

Introduction to Latin American Art

ARH2613. Fall Semester, 2026 (3 credit hours)

Meeting Times: Mon. Period 7 (1:55-2:45); Wed. Periods 6 and 7 (12:50- 2:45)

Room: FAC 201

Final exam: Final Exam: 12/12/2025 @ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Derek Burdette, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Email address: dburdette@arts.ufl.edu

Office: Fine Arts C 125

Office hours: TBD

UF Catalog Description: “The course surveys the arts of ancient, colonial, and modern Latin America. It begins with the indigenous arts of Mesoamerica and the Andes and Spanish colonial art. It concludes with modern and contemporary Latin American arts. It covers artworks from many cultural traditions including the Western canon.”

Course Goals: The goals of this course are to:

1. Provide an overview of the history of art in Latin America, including the Pre-Columbian, Spanish Viceregal, Independence, Modern, and Contemporary periods.
2. Introduce students to the concepts, issues, methods, and vocabulary of the discipline of art history.
3. Inform students about the variety of social, cultural, and economic contexts in which art was produced and explain how these contexts affected the objects’ form and function.
4. Improve students’ ability to communicate (verbally and in writing) about works of art and architecture.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes: Students will finish the semester with the ability to:

1. Identify, describe, and interpret Latin American artworks and architecture from the Pre-Columbian, Spanish Viceregal, Independence, Modern, and Contemporary periods.
 - This SLO will be assessed through in-class discussion (Attendance and Participation), written responses to readings (Reading Assignments and Discussion Boards), the Midterm and Final exams, as well as the Artwork Project.
2. Use the methods and vocabulary of art history to examine and assess historical questions about the creation, use, and reception of Latin American art.
 - This SLO will be assessed through in-class discussion (Attendance and Participation), written responses to readings (Reading Assignments and Discussion Boards), the Midterm and Final exams, as well as the Artwork Project.

3. Formulate oral and written analyses of works of art and architecture from this period in their historical and cultural context.
 - This is SLO will be assessed through in-class discussion (Attendance and Participation), written responses to readings (Reading Assignments and Discussion Boards), the Midterm and Final exams, as well as the Artwork Project.
4. Describe the overlap and connections between Latin American art and the Western canon.
 - This is SLO will be assessed through in-class discussion and the Midterm and Final exams.

Required Readings: There is no required textbook for the course. Instead, we will rely on numerous book chapters and articles available on our Canvas page.

Grading:

15% Attendance and Participation
15% Reading Assignments and Discussion Boards
20% Artwork Project
25% Midterm Exam
25% Final Exam

For more on grading at UF see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Attendance and Participation (15%): Attendance is extremely important for this class, as many of our learning outcomes can only be achieved by attending class and participating fully in the lecture and in-class discussion. Each day you will need to sign in to ensure that you receive attendance points.

The completion of in-class discussion and in-class assignments will also form a part of your attendance and participation grade. This means that in addition to attending class you need to come having read the assigned materials and be willing to share your thoughts. Throughout the semester we will also have in-class writing assignments and short activities that will help ensure that students who might feel hesitant to share their thoughts will be able contribute.

The attendance policy is as follows: You will be allowed *two* un-penalized absences, which assumes that everyone needs a day here or there when we are sick or have conflicts. For each subsequent absence you will lose 2 points from the “Attendance” portion of your final grade. In order to have an absence excused you must send me appropriate documentation from a doctor, advisor, etc. Note that excessive absences are grounds for receiving a failing grade for the class, and failure to sign in (if you are late, for example) will be counted as an absence. For more on the attendance policies and guidelines at UF see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Reading Responses and Discussion Boards (15%): In preparation for class, you will need to regularly complete assignments on Canvas related to our assigned reading, lectures, or other related content. These assignments will sometimes come in the form of questions and sometimes in the form of discussion boards. Each assignment will be worth 3% of the overall grade, so they are important and you shouldn't overlook them. See the course schedule for the weeks in which the five assignments will be due.

Artwork Project (20%): This project will require you to find a partner in class and to work together to study and create a project about a single, important artwork from Latin America. You will be given parameters for what artworks are viable, and you can choose the artwork that most interests you. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate the skills you have learned in class about describing and interpreting a work of art. Over the course of the term you will study the image, carry out additional research on the artist, artwork, and context in which it was made. Lastly, you and your partner will showcase what you learned in a creative fashion. More precise details regarding the assignment and the requirements for your presentation will be forthcoming by week 3.

