Art 338-01E - 202580– GLB/Topics in Non-Western Art

Indigenous Arts of North America

Fall 2025 - TR 9:30 am -10:45 am / ART 111

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Melynda Seaton, Assistant Professor of Art History
Office Location: Art 113
Office Hours: TR 1-2 pm and by appointment
Office Phone: Art Office - 903-886-5208
University Email Address: Melynda.Seaton@tetamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: M-TH: 24-48 hours, F-Sun will reply following Monday.

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required:

Native North American Art 2nd Edition by Janet Catherine Berlo & Ruth B. Phillips
ISBN: 0199947546 – *please only use the 2nd edition*

Course Description

A survey of indigenous visual arts of North America, including architecture, pottery, sculpture, textiles, painting, and performance. Includes an exploration of the pre-Columbian world of art and architecture of ancient cultures, to traditional and contemporary art-making practices from select North American tribes.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To gain an understanding of the Indigenous arts of North America as an expression of human insight, imagination, and technological achievement.
2. To see how the Indigenous arts of North America reflect or communicate social, political, ideological, and religious values and constructions.
3. To recognize and explore themes and meanings embodied within Indigenous arts of North America, enabling a greater appreciation and respect for their arts.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using D2L Brightspace learning management system, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, or Google Slides.

Course Instruction Methods and Student Expectations:

This course requires regular class attendance and weekly reading assignments. Assignments include in-class projects, written assignments, creative projects, quizzes and exams.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 89.5%-100%		A = 360- 400 Points
B = 79.5%-89.4%		B = 320- 359 Points
C = 69.5%-79.4%	OR	C = 280- 321 Points
D = 59.5%-69.4%		D = 240- 279 Points
F = 59% or Below		F = 239 & > Points

Assessments

In-class projects/Quizzes /Writing Assignments/Creative Projects– 4 @ 25 pts = 100pts
Exams – 2 @ 100 pts each = 200 pts
Virtual Art Exhibition – 100 pts
Total Points – 400

Course Policies:

In-Class Projects/Quizzes: Can be made up only if absence falls within one of these categories: (1) participation in pre-approved University activities such as athletic events, sponsored field trips, and travel for specific University-related academic reasons; (2) verifiable legal proceedings; and (3) cases of severe illness, injury, or emergencies. Documentation will be required.

Writing Assignments/Creative Projects: Late submissions will receive a ½ letter grade deduction for each day submitted late and will not be accepted after three (3) days past the deadline. See the course schedule for deadlines.

Virtual Art Exhibition: Must be completed by the posted deadline, and late submissions will only be considered in cases of emergency. Email notification must be sent to the professor **BEFORE** the assignment deadline, and documentation of the circumstance may be required. See the course schedule for the deadline.

Missed Exams: A make-up exam will be permitted ONLY if the absence falls under the "excused absence" criteria. The student must notify the instructor BEFORE the missed exam via email. Make-up exam must be completed within 5 days of the original test date.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is expected. It is the responsibility of each student to monitor his/her attendance. Each student in this course is allowed five (5) unexcused absences. Unexcused absences require no explanation on the part of the student.

In this class, excused absences are: (1) participation in pre-approved University activities such as athletic events, sponsored field trips, and travel for specific University-related academic reasons; (2) verifiable legal proceedings; and (3) cases of illness, injury, or emergencies. For any absences to be considered excused, illness or otherwise, documentation is required for your absence and must be emailed to your professor not later than 5 days after the missed class. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence, NO EXCEPTIONS.

When a student accrues more than five (5) unexcused absences, the instructor has the prerogative to drop the student 1 letter grade for each unexcused absence exceeding 5. For example, 6 unexcused absences will drop an "A" to a "B" and so forth. Students with excessive absences may be dropped from the course for non-attendance. Students with excessive absences may be dropped from the course.

Note: It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each class and keep track of their absences. If your signature is not on the sign-in sheet, you are considered absent. If you forget to sign in or come in more than 10 minutes late for class, you will be marked absent. No, you cannot show the professor you were in class on a later date if you forgot to sign in. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Academic dishonesty:
There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this class. Be sure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, **use of AI technology**, etc.). Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression in college and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, dismissal from class, expulsion from the University, and a failing grade. Please see **Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03**

Classroom Etiquette:

CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE CLASSROOM. ANY STUDENT TEXT MESSAGING WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE CLASS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Please be mindful and respectful of others in the classroom. In all communication, including email and discussion groups, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Use of profanity, slang, or racial slurs is NOT permitted
- Be mindful of tone, keep it professional and respectful of others
- Avoid jokes, as they may not come across as such to others
- Grades are not an appropriate topic for discussion in the public forum

Any behavior that is deemed disruptive by the professor may result in a student being asked to leave class, and continued disruptions may also result in expulsion from the class.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Email is the quickest and most reliable way to contact me at **melynda.seaton@etamu.edu** , and I will conduct email correspondence according to the following schedule:

- Monday–Thursday: Every effort will be made to answer your emails within a 24-48-hour period.
- Friday–Sunday: I will try to answer your emails promptly, but please understand you may not receive a response until the following Monday or Tuesday.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

If you encounter problems accessing D2L, please get in touch with Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:
https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or **helpdesk@etamu.edu.**

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:
https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the **Student Guidebook**.
https://www.etamu.edu/student-guidebook/

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: **https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette**

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the **Attendance** webpage and **Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01**.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
East Texas A&M University
Gee Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: **studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu**
Website: **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the **Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus** document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web
url: **http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf**

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connections to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit **www.etamu.edu/counsel**

Art 338 – Indigenous Arts of North America Course Schedule This is an IDEAL outline of the schedule this course will take throughout the semester. Class discussion topics and exam dates are all subject to change at the instructor's discretion.		
Date	Topic	Reading
Tue., Aug. 26	Intro to Course	
Thu., Aug. 28	Art History and Indigenous Art	3-27
Tue., Sep. 2	Making of Native Art	28-43
Thu., Sep. 4	The Southwest – