
Undergraduate Lecture
Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45pm
Carlos Hall 212

Professor: Dr. Megan O’Neil
Emory University, Department of Art History
Office: Carlos Hall 127; Phone: 404-727-6419; Email: moneil7@emory.edu;
Office hours: Mondays 3:00-4:00, Wednesdays 10:00-11:00, or by appointment.

Course Description: This course is a survey of the art and architecture of ancient Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America) and its northern neighbors (in the U.S. Southwest and Southeast), addressing a range of topics including materials and manufacturing techniques, aesthetics, history, mythology, politics, writing, urbanism, and the creation of sacred landscapes.

Course Requirements: Attendance; Weekly Readings; Short Papers; Mid-term and Final Exams

Weekly Readings: Reading of assigned texts (listed in “Schedule”) is required and will give you the necessary background for participating in class and completing assignments. The reading should be done BEFORE each class.

- **Book (available at B&N at Emory Bookstore; on Reserve at Woodruff Library):**
- **Articles and Book Chapters (listed below) available in online course reserves.**

Exams and Assignments: Assignments must be turned in on time. Appropriate medical and family excuses must be provided to establish new dates for assignments. I will give detailed instructions in class for each of the assignments listed below.

- **Short Papers:** Two short papers (3-4 pages each, typed and double-spaced) are required.
  - Paper # 1, due September 17, will be an essay on an object at the Carlos Museum.
  - Paper # 2, due November 5, will be a literature review.
- **Mid-term Exam (October 17):** The mid-term exam will consist of image analysis and comparisons, short answers, and essays.
Final Exam (December 14): The final exam will be cumulative and will consist of image analysis and comparisons, short answers, and essays.

Grading (total 100%): Short Paper (Museum Essay): 20%; Short paper (Literature Review): 20%; Mid-term Exam: 25%; Final Exam: 35%. All assignments must be completed and submitted in order to pass the class.

Learning Outcomes
- Students will learn about the chronology, attributes, and content of major ancient artistic and architectural traditions of Mesoamerica and the American Southwest and Southeast.
- Students will be able to identify artworks from different regions and periods of the ancient Americas.
- Students will be able to analyze formal qualities of works of art or architecture of the ancient Americas through close visual examination and describe them using appropriate terminology.
- Through readings and writing assignments, students will develop skills in critical reading and thinking.
- In written examinations and essays, students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of art and architecture in religious, political, and social contexts in the ancient Americas.

Course Policies
Attendance: Students are expected to attend all class sessions. If you are not able to attend a session, please make arrangements with another student to get notes and announcements.

Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices: All cell phones must be turned OFF during class. If you use a laptop or other electronic device for note-taking, please sit in the back of the room so as not to distract other students.

Honor Code: Familiarize yourself with Emory’s Honor Code regarding plagiarism and academic integrity. There is zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism in this course. If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please consult me.

Office of Accessibility Services: Emory provides all persons an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and services afforded to others. Students who need accommodations for this course are encouraged to see Professor O’Neil as soon as possible in the semester (and at least one week before the test or assignment due date). Students must also register with Emory’s Office of Accessibility Services; see http://accessibility.emory.edu/students/new-to-oas/registering.html.

Religious Accommodations: Any student who is absent because of his or her religious beliefs will be given an opportunity to make up examination, study, or work requirements. As soon as possible (and at least one week in advance), please inform me of religious observances that are likely to conflict directly with this class so that we can make any necessary accommodations.

Office hours: Mondays 3:00-4:00, Wednesdays 10:00-11:00, or by appointment. If you are having problems or want to discuss any aspect of the course, please see me during office hours or make an appointment. Email is a good way to communicate with me for brief questions.
Schedule of Topics and Readings

Weds. 8/29  Approaching Art and Archaeology in the Ancient Americas

Weds. 9/5  Olmec Early Formative: Sculptural Traditions at San Lorenzo
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. *Art of Mesoamerica*, pp.10-34;

Mon. 9/10  Olmec Middle Formative: Sacred Landscapes at La Venta and Chalcatzingo
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. *Art of Mesoamerica*, pp.34-47;

Weds. 9/12  Late Preclassic Maya: Deities and Myths in the San Bartolo Murals
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. *Art of Mesoamerica*, pp.48-58, 68-77;

Mon. 9/17  Late Preclassic West Mexico: From Effigies to Commodities
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. *Art of Mesoamerica*, pp.64-68;
**Paper # 1, due in class**

Weds. 9/19  Architecture and Cosmos at Teotihuacan
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. *Art of Mesoamerica*, pp.78-90;

Mon. 9/24  Teotihuacan Sculpture and Painting
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. *Art of Mesoamerica*, pp.91-105;

Weds. 9/26  Early Classic Maya: Sculpture and Architecture
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. *Art of Mesoamerica*, pp.128-151;

**Mon. 10/1  Late Classic Maya I: Palenque, Yaxchilan, and Bonampak**
- Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.152-162, 194-198;

**Weds. 10/3  Late Classic Maya II: Piedras Negras, Tikal, and Copan**
- Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.163-172;

[Fall break. No class 10/8]

**Weds. 10/10  Maya Architecture in the North: Puuc, Rio Bec, Chenes**
- Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.172-177;

**Mon. 10/15  Class Visit to Carlos Museum**

**Weds. 10/17  Mid-term Exam**

**Mon. 10/22  Zapotec Architecture at Monte Alban**
- Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.58-64, 106-113;

**Weds. 10/24  Zapotec Funerary Painting and Sculpture**
- Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.113-116;

**Mon. 10/29  Late Classic Veracruz: El Tajin and the Mesoamerican Ballgame**
- Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.116-125;
Weds. 10/31  Postclassic Mesoamerica: Cacaxtla and Xochicalco
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.198-207;

Mon. 11/5  Postclassic Mesoamerica: Artistic Exchange at Tula and Chichen Itza
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.208-230;

**Paper # 2, due in class**

Weds. 11/7  Postclassic Mesoamerica: Aztec Architecture and Ideology in Tenochtitlan
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.238-261;

Mon. 11/12  Postclassic Mesoamerica: Buried Offerings in the Tenochtitlan Great Temple
➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. Art of Mesoamerica, pp.262-267;

Weds. 11/14  Mississippian Cultures and American Southeast I: Cahokia and Spiro

Mon. 11/19  Mississippian Cultures and American Southeast II: Moundville and Etowah

Weds. 11/21: no class

Mon. 11/26  Place and Landscape in the American Southwest: Hohokam, Chaco Canyon

**Weds. 11/28**  **Architecture and Rock Art in the Post-Chaco World**


**Mon. 12/3**  **Paquimé: Architecture and Pottery**


**Weds. 12/5**  **Hopi Kiva and Pottery Painting**


**Mon. 12/10**  **Myth and History in Mesoamerican Books**

➢ Miller, Mary Ellen. *Art of Mesoamerica*, pp.267-272;


**Fri., 12/14**  **FINAL EXAMINATION, 11:30-2:00pm**