

ARH6666: Colonial Latin American Arts

Spanish Colonial Art and the Decolonial Imperative

Derek Burdette, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

University of Florida, Fall 2021 (3 credit hours)

Room: FAC 116a

Periods: W | Period 8 - 10 (3:00 PM - 6:00 PM)

Final exam: No exam scheduled

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Course Description: The idea of “decolonization” has gained traction in recent years as more and more people in power have come to recognize the harmful legacies of European colonialism across the globe. For many, including scholars dedicated to understanding better colonialism in the Spanish Americas, this emphasis on decolonization has been a welcome call to arms. It has focused people’s attention on the historical roots of contemporary problems and made clear the fact that political independence did little to undo the harm caused by what Walter Mignolo has called the “darker side of modernity” (2011). And yet, the relationship between “decolonial theory” and the study of the Spanish Viceroyalties (and their art and culture) is not simple. Scholars continue, for example, to debate the very applicability of the term “colonial” to the Spanish Viceroyalties, while art historians grapple with what decolonization of their discipline would look like and what individual actions scholars and students should take to ensure that decolonization goes beyond rhetoric to include action. This class delves into the messy intersections of decolonial theory (and post-colonial antecedents) and the study of the art and architecture of the Spanish Viceroyalties (1492- 1800s). Most weeks we will pair theoretical readings with art historical case studies, promoting discussion about the art and architecture created during the Spanish colonial period. Such a practice offers students the opportunity to consider the historical connections between art and empire, while also envisioning an anti-colonial approach to thinking about (and acting in response to) the arts of colonial Latin America.

Required Reading: There are no required textbooks for the course. Instead, we will use numerous book chapters and articles available on our Canvas page.

You will need to write on, make notes in and underlines these texts so that we can return to them in discussion. So, whether you print the readings or use your screens is up to you, but you will need to be able to bring them to class so please plan accordingly.

Grading:

30% Attendance & Participation

10% Design of Module

20% Weekly Discussion Questions

40% Final Research Project (30% Paper/ 10% Presentation)

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is extremely important in a seminar style class, as many of our learning outcomes can only be achieved by attending class and participating fully in discussion. As a result, attendance and participation will make up a large portion of your final grade for the class (30%). You will be allowed *one* un-penalized absence, which assumes that you will need a day because you are sick, etc. For each subsequent absence you will lose 2 points from the “Attendance and Participation” portion of your final grade. (Obviously COVID-19 absences will be excused) Excused absences still count as absences, so please plan accordingly. Also note that excessive absences may result in a failing grade.

With regards to participation, it is important that you come to class having read the material, and then *engage* in class discussion in a meaningful, collegial, and constructive way. Failure to come prepared will result in a loss of credit for that day’s attendance. I realize that participating in class discussion will come easier for some than others; we all have to be aware that some students will need to step *up* and speak, and others must step *back* and make space for the opinions of others.

Design of Module: Each student will be charged with designing one week of readings that build upon our themes and expand our examination of the issues into an area that we have not already covered. You will need to explore sources, pair those that fit and work together and create a coherent collage of ideas. We will sign up for “weeks” early on in the semester to make sure everyone has time to plan.

Reading Questions: In preparation for each class meeting you will be required to compose and turn in several (3-5) questions/prompts about the assigned readings for that week. These should be prompts that might help us dig deeply into the readings in discussion in class. Each question/issue needs to be tethered to a single line of text (copied and cited) so that we can turn to the original text in our discussion. These questions should be composed and turned in via a canvas discussion prior to class.

Final Research Paper/Presentation Assignment: Instead of exams, you will write an in-depth research paper on a topic related to the class. The goal of this research paper is to select an issue of interest and explore it in much greater depth than is possible in class. You should collect scholarly sources, read them, synthesize their arguments, examine the artworks/objects for yourself, and compose a thoughtful essay that makes an *argument* about the artworks or concepts that made up the focus of your examination. Your papers should be 15-20 pages in length (2x spaced, times new roman, normal margins), not including a title page, images, and the bibliography. You will need to select a topic mid-way through the semester and present your research

findings during the last week of class. More details regarding the assignment and due dates will be forthcoming.

Grading Scale

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

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

Reminders and Requirements

UF Requirements and Policy: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

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

Statement Regarding the Honor Pledge: 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.

Accommodations: I, along with the rest of the University community, am working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation as soon as possible, and we can work to find a solution. Note that students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Diversity Statement: The intent is that we explore the content of this course in a way that is respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, ability, age, socioeconomic

status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. The intent is also to present content that explores diverse points of view, which might be challenging. Maintaining a respectful environment will be our responsibility. The intent is that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Changes to the Syllabus: While this document provides guidelines for the class, I do reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time during the semester if the need arises. Each class is different, and sometimes it takes some tweaking to get the right readings, topics, and assignments. Being flexible with the syllabus allows us to get it right.

Notes on Technology and Communication

- **Communication and Respect:** We all must strive to be good communicators to make this class successful. This means listening respectfully to others in class (faculty and students) and engaging in respectful conversation. It also, perhaps just as importantly, means maintaining professional standards while communicating via email and outside of class. With that in mind, please use formal, respectful, and professional standards when corresponding via email. This means beginning emails with a formal greeting, employing proper grammar, and avoiding unprofessional colloquialisms.
- **Cell Phones:** Please refrain from texting during class. If it becomes a problem, I will simply ask you to put your phone away. If it happens repeatedly, I will ask you to leave class and mark you absent for the day.
- **Canvas:** Please make sure that you are familiar with our course site on Canvas so that you will have access to announcements, assignments and readings, and pptx presentations and study guides.
- **Course Evaluations:** 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 <https://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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> . Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> .

In Class Recordings: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

COVID-19 Recorded Course Statement: Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials are prohibited.

COVID-19 Practices: In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine->

[availability/ \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.