Below are important dates to mark in your calendar:

1. **Week 3- Wednesday Sept. 10- Selection of partner**
2. **Week 7- Wednesday October 8- Artwork selection due**
3. **Week 13- Wednesday November 19- Project Due (Note: Before Fall Break)**

Midterm (25%)/ Final Exam (25%): These exams are designed to evaluate your understanding of the basic facts, concepts, and historical realities we have learned about, as well as the big themes and issues raised in class. At the end of each week, I will post the pptx from that week on canvas, and you can use those PowerPoints as a guide for preparing for the test. That being said, the majority of the material on the exam will be delivered through class discussion and lecture- and so there is no substitute for attending class and taking thorough notes. The tests will include a combination of key word and vocabulary questions, image-based short answer questions (requiring you to identify the image, talk about its content, and connect it to key themes and issues discussed in class), and brief essays addressing larger themes that connect material from multiple sections of class. The tests will be offered only during the scheduled time, and absence may only be excused by a doctor's note.

General Education Humanities Designation: This class fulfills the "General Education Humanities" requirement. It follows the UF General Education Guidelines that can be found here: <https://undergrad.ua.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>

In particular, it meets the following standards (updated in 2023):

Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western canon.

Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the relevant factors that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. Courses intended to satisfy General Education requirements cannot be taken S-U.

Reminders and Requirements

For a complete list of UF policies applicable to this class please see: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

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/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. To get started with the DRC please visit the following page: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>

It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with instructors and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

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.

In-Class Recording: 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 education 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 deliver by an 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 presentation 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 guest 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.

***Please let me, the instructor know, if you plan to record any lectures.**

Plagiarism

Please be attentive to the new regulations in the student handbook related to AI. It is copied below and can be found in full at the following webpage:

<https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>

(e) Plagiarism. A Student must not represent as the Student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another person or Entity. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

5. Submission of Academic Work Purchased or Obtained from an Outside Source. A Student must not submit as their own work any academic work in any form that the Student purchased or otherwise obtained from an outside source, including but not limited to: **academic work in any form generated by an Entity**; academic materials in any form prepared by a commercial or individual vendor of academic materials; a collection of research papers, tests, or academic materials maintained by a Student Organization or other entity or person, or any other sources of academic work.

Entity: “This includes but is not limited to generative artificial intelligence, large language models, content generation bots, or other non-human intelligence or digital tools.”

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.
- **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 you will need for your work.
- **Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:
 - The email they receive from GatorEvals
 - Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
 - The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Campus Resources: Health and Wellness

- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.
- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call 352-392-2010, or to make a private appointment: 352- 392-6420. Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information](#).
- UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Course Intro

Monday, August 25: Overview of course syllabus and content

Wednesday, August 27: Collective Viewing and Looking at Artworks

- Anne D'Alleva, "The Fundamentals of Interpretation," in *Look! The Fundamentals of Art History* (London: Laurence King, 2004), 23-61.

Week 2: Mesoamerican Art I

MONDAY Sept. 1: No Class- UF Holiday

Wednesday, September 3: Introduction to Mesoamerica

- Mary Ellen Miller, "Introduction," in *The Art of Mesoamerica* (6th edition) (NY: Thames and Hudson, 2019), 11-23.
- Esther Pasztory, "Aesthetics and pre-Columbian art," *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics*, 29/20 (Spring-Autumn, 1996), 318-325.

*Reading Assignment/Discussion Board Due (Question based on Pasztory reading)

Week 3: Mesoamerican Art II

Monday Sept. 8: Aztec Empire

- Felipe Solís Olguín, "The Art of the Aztec Era" in *The Aztec World*, eds. Elizabeth Brumfiel and Gary M. Feinman (New York: Abrams, 2008), 153-177.

Wednesday Sept. 10: Aztec Empire continued

***Project Partner Selection Due**

Week 4: Andean Art I

Monday Sept. 15: Andean Art

- Rebecca Stone, "Introduction," in *The Art of The Andes*, third edition (New York, NY: Thames and Hudson, 2012), 9-19.

Wednesday Sept. 17: Andean Art Continued

- Richard Burger, "Sacred Center of Chavín de Huantar," 265-276.

Week 5: Andean Art II

Monday Sept. 22: The Inca Empire

- Rebecca Stone, "The Inca" in *The Art of The Andes*, third edition (New York, NY: Thames and Hudson, 2012), 194-242.

Wednesday Sept. 24: Stone Art and Machu Picchu

- Lucy C. Salazar, "Machu Picchu: Mysterious Royal Estate in the Cloud Forest" in *Machu Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas*, eds. Richard L. Burger, Lucy C. Salazar (New Haven: Yale University, 2004), 21-48.

*Reading Assignment/Discussion Board Due (Question based on Salazar reading)

Week 6: The Spanish Empire I

Monday Sept. 29: The Spanish Empire

- Gauvin Alexander Bailey, “The Pre-Hispanic World and the Colonial Scene,” in *Art of Colonial Latin America* (NY: Phaidon, 2005), 34-68.

Wednesday October 1st: Manuscript Culture

- Visit the <https://florentinecodex.getty.edu/>

*Reading Assignment/Discussion Board Due (Question based on Florentine Codex website)

Week 7: The Spanish Empire II

Monday October 6: Colonial Andes

October 8th: Colonial Andes Continued

- Wednesday Carolyn Dean, “Inka Nobles, Portraiture and Paradox in Colonial Peru,” in *Exploring New World Imagery*. Ed. Donna Pierce (Denver: Denver Art Museum, 2005), 79-103.

***Artwork Selection for Project Due**

Week 8: Midterm Exam

Monday October 13: Midterm Review- In Class

Wednesday October 15: ***Midterm In Class**

Week 9: The Nineteenth Century

Monday October 20: Independence Movements

- Jacqueline Barnitz, “Introduction and an Overview of the Nineteenth Century,” in *Twentieth Century Art of Latin America* (Austin: University of Texas Press), 1-10.
- Emily Engel, “Simón Bolívar’s Itinerant Portraits: Visual Conquest and the Production of an Icon,” in *Simón Bolívar: Travels & Transformations of a Cultural Icon*, eds. Maureen Shanahan and Ana María Reyes (U. Press of Florida, 2016), pp. 27–47, plates 3–5.
- [Dr. Bryan Zygmunt, "David, The Emperor Napoleon in His Study in the Tuileries," in Smarthistory.](#) (5 minute read)

Wednesday October 22: Nineteenth Century Continued

Week 10: Modern Art in Latin America I

Monday October 27: Nationalism

- Natalia Majluf, “Chapter 1. The Indian: Image of the Nation,” in *Inventing Indigenismo* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2021) 31-81.

*Reading Assignment/Discussion Board Due (Question based on Majluf)

Wednesday October 29: Indigenous Identity and the Andes

- Michelle M. Penhall, "The Invention and Reinvention of Martín Chambi," *History of Photography*, 24:2 (Summer 2000), 106-112.

Week 11: Modern Art in Latin America II

Monday November 3: Mexican Muralism

- Dawn Ades, "The Mexican Mural Movement" in *Art in Latin America: The Modern Era, 1820-1980* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993), 151-179.

Wednesday November 5: Frida and Diego

- [The Metropolitan Museum of Art- Diego Rivera](#), 2 minute read.

Week 12: Modern Art in Latin America III

Monday November 10: Brazil

- Stephanie D'Alessandro, "A Negra, Abaporu, And Tarsila's Anthropophagy" in *Tarsila de Amaral: Inventing Modern Art in Brazil* (Chicago: Art Institute of Chicago, 2105), 38-55.
- "Anthropophagite Manifesto" (3pgs)

Wednesday November 12: Uruguay

- Florencia Bazzano Nelson, "Joaquín Torres-García and the Tradition of Constructive Art" in *Latin American Artists of the Twentieth Century*, eds. Waldo Rasmussen, Fatima Bercht, and Elizabeth Ferrer (New York: Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1993), 72-83.
- Torres-García, "The Southern School" trans. Ades (3 pgs)

*Reading Assignment/Discussion Board Due (Question based on manifestos)

Thursday 13th, HESCAH Lecture for extra credit (Jesús Escobar, 6pm Location TBD)

Week 13: Contemporary Art I

Monday November 17: Contemporary Art

- Jacqueline Barnitz, *Twentieth Century Art of Latin America* (2001) selection on Functionalism (166-178, 183-188) and Geometric and Optical Arts (199-208).

Wednesday November 19: Contemporary Art Continued

***Wednesday November 19- Project Due**

Week 14: Thanksgiving

Week 15: Contemporary Art II

Monday December 1: Contemporary Art

- Jacqueline Barnitz and Patrick Frank, "Toward a New Century," in *Twentieth*

Century Art of Latin America Revised and Expanded Edition (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2015), 333-355.

Wednesday December 3: Final Exam Prep in Class

FINAL EXAM: Friday Dec 12 from 10-12pm