Art History 4930 Indigenous Arts of the Colonial Americas

Syllabus

Maya Stanfield-Mazzi, Ph.D., Associate Professor
University of Florida, Spring Semester, January 6–April 30, 2020 (3 credit hours)
Mondays Period 7 (1:55–2:45) and Wednesdays Periods 6–7 (12:50–2:45) in FAC 201
Final exam: TBD (waiting for registrar)
Email address: mstanfield@ufl.edu Office telephone: 352-273-3070
Office: Fine Arts C 117 Office hours: Tuesdays Periods 6–7 (12:50–2:45)
Grading Assistant: Vivian Lantow, vlantow@ufl.edu

Course Description
This course examines several types of art created by indigenous artists in the Americas during the colonial period. This time period, which began after Europeans arrived in 1492 and arguably is still ongoing, was one of struggle for many native peoples. Nevertheless, many compelling works of art emerged out of native traditions and were used to communicate native perspectives and contest colonial rule. While keeping in mind the European (as well as African and Asian) influences on these arts, this course will look at indigenous artworks from native perspectives within their historical contexts of colonialism.

Expected Learning Outcomes
• Develop a critical understanding of the category of "indigenous" art and understand how it has led to indigenous artworks' presence in museums and libraries.
• Develop a critical understanding of the term "colonial," especially in relation to postcolonial and decolonial theory.
• Recognize, interpret, and analyze artworks from several native groups.
• Understand the historical conditions that led to the creation of such works.
• Hone critical reading skills by synthesizing and discussing scholarly texts.
• Memorize the names and geographical locations of several native groups.
• Improve research and writing skills by producing a research paper on an indigenous art form.
Assigned Reading
• Elena Phipps, Johanna Hecht, and Cristina Esteras Martín. The Colonial Andes: Tapestries and Silverwork, 1530–1830. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2004. Required, but will be provided to students as a pdf.
• Jill Ahlberg Johe and Teri Greeves. Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists. Minneapolis: Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2019. Recommended for purchase, but selections will also be provided as pdf's.

Copies of these books are also on reserve in the Fine Arts Library.

• Other required readings are available as pdf's 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, terms lists, and images, will also be posted there.

Requirements
All students must:
(1) attend class
(2) complete homework assignments and do assigned readings before the classes for which they are assigned
(3) participate in class discussions and activities
(4) take the map quiz
(5) come to class meeting at the Harn Museum of Art on March 11
(6) complete a response to the film The Pearl Button shown in class
(7) assemble a bibliography, figures list, and abstract for a research paper
(8) write a research paper (5–7 pages) discussing an indigenous art form by way of select examples
(9) take the in-class midterm and final examinations. The exams will consist of essays that you will have prepared in advance, based on study questions and images that have been provided to you. You will need to provide identifying information for the artworks you will discuss.
**Grade Breakdown**

Class attendance: 10%
Class participation (including small homework assignments): 15%
Map quiz: 5%
Response to film *The Pearl Button*: 5%
Midterm examination: 15%
Bibliography, figures list, and abstract for research paper: 10%
Paper: 20%
Final examination: 20%

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

Because the lectures address the most current scholarship on the field, it is vital that students attend class. In class we will often cover works of art that are not in the readings, and activities will provide opportunities for active learning.

Absences for exams and late papers will require documentation, i.e. a doctor’s note, in order to be excused. Unexcused absences count against both the attendance and participation grades, and are reflected in the final grade. There are no “free” absences, and attendance is calculated as the percentage of class days attended. For UF’s official policies on attendance, see catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Students who do not complete requirements 6–8 (see above) will fail the course.

Written assignments should be submitted as Word documents on Canvas unless otherwise stated. Assignments are due at 12:00 noon on the due dates.

Students should arrive to class on time and ready to speak, and should refrain from eating in class. Laptops should be used ONLY for taking notes and consulting readings in electronic format. Taking notes on paper is highly recommended. During lectures phones should be stowed. Students are expected to bring hard or electronic copies of the class readings to the appropriate class sessions (if electronic, they should be on laptops or tablets). A 10-minute break will be given halfway through the long class period.

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

**Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

**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. Emails will be responded to within 48 hours. Any important announcements posted on Canvas will also come to students
as emails, and students can use Canvas to send messages to the professor. If you
cannot come to office hours but would like to speak to the professor, feel free to call
her office number, 352-273-3070. Otherwise ask for an appointment to meet in person.

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Monday, January 6
Introductions.
Assignment:
• This syllabus. Read it thoroughly and always bring it to class; it is your contract
with me. Purchase and download textbooks.
• Students see final syllabus.

Wednesday, January 8
How do we define indigenous art? What terms were used, and which should we use
today? What are some contemporary indigenous perspectives on colonization and
continuity?
Assignment:
• Students see final syllabus.

Monday, January 13 & Wednesday, January 15
Collecting, Museums, and Curation
What are the issues involved in collecting and interpreting indigenous art? How are
approaches to indigenous art changing?
Assignment:
• Students see final syllabus.

Wednesday, January 22
Maps: Conceiving and Claiming Territories
STUDY GUIDE FOR MAP QUIZ HANDED OUT
How was indigenous space mapped, and how does this contrast with settler mapping?
Assignment:
• Students see final syllabus.

Monday, January 27 & Wednesday, January 29
Featherwork: A Native Art to Define the Americas
MAP QUIZ MONDAY THE 27TH
Assignment:
• Students see final syllabus.

Monday, February 3, Wednesday, February 5 & Monday, February 10
Manuscripts: Contesting European Narratives and Preserving Indigenous Knowledge
Midterm exam study questions handed out Wednesday the 5th.
Assignment:
• Students see final syllabus.

Wednesday, February 12
MIDTERM EXAM (Proctored by GA since professor out of town.)
**Monday, February 17, Wednesday, February 19 & Monday, February 24**
Manuscripts continued: Denouncing Colonization and Preserving Ways of Life

**Assignment:**
* Students see final syllabus.

**Wednesday, February 26**
Professor out of town: Class will view *El botón de nacar/The Pearl Button*, directed by Patricio Guzmán (2016), and complete written response **due at 5:00 pm on Friday the 28th.**

**March 2–6**
**SPRING BREAK!**

**Monday, March 9 & Wednesday, March 11**
Woodwork: Ritual Practice and Local Materials
CLASS MEETS AT HARN MUSEUM ON WEDNESDAY THE 11TH

**Assignment:**
* Students see final syllabus.

**Monday, March 16 & Wednesday, March 18**
Silverwork: European Influences and Native Transformations

**Assignment:**
* Students see final syllabus.

**Monday, March 23 & Wednesday, March 25**
**ABSTRACT AND BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR PAPER DUE ON CANVAS MONDAY MARCH 23**
Tapestries: Survival of the Andean Craft Tradition

**Assignment:**
* Students see final syllabus.

**Monday, March 30 & Wednesday, April 1**
Tapestries cont.: A New Art Form in the American Southwest

**Assignment:**
* Students see final syllabus.

**Monday, April 6 & Wednesday, April 8**
**FIGURES LIST FOR PAPER DUE ON CANVAS MONDAY APRIL 6**
Appliqué Textiles: Creativity in Varied Indigenous Contexts
CLASS GOES TO SMATHERS LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ON WEDNESDAY, 1:45

**Assignment:**
• Students see final syllabus.

**Monday, April 13 & Wednesday, April 15**
Ceramics: From Utility to Finery
**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE ON CANVAS MONDAY APRIL 13**
Assignment:
• Students see final syllabus.

**Monday, April 20 & Wednesday, April 22**
Epilogue, Conclusions, Course Evaluations, and Review for Final
Assignment:
• Complete course evaluation at evaluations.ufl.edu

**XXX (Awaiting date and time from registrar)**
FINAL EXAM in classroom

**Important Dates**
Jan. 22: Study guide for map quiz handed out
Jan. 20: No class—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 27: MAP QUIZ
Feb. 5: Study guide for midterm handed out
Feb. 12: MIDTERM EXAM
Feb. 26: Viewing of The Pearl Button
Feb. 28: RESPONSE TO THE PEARL BUTTON DUE AT 5:00 PM
March 2–6: Spring Break
March 11: Class meets at Harn Museum
March 23: ABSTRACT AND BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR PAPER DUE ON CANVAS
April 6: FIGURES LIST FOR PAPER DUE ON CANVAS
April 13: RESEARCH PAPER DUE ON CANVAS
XXX: FINAL EXAM XXX in classroom (Awaiting date and time from registrar)

**Appendix**

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

- 94–100 A
- 90–93 A–
- 87–89 B+
- 84–86 B
- 80–83 B–
- 77–79 C+
- 74–76 C
- 70–73 C–
- 67–69 D+
- 64–66 D
- 60–63 D–
- 59 and below F

If you have questions about how grade points are assigned by the University, go to:
catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

**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 (sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-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 or TAs in this class.

**Students with Disabilities**
I will make every attempt to accommodate students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**University Counseling & Wellness Center**
3190 Radio Road
P.O. Box 112662, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-4100
Phone: 352-392-1575
Web: counseling.ufl.edu/