Final paper: 25%

\*While individual assignment grades are posted on Canvas, the full gradebook is not available. Consult the instructor if you have questions about your grade.

**Attendance, Makeup, and Class Conduct Policies**

If illness or another dire event prevents a student from completing any work, he or she should speak to the professor about making up what was missed. Any acceptance of late work will be at the instructor's discretion.

Students should arrive to class on time and ready to speak, and should refrain from eating in class. A 15-minute break will be given halfway through the class period. Laptops should not be used for taking notes, and can only be used to consult readings in electronic format. Students are encouraged to bring hard copies of the class readings to the appropriate class sessions.

Details of this syllabus are subject to change as needed. Other important information is at the end of this document in the Appendix.

**Communication**

The principal form of communication for this course is email, using students' @ufl.edu addresses. Students should be sure to check their UF email often and use it to communicate with the professor, [mstanfield@ufl.edu](mailto:mstanfield@ufl.edu). Emails will be responded to within 48 hours. Any important announcements posted on Canvas will also come to students as emails, but students should not use Canvas to send messages to the professor (use email instead). If you cannot come to office hours but would like to speak to the professor, feel free to call her office number during office hours (Tuesdays 1:55–3:50 pm), 352-273-3070. Otherwise ask for an appointment to meet in person.

## **SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

### **January 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Introductions;** discussion of course topic, semester outline, and expectations. Viewing of materials related to UF's Biolink project and the Tree of Life.

Required reading:

- This syllabus; purchase textbooks.
- Explore the Tree of Life at: <http://etreeoflife.com/>
- Students see final syllabus.

### **January 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (no class)**

Assignments:

- Check out a book that is some sort of catalogue of New World species, with visual images. Provide a full citation of the book as your title (Chicago Style). Write a 1–2 page analysis of the book's structure and scope. Analyze the visual materials—how are they organized? What medium are they in? What type of information do they include, and what do they leave out? How do they contribute to the book's larger aim? Bring the book and your analysis to class on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Submit your written analysis on Canvas.

- If you are not already using a bibliographic management tool, schedule a workshop on Refworks or Endnote through Library West, to be completed before bibliography is due March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Knowing Nature in the Ancient Americas**

### **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **Approaching the Ancient Americas**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

### **January 29<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Nature for the Paracas/Nasca People**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

## **A Meeting of Worlds in the Sixteenth Century**

### **February 5<sup>th</sup>**

#### **An American Natural History**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

**February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Indigenous Knowledge Between Worlds**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

**February 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Indigenous Knowledge in Encyclopedic Form**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

**February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Nature for Commercial Profit**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

**March 5<sup>th</sup>—SPRING BREAK**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Nature for Spiritual Profit**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Expanded Paradigms of Biodiversity: Ecology**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Visits to Harn Museum and Lepidoptera Labs at FLMNH**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Expanded Paradigms of Biodiversity: Enlightened Imperialism**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**New Horizons with Latin American Independence**

Required reading:

- Students see final syllabus.

**April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**DRAFT PAPER DUE TO EXCHANGE FOR PEER REVIEW (PRINTED OUT)**

**Research Presentations**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**PEER REVIEW FORM AND MARKUP OF PEER'S PAPER DUE**

**Research Presentations**

**FINAL PAPER DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 27 IN PROFESSOR'S OFFICE BY 5:00 PM (FINE ARTS C 117, SLIDE UNDER THE DOOR OR HAVE IT LEFT IN MAILBOX).**

**Important Dates**

Jan. 15: No class—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Schedule a workshop on Refworks or Endnote through Library West

Jan. 22: Catalogue analysis due (see above for instructions)

March 5: No class—Spring Break

**March 19: Project abstract and working bibliography due**

March 26: Class meets at Harn Museum of Art

**April 16: Draft paper due to exchange for peer review (printed out)**

April 16 & 23: Research presentations in class

**April 23: Peer review form and markup of peer's paper due**

**April 27: FINAL PAPER DUE 5:00 pm under professor's door or in mailbox**

## Appendix

### **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Grading Scale**

Grades are tabulated on a 100-point scale and a letter grade is assigned as follows:

93–100 A	90–92 A-	87–89 B+	83–86 B	80–82 B-
77–79 C+	73–76 C	70–72 C-	67–69 D+	63–66 D
60–62 D-	59 and below F			

If you have questions about how grade points are assigned by the University, go to:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **Academic Honesty**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

### **Students with Disabilities**

I will make every attempt to accommodate students with disabilities. At the same time, anyone requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide you with the necessary documentation, which you must then provide to me when requesting accommodation. Please make your request at least one week before the needed accommodation.

### **University Counseling & Wellness Center**

3190 Radio Road  
P.O. Box 112662, University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611-4100  
Phone: 352-392-1575  
Web: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>