Colonial Latin American Art (1492-1820)

Spring 2008
Art History 119.02
Lecture Hall 106
DYCA Building
MW 2:30 – 3:45 PM

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 pm

Course Description: The art and architecture of Colonial Latin America represent the convergence of major, global cultural traditions from Europe, the Americas proper, Asia, and Africa. During the years 1492-1820, between the initial European contact and the period when Latin American countries gained independence, the intense wave of artistic production that shaped Latin American culture is unprecedented and can be considered one of the greatest projects in world history.

This course will provide a survey of the major themes and developments in painting, sculpture, the decorative arts in Viceregal America (includes present-day Mexico, Central and South America, Brazil and the Caribbean). We shall first consider pre-Hispanic cultures (Aztec, Maya, and Inca). Thereafter, we shall examine the impact of initial European contact and turn to European images of the New World and the transmission of Renaissance and Baroque visual forms to the Americas. This course will principally focus on major themes and trends such as the formation of innovative artistic traditions in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean, the architecture of major urban centers, ecclesiastical and religious patronage, and specific genres such as portraiture and casta painting. In addition, we will think about how issues of race, gender, class, and the construct of the “other” underscore the period’s aesthetic, social, and cultural norms.

Assessment and Grading: The method of grading is A - F. Numeric equivalents for letter grades are: A (100-94); A- (93-90); B+ (89-86); B (85-83); B- (82-80); C+ (79-77); C (76-74); C- (73-71); D+ (70-68); D (67-64); D- (63-60); F (59 and under). Your work will be assigned both a letter and numeric grade.
Goals and Objectives of the Course:
The aim of this course to provide a survey of the major themes and developments in painting, sculpture, architecture, and the decorative arts in Spain and Colonial Latin America (includes Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, Brazil and the Caribbean).

Class Format & Course Requirements:
Two visual analyses (1-2 pp.), one response paper (2-4 pp.), one critique of two readings (4-6 pp.), a short, in-class presentation (of approximately 10 minutes), a midterm exam, and a final exam will be required. The visual analyses, response paper, class presentation and critique will be based on works studied in class and/or your reading assignments (guidelines will be forthcoming). The midterm and final exam will consist of slide identifications, comparisons, and thematic essays focusing on images discussed in class lectures and readings. 

Active, intelligent, enthusiastic class participation is strongly encouraged.

In order to contribute to class discussion, you must complete the assigned reading before every class. You can retrieve each week’s images by going to Blackboard (https://blackboard.drew.edu). The course is listed as Special Topics in Art History.

This course meets twice per week (2 lecture periods). Consistent and punctual attendance is expected and will be recorded at the beginning of each class. More than three undocumented absences and/or tardiness will result in the lowering of your final grade by one half of a letter grade. NB: Three tardies count as one absence. This means, for example, that more than one unexcused absence from lecture would lower a B+ to a B. A make-up will be given only for an exam missed due to a medical or other serious problem documented in writing by a physician or other relevant professional. Late assignments will receive reduced grades (grade lowered by a half-grade each day that it is late).

Methods of Assessment:
* Two visual analyses 10% (5% each)
* 1 response paper 10%
* 1 critique of two readings 20%
* 1 midterm exam 20%
* 1 final exam 30%
* Class participation & presentation 10%

TOTAL: 100%

Academic Accommodations: Should you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Educational Affairs (BC 114, extension 3327). It is your responsibility to self-identify with the Office of Educational Affairs and to provide me with the appropriate documentation from that office at least one week prior to any request for specific course accommodations. There are no retroactive accommodations.
Schedule of Lectures

Week 1
Date: 1/28/2008
Topic: Introduction: General Historiography and Nomenclature
Suggested Reading: Bailey, Intro., 4-16; Rischel, PMA, 1-9

Date: 1/30/2008
Topic: Before the Conquistadors: An Introduction to Pre-Hispanic Civilization; Aztec, Maya, and Inca
Reading/Assignment: Bailey, 17-68; In-class handout, excerpt from Leon-Portilla’s Broken Spears

Week 2
Date: 2/4/2008
Topic: Circa 1492: Spain and the Americas in the Late Fifteenth and the Sixteenth Centuries
Reading/Assignment: Boone and Cummings, PMA, 11-22; Kagan/Schmidt Rawlings, “The Church in the New World,” 100-118

Date: 2/6/2008
Topic: The Transformation of Indigenous Traditions
Reading/Assignment: Bailey, 69-109

Week 3
Date: 2/11/2008
Topic: The Development of Painting in Viceregal Mexico
Reading/Assignment: Brown intro.; Burke, PMA, 71-86

Date: 2/13/2008
Topic: The Development of Painting in Viceregal Mexico (con’t)
Reading/Assignment: Ruiz Gomar, 47-78; Visual Analysis #1 DUE

Week 4
Date: 2/18/2008
Topic: The Development of Painting in Viceregal Mexico (con’t)
Reading/Assignment: Bargellini; Katzew article

Date: 2/20/2008
Topic: The Development of Painting in Viceregal Peru and New Granada
Reading/Assignment: Stratton-Pruitt, Thoma 1, 81-94

Week 5
Date: 2/25/2008
Topic: The Development of Painting in Viceregal Peru and New Granada (con’t)
Reading/Assignment: Mills, Thoma 2, 27-40; Dean, 171-82; Stanfield-Mazzi, 445-65

Date: 2/27/2008
MIDTERM EXAM
Week 6
Date: 3/3/2008
Topic: Artists and Artisans in Viceregal America
Reading/Assignment: Bailey, 167-206; García Saíz, PMA, 87-95

Date: 3/5/2008
Topic: The African Presence in Colonial Latin America and the Caribbean
Reading/Assignment: Sullivan, PMA, 39-56

Week 7 (3/10-12/2008) - NO CLASS – SPRING RECESS

Week 8
Date: 3/17/2008
Topic: The Decorative Arts in Colonial Latin America
Reading/Assignment: Coddington, PMA, 98-113

Date: 3/19/2008
Topic: The Art of Opulence: Silverwork in Latin American Art
Reading/Assignment: Estremera Martín, PMA, 178-89; Senos, PMA, 230-35

Visual Analysis #2 DUE

Week 9
Date: 3/24/08
Topic: Textiles in Colonial Latin American Art
Reading/Assignment: Blum, PMA, 146-54; McKim-Smith, PMA, 155-63

Date: 3/26/08
Topic: The Development of Cities and Centers in Viceregal America
Reading/Assignment: Ortiz Crespo, PMA, 23-38; Kagan, 151-98
Excerpt from Philip II’s Ordinances

Week 10
Date: 3/31/08
Topic: Mission and Country Churches
Reading/Assignment: Bailey, 207-260; Bargellini arch

Date: 4/2/08
Topic: Mission and Country Churches (con’t)
Reading/Assignment: Bailey, 207-260; MacCormack

RESPONSE PAPER DUE

Week 11
Date: 4/7/08
Topic: Metropolitan Churches
Reading/Assignment: Bailey, 261-310

Date: 4/9/08
Topic: Metropolitan Churches (con’t)
Reading/Assignment: Bailey, 261-310
Week 12  
Date: 4/14/08  
Topic: The Development of Sculpture in Colonial Latin America  
Reading/Assignment: Trusted, PMA, 248-57

Date: 4/16/08  
Topic: The Development of Sculpture in Colonial Latin America (con’t)  
Reading/Assignment: Locke, PMA, 258-62

CRITIQUE DUE

Week 13  
Date: 4/21/08  
Topic: Casta Painting in Viceregal Mexico and Peru  
Reading/Assignment: Katzew, PMA, 335-48; Katzew, Casta Painting, chaps. 1-2 ; Carrera

Date: 4/23/08  
Topic: Portraiture in Colonial Latin America  
Reading/Assignment: García Saiz, Retratos 1, 74-83

Week 14  
Date: 4/28/08  
Topic: Representations of Women in the Spanish Americas  
Reading/Assignment: Hammer, Retratos 2, 86-101; Perry, 321-42

Date: 4/30/08  
Topic: Art of the Colonial Aristocracy  
Reading/Assignment: Bailey, 311-54

Week 15  
Date: 5/5/2008  
Topic: “The Globalization of Taste”: Cultural Exchanges Between the Americas and Asia  
Reading/Assignment: Bailey, 355-74; Bailey, PMA, 57-70

FINAL EXAM – Date and Time to be Announced

Bibliography  
Reading assignments will be made from the titles followed by parentheses. An asterisk designates books on order for purchase at the Drew University Bookstore. These books are also available for purchase online through Amazon.com or Abebooks.com.

Required Textbooks:  

Articles/Chapters/Essays:  


Carrera, Magali M. “Locating Race in Late Colonial Mexico,” Art Journal, vol. 57, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 36-46. (Carrera)

Dean, Carolyn, “The Renewal of Old World Images and the Creation of Colonial Peruvian Visual Culture,” Edited by Diana Fane, 171.82. Brooklyn, 1996. (Dean)

García Saiz, María Concepción, “Portrait in Viceregal America,” in Retratos: 2,000 Years of Latin American Portraits, 74-83. San Antonio, 2005. (Retratos 1)


Mills, Kenneth, “Religious Imagination in the Viceroyalty of Peru” The Virgin, Saints, and Angels: South American Paintings 1600-1825 from the Thoma Collection, 27-40, Stanford, CA, 2006. (Thoma 2)


Historical Background:


Sources:


American Colonial Art of the Seventeenth Century. The 17th century saw the first concerted and successful attempts by Europeans to settle in the United States, but the problems and time-consuming difficulties of creating new communities in a new world did not leave the settlers much leisure or energy to devote to the visual arts. However, by the second half of the 17th century a tradition of native American painting was developed by the practical artisan artists who gathered in the metropolitan centres of New York and Boston - a tradition based on portrait art and figurative compositions.