Modern Art of Mexico

Course Description:

The catalogue describes this course as follows: “Explores the history of art during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Mexico.”

This course will examine the development of Mexican art in relationship to events on the international scene. Social and historical events in Europe and the United States, such as the World Wars and the Great Depression, will be explored in terms of their impact on the contemporaneous art of Mexico. The temporary and permanent ex-patriotism of many Mexican artists during this era will also be discussed. Discussion will also center on Mexican art in the Modern period in the context of the internationalization of art styles, such as Cubism and Surrealism.

Required Texts:


Recommended Readings:


Additional Reading Assignments may include articles from the following books:


Student Learning Outcomes:

The goals of the course are to make students aware of the rich cultural history of Modern Mexican art and its placement within a global context during a period of rapid change and instability. The outcomes of the course will include the development of critical thinking skills through the examination of the numerous social and political forces that coalesced to create the Modern Mexican artistic continuum.

1. Students will gain an understanding of the history of Modern Mexican Art through readings, class participation and attendance in lectures. This knowledge will be measured by test performance and quality of in class reaction papers.

2. Students will write two papers which will measure their understanding of a number of the complex issues addressed in the history of Modern Mexican art.

Grading:

Your grade will be based upon:

1. Class attendance and participation (20%)
2. Midterm Exam (20%)
3. Final Exam (30%)
4. Two papers (30%)

1. The class attendance and participation grade will be based upon attendance in class, your contributions to class discussion, and the completion of assigned reaction papers. The reaction papers will consist of one to two pages handwritten or typed responses to movies shown in class, comparison and contrast assignments, and questions posed based on class lectures by the professor.

Additional opportunities for extra credit assignments related to art talks and exhibitions will also be presented from time to time throughout the semester. The grades for these extra credit assignments will be tallied within the class participation grade.

HOW TO USE BLACKBOARD 9:

Your in-class assignments and term papers MUST be turned in via BlackBoard 9. Access to BlackBoard 9 is available by going to the following web page: https://iol.tamu.edu/.
Once on this page, you will sign in by first selecting BlackBoard 9. You will then enter your A number and your password. If you do not know your A number or password, you may contact the help desk at 361-825-2825 (local) or 1-866-353-2491 (long distance) or by e-mail at iol.support@tamucc.edu. The hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. every day (U.S. Central Time).

I will be assigning an early paper via BlackBoard 9. I also send communications via BlackBoard 9 about classes and about your assignments. I send my comments on graded papers via this system. You will be missing out on important information if you do not learn how to access this online feature early in the course. Not accessing BlackBoard 9 will be detrimental to your grade in this course. I will also be putting any pertinent documents on BlackBoard 9, including this syllabus, review sheets for tests and other guidelines. So if you lose this syllabus, you can access it again without having to ask me for an additional copy.

In addition, you will be provided with in class and take home assignments that will count as part of your grade. Failure to attend class will mean that these assignments cannot be completed and turned in to me.

2. & 3. Exams will consist of slide identifications in pairs. Students will then write an essay comparing and contrasting the two works, the artists who created them and the time period or style which they exemplify. Approximately 4 such comparisons and essays will be done on each test. In addition, one extra credit slide with identification and short answer will be provided.

Images will be put on reserve in the Media Services area of the Bell Library for study purposes prior to the examinations. Whereas it is not required that you study these images, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, as they will help narrow the focus to a representative number of slides covered in class. Review slides will also be posted on BlackBoard 9.

Other helpful hints for doing well on tests in this course: I encourage students to form study groups, as I find that learning is reinforced through the sharing of class notes, readings from the text and other outside readings that are brought to group study sessions. I also recommend that you review your class notes on a weekly basis, as this will help you to commit the information to memory. This means you need to be taking notes! Over the years I have found that grades are higher for students who are actively engaged in note taking during class.

4. You will be required to turn in two papers during the semester. Each paper will be of 750-1250 words and must be typewritten using a double-spaced format. The papers must also contain a short bibliography of 2-3 book or periodical sources (no websites allowed). The paper must also contain footnotes and a bibliography utilizing the MLA citation style. Please also review the attached grading guidelines and rubric for grading papers.
The first paper will be written in the form of a letter to your favorite Modern Mexican artist. The second paper will be a discussion and analysis of a primary document, such as a manifesto or a discussion of one of the chapters in the MacKinley Helm book or in the Anita Brenner book. I will discuss these assignments in greater detail during class. **Paper topics must be pre-approved by me no later than February 3 and March 19.** The first paper will be due on **February 27.** The second paper will be due on **April 2.**

**Grading Scale:**

Your final grade for the course will be generated utilizing the four components listed under “Grading” in the percentages indicated.

1. 100-90 point average=A
2. 89-80 point average=B
3. 79-70 point average=C
4. 69-60 point average=D
5. 59-0 point average=F

**Academic Honesty:**

In accordance with university policy, “University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work).”

(Undergraduate Catalogue)

“My recommendation about cheating, is **DON’T** do it. It is not worth it! In my opinion, academic honesty is of the utmost importance. My personal policy is to give you a failing grade in the course if you are caught cheating on an examination or plagiarizing in a paper. My advice to you is to do the best you can on your own. When in doubt about how to reference information from outside sources, please ask my advice. I am more than happy to help you.
Attendance Policy:

Attendance in class is **VERY IMPORTANT** since a great deal of visual material is shown in class that is not in the textbook. You will be tested over this material on examinations. More than **THREE** excused absences will result in the lowering of your grade by one letter grade. Additional absences will result in the lowering of your grade by another letter grade. Three tardies, leaving during class or leaving early will also result in the lowering of your grade by another letter grade in the course.

Cell phones:

Cell phones are **not** permitted in my class. Be sure that you turn off your cell phone prior to coming to class. You are not permitted to text during class or leave class to talk on your cell phone. I will confiscate the cell phone of any student caught using their cell phone during class and will return it at my discretion.

**Academic Advising:** As soon as students are ready to declare a major, they should meet with an Academic Advisor. The Academic Advisor will guide the student through the requirements of the major, including developing and maintaining the student’s degree plan and directing the student to an appropriate Faculty Mentor. Specific requirements to complete degrees differ from college to college (including signatures needed, timetables to follow, examinations to take, etc.), so each student should consult an Academic Advisor in the college that houses his or her chosen major:
- College of Business: Faculty Center 104, 825-2653
- College of Education: Faculty Center 201, 825-2662
- College of Liberal Arts: Driftwood 203E, 825-3466
- College of Nursing & Health Sciences: Faculty Center 162, 825-2461 / 825-3748
- College of Science & Technology: Faculty Center 178, 825-6094

**Notice to Students with Disabilities:**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**Grade Appeal Process:**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details,
including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
The following is a tentative schedule. It may vary somewhat during the course of the semester, but the readings should be done on time to keep the student up with the course requirements. (L.-S.=Lucie-Smith, H.=Helm, B.=Brenner).

1/11 & 1/13—Introduction (L.-S.)

1/16—No class (MLK Day)

1/18-1/20—Chapter 1 (L.-S.), “Painted Miracles”, (B.)


1/30-2/1—Chapter 3 (L.-S.), “Posada, The Prophet” (B.)

2/3-First Paper Topic Due

2/6-2/8—Chapter 4(L.-S.), “Travail” (B.)

2/10-2/17—Chapter 5 (L.-S.), “Inventory” (B.), Chpt. I (H.)

2/20-2/24—Chapter 6 (L.-S.), “The Syndicate of Painters and Sculptors” (B.), Chpt. II (H.)

2/27-First Paper Due.

2/29-3/2—Chapter 7 (L.-S.), “David Alfaro Siqueiros” (B.), Chpt. III (H.)

3/5—MIDTERM.

3/7-3/9—Chapter 7 (continued) (L.-S.), “Jose Clemente Orozco” (B.), Chpt. IV (H.)

3/12-3/16—No classes—Spring Break

3/19—Second Paper Topic Due


3/26-3/30—Chapter 9 (L.-S.), “Francisco Goitia” (B.), Chpt. VI (H.)

4/2—Second Paper Due

4/4-4/6—Chapter 10 (L.-S.), “Jean Charlot” (B.), Chpt. VII (H.)


4/16-4/20—Chapter 12 (L.-S.), Chpt. IX (H.)
4/23-4/27—Chapter 12 continued (L.-S.), Chpt. X (H.)

4/30—Last Day of Classes.

Fri., May 4th  FINAL EXAM  11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Please retain this syllabus, refer to it regularly throughout the semester and follow all deadlines as listed unless otherwise notified during class. You are expected to turn in all work on time and be prepared for all examinations without reminders from me.
Form to turn in paper topic # 1
For Arts 3353
Due: February 3, 2012

Name of Student:

Paper Topic:

_____Approved _____Not Approved

Comments on papers not approved:

If not approved, please resubmit by February 10, 2012
Form to turn in paper topic # 2
For Arts 3353
Due: March 19, 2012

Name of Student:

Paper Topic:

_____ Approved  _____ Not Approved

Comments on papers not approved:

If not approved, please resubmit by March 26, 2012
GRADING GUIDELINES
FOR ART HISTORY PAPERS

Topic turned in after the deadline on the syllabus—10 points will be deducted from grade.

Topic selection is a crucial component to a successful paper. If the image/topic is not approved by me, the student will receive a failing grade. Please visit with me as often as possible during the semester about your papers.

Paper turned in after the due date—10 points per day will be deducted from the grade.

Papers are graded as followed, in addition to the point deductions mentioned above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correct length (750-1250 words)</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footnotes-MLA style</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography—minimum of 2-3 books and periodical references (no websites accepted)—MLA style</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis (main idea development)</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Body (argument-proof of thesis)</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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</tbody>
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Please include photocopies of works of art that you are referring to in your paper, particularly of lesser known works of art.

Suggestions for Questions to Contemplate While Preparing Your Two Papers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Mechanics</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Overall Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>very few or no mechanical errors, with complexity</td>
<td>-carefully but subtly organized from beginning to end w/smooth transitions -strong intro and conclusion framing the topic of discussion -paragraphs address one subject with interest</td>
<td>-thesis is specific, focused, purposeful, analytic, and insightful</td>
<td>-supporting details are rich, interesting and full -details are relevant and appropriate -many quotes used smoothly and explained fully with close detail and interpretation</td>
<td>-rich, effective vocabulary -uses a variety of sentence structures, types, and lengths -offers a consistent voice and tone -no structural errors</td>
<td>-fluent -original and insightful -thoughts are critically analytical of the text -ideas show clear understanding of the text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>few or no mechanical errors, relative to the length or complexity</td>
<td>-organized from beginning to end w/smooth transitions -clear focus -logical order -strong intro and conclusion -paragraphs address one subject clearly and intelligently</td>
<td>-thesis is specific, focused, purposeful, and analytic</td>
<td>-details are strong, but lack richness and specificity -quotes are smoothly introduced and explained fully, but not excessively used</td>
<td>-effective vocabulary -moderately successful in using a variety of sentence patterns -reasonably consistent voice and tone -few errors in structure or usage</td>
<td>-fluent, fully developed -solid -evidence of creative thought -complex ideas, showing you have thought critically about the text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>-some mechanical errors that do not interfere with communication</td>
<td>-transitions are present -organized, but with lapses in order or</td>
<td>-thesis is specific, focused, and purposeful</td>
<td>-details are adequate -details are generally relevant -many</td>
<td>-acceptable vocabulary -attempts sophisticated sentence structure</td>
<td>-moderately fluent -ideas are developed, but limited in depth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Description</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| C-     | -limited text, but mechanically correct  
- structure  
- focused  
- clear intro and conclusion  
- paragraphs are clear  
- examples used meaningfully and clearly  
- quotes are introduced, but not smoothly  
- voice and tone are somewhat inconsistent  
- some errors in structure and usage  
- shows independent and analytical thought  
- ideas are clearly stated  

- some mechanical errors that interfere with communication  
- errors are disproportionate to the length of complexity of the piece  
- focus is unclear or limited  
- intro and conclusion are insufficient  
- poor transitions  
- lacks closure  
- thesis is specific and focused  
- details lack elaboration  
- some details do not support the focus  
- lacks important details  
- quotes lack explanation or are not introduced  
- simplistic vocabulary  
- little sentence variety  
- barely recognizable voice and tone  
- errors in structure and usage  
- thinly developed  
- some independent thought  
- repetitive or too general  

| D     | -noticeable mechanical errors that interfere with communication  
- errors cause major problems for readers  
- unfocused  
- thought patterns are difficult to follow  
- paragraphs are poorly structured  
- thesis is present, but vague and difficult to identify  
- details are merely listed  
- repetitious details  
- too few details  
- few examples, poorly used  
- no sentence variety  
- serious errors in structure and usage  
- lacks voice or tone  
- simplistic vocabulary with incorrect usage  
- poorly developed  
- lacks clarity  
- very little independent thinking  
- plot summary  

| F     | mechanical errors that seriously interfere with  
- so short or muddled that it lacks organization or focus  
- no thesis  
- virtually no examples or quotations  
- irrelevant details  
- unclear statements  
- no sentence variety  
- serious errors in structure and usage  
- lacks voice or tone  
- simplistic vocabulary with incorrect usage  
- not developed  
- does not show thought or original ideas  
- shows a lack of understanding of the text  |
Suggestions for Questions to Contemplate While Preparing Your Two Papers

You don’t need to answer all of these questions in relation to your work of art. These questions are placed here as a starting point, to help give you ideas on how to approach your image. Here are some of the things that you will want to think about when writing your analysis:

1. Give basic facts about the work:
   - What is the title?
   - When was the work done?
   - Where was the work done?
   - What medium was used?
   - What is the work’s size?

2. What is the subject of the work?

3. What is the purpose of the work?

4. What is the content of the work (what is the artist’s message)?

5. What period or movement does the work belong to?

6. What choices did the artist make concerning the formal elements and principles of design?

7. What does the work of art tell us about the cultural group who made it?

8. What is your response to the piece? How did the artist’s formal choice affect your response?

9. Where and how does the work fit into the history of art?

10. Did the artist use sources—either religious, historical or visual?

11. What do important scholars say about this work?

12. What is the work’s relationship to the worldview at the time it was created: religion, politics, economics, science, mathematics, psychology, sociology and so?

13. How does the work compare to earlier works or to works being done at the time?

14. What was the process of the piece?

15. What is the significance of the piece?
16. Is the work symbolic?

“The story behind a (work of art) transcends the work’s aesthetic qualities and offers a redemptive message, which may be the fundamental significance of art. It’s about us and our neighbors and humankind as a whole, a reflection of where we’ve been and where we’re heading, who we are and how we relate to this world. It’s about love and hate and desire and greed, about sensuality and tolerance and hope and faith. Joy, rage, compassion, contempt, boldness, conviction and courage—art is all these things, and more.

Art is about life, and ultimately the stories behind it are not art stories but human stories.”