The Art of Mexico: 
From Aztec to Contemporary 
L01 Art-Arch 3549
Fall 2019
Mondays, Wednesdays 2:30-3:50pm
Kemper 103

Instructor: Dr. Deborah Spivak
(despivak@wustl.edu)

Office Hours: Mon., Wed. 12:00-1:00pm
Office: Kemper 010 B

Course Description:
This survey course draws from selected examples of art and architecture to tell the changing story of Mexico through its visual culture. Beginning with the Aztec and ending with Contemporary works, this course chronologically traces artistic manifestations of beliefs, contexts, identities, and placemaking. Case studies present artworks in a variety of mediums that were produced by a variety of makers to demonstrate the diversity of Mexico’s historical and present population. Through movements, historical moments, individuals, and trends, the course creates a portrait of Mexico that is multicultural, dynamic, and creative. Course themes include religion, politics, identity, diversity, and history. Prerequisites: L01 113, L01 215, L45 165, or permission of instructor.

Learning Objectives:
• Identify the changing historical contexts of Mexico and recall the works of art produced during different moments in time.
• Interpret the meanings and implications of artworks within their cultural and historical contexts, with consideration of the identity and beliefs of their maker(s) and audience(s).
• Converse with others about various issues in the history of Mexico and its art
  ▪ Craft an argument about a selected topic that rests on contentious research and creative thinking
  ▪ Achieve a depth of understanding of a selected topic through the research and writing of an original paper.

Website:
Readings, assignments, due dates, and other relevant course content is available on the Canvas course website. Images from lecture will be posted on Canvas as a study aid. Please note that reading assignments and course schedule are subject to change. Check Canvas regularly for updates.

Readings:
Required scholarly articles, book chapters, and primary source readings posted online must be completed before lecture and will be discussed in class. Students are encouraged to take notes on assigned readings and bring notes along with any questions to class; students may also bring print-outs of the readings or download them and have them accessible during class. Students will be tested on the content, argument, and/or evidence of assigned readings. The optional textbook readings supplement (i.e., do NOT replace) lecture. It is recommended that students read the assigned pages
in the textbook prior to lecture. The textbooks are on reserve at the Kranzberg Art Library and may be purchased or rented from your favorite book retailer.


**Additional readings are required for graduate students, and optional for undergraduates**

**Research Paper:**
Students will write a 10-page research paper that constructs an original argument about the topic of their choosing. Possible paper topics include: a focused study of a work of art or artist of any period in Mexico covered in this course; artistic movements, artist groups, or relationships among artists; artistic responses to historical moments; collecting, museums, and display of art in Mexico or of Mexican art abroad. All topics must be approved by the instructor and must be thoroughly researched. A detailed paper assignment will be handed out in class and posted on Canvas.

**Graduate student papers must be at least 20 pages**

**Research Assignments:**
In support of the paper, students will compete four short assignments. These assignments will guide students in the development of an original argument and support of that argument through responsible, thorough research. Detailed assignments will be handed out in class and posted on Canvas. Assignments due throughout the course include: Proposal, Source Evaluation Worksheets, Notetaking Worksheets, and Extended Outline.

**Graduate students are required to complete these assignments**

**Quizzes:**
In the class period following the completion of each course unit, class will begin with a 20-30 minute quiz. Each of the five quizzes will count for 8% of the final course grade. Quizzes are cumulative and will include objective, short answer, and analytical questions. No early or make-up quizzes will be given.

**Graduate students must take the quizzes**

**Attendance and Participation:**
Prompt attendance and active participation composes 15% of the final grade for both undergraduates and graduate students. If students have conflicts that require them to miss class, they must discuss this with the professor as early as possible. Absences from lecture will be excused on a case-by-case basis. Students are responsible for missed lecture material and are encouraged to get notes from a classmate. Participation includes asking and responding to questions, engaging in discussion, and listening respectfully. The use of the Poll Everywhere software is intended to enhance participation in class, not replace it. While the responses to Poll Everywhere questions will be ungraded, students’ full participation in these exercises will contribute to the participation grade. The Attendance and Participation grade also includes attending office hours at least once during the semester to discuss the research paper. The Attendance and Participation grade will be recorded in the middle and the end of the term to reflect students’ engagement in each half of the semester.

**Graduate students must meet regularly with the instructor to discuss course content and must give a presentation on their research on the last day of class**

**Grading:**
All assignments and exams will be graded by the instructor on a numerical scale. Grades will not be curved or changed. Students must submit all assignments in order to receive a grade in the course.
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**Grading scale:**

- 93% and up = A
- 80%-82.9% = B-
- 77%-79.9% = C+
- 60%-69.9% = D
- 59.9% and below = F
- 87%-89.9% = B+
- 73%-76.9% = C
- 70%-72.9% = C-
- failure to submit one or more assignment = I

**Note on Pass/Fail:** Students who take Art History courses under the Pass/Fail option must complete all course requirements and receive a grade of C- or better in order to receive a Pass. Only courses taken for a letter grade count toward the major or minor in Art History.

**Electronics usage:**
Electronic devices WILL be used in class to aid the learning process through the free Poll Everywhere software. Prior to the first class, students will be asked to sign up online as a participant at Polleverywhere.com, create a user name, and download the app on their phones. Students should bring their internet-enabled devices (phones and/or laptops) to class so that they can actively engage with the course material and each other through interactive polls. The use of electronics beyond the scope of classwork is prohibited and will result in a lower Attendance and Participation grade. If students have concerns about or encounter problems with Poll Everywhere, they are encouraged to notify the instructor as early as possible.

**Food and drink:**
Students may bring drinks to class, but are asked to avoid smelly, noisy, or otherwise distracting foods. Please clean up all food and drink messes upon leaving class.

**Late assignments:**
Late work will be accepted without penalty only by prior arrangement with the course instructor or in the case of a verified emergency. In all other instances the assignment will be penalized by a third of a grade for every day it is late.

**Office hours:**
All students are required to visit office hours to discuss their research paper at least once during the course of the semester. While appointments are not necessary, students are encouraged to sign up for office hours via Canvas. In addition to receiving guidance on research papers, office hours may be used to discuss course content, to get help with studying, or to ask questions.

**Email:**
Email is the preferred method of communication. However, students should not expect an immediate response to emails, or that any given email will have been read within moments of it being sent. Dr. Spivak typically respond to emails within 24 hours (48 on weekends). Please send the email again if there is no response within that time frame.
Academic Integrity:
Academic misconduct, such as cheating on tests, paper or homework copying, falsifying information, purchasing written work, and plagiarism, is not tolerated. Any written work that contains plagiarism or exhibits other modes of academic dishonesty will need to be rewritten as the minimum consequence. All instances of academic misconduct will be taken seriously and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Officer. As outlined in Washington University’s policy on academic integrity, students found guilty of academic misconduct will be subject to sanctions such as a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the class, academic probation, or even expulsion. See: https://wustl.edu/about/compliance-policies/academic-policies/undergraduate-student-academic-integrity-policy/

Disabilities:
Washington University is committed to providing accommodations and/or services to students with documented disabilities. Students who are seeking support for a disability or a suspected disability should contact Disability Resources at 935-4153. Disability Resources is responsible for approving all disability-related accommodations for WU students, and students are responsible for providing faculty members with formal documentation of their approved accommodations at least two weeks prior to using those accommodations. Dr. Spivak will accept Disability Resources VISA forms by email and personal delivery, preferably within the first two weeks of the semester.

Mental Health:
Mental Health Services’ professional staff members work with students to resolve personal and interpersonal difficulties, many of which can affect the academic experience. These include conflicts with or worry about friends or family, concerns about eating or drinking patterns, and feelings of anxiety and depression. See: shs.wustl.edu/MentalHealth

If you need help:
The University is committed to offering reasonable academic accommodations to students who are victims of sexual assault. Depending on the specific nature of the allegation, such measures may include but are not limited to: implementation of a no-contact order, course/classroom assignment changes, and other academic support services and accommodations. If you need to request such accommodations, please direct your request to Kim Webb (kim_webb@wustl.edu), Director of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center. Ms. Webb is a confidential resource; however, requests for accommodations will be shared with the appropriate University administration and faculty. The University will maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided to an individual student so long as it does not impair the ability to provide such measures.

Bias Reporting:
The University has a process through which students, faculty, staff and community members who have experienced or witnessed incidents of bias, prejudice or discrimination against a student can report their experiences to the University’s Bias Report and Support System (BRSS) team. See: diversityinclusion.wustl.edu/brss/
**Schedule of Lectures and Assignments**

Please note that readings and schedules are subject to change. Check Canvas often for updates.

August 26: Course Introduction

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**The Aztec (1325-1519)**

August 28: Becoming Mexica
Carrasco, 1-37

September 2: No class meeting

September 4: Living Sculpture
Carrasco, 61-77, 92-101


September 9: State and Status
Carrasco, 38-60

September 11: Makers and Markets
Carrasco, 78-91

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**Early New Spain (1519-1700)**

September 16: Building a Capital (Quiz 1)
Carrasco, 102-111
Oles, 18-20
September 18: Monastic Theaters of Conversion
Oles, 31-53

September 23: Painting the New World (Paper Proposal due)
Oles, 26-31

September 25: The Virgin of Guadalupe
Oles, 88-95
Excerpt from the Book of Revelation of John, taken from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ch. 12.

September 30: No class meeting

October 2: Multiculturalism and Mistaken Identity
Oles, 54-88

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Late Colonial and Independence Era (1700-1900)
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October 7: Neoclassicizing New Spain: The Academy of San Carlos (Quiz 2)
Oles, 132-150

October 9: No class meeting
October 14: No class meeting

October 16: Identity and Identification: Casta Paintings (Source Evaluation worksheets due)
Oles, 116-124

October 21: Portraits of Mexico
Oles, 164-197

October 23: Symbols of an Independent Nation
Oles, 150-163

-----------------------------------------------Mexican Revolution era (1900-1940)-----------------------------------------------

October 28: Documenting the Revolution (Quiz 3)
Oles, 198-212

October 30: Posada and the Day of the Dead
Oles, 223-226

November 4: Educating the Masses through Murals (Notetaking worksheets due)
Oles, 227-246, 263-277
November 6: The Image of Mexico Reborn
Oles, 213-223, 227-229

November 11: Frida Kahlo’s Identities
Oles, 295-311

November 13: Design in Mexico: “Folk,” “Popular,” or “Craft”? (Quiz 4)
Oles, 246-255

November 18: Speaking the International Language of Surrealism
Oles, 288-295

November 20: Integrating Art and Urban Life (Extended Outline due)
Oles, 312-331

November 25: Collective Creations
Oles, 350-374
November 27: No class meeting

December 2: Digital Revolutions
Oles, 388-407

December 4: Graduate Student research presentations (Quiz 5)

December 16, 3:30pm: Research paper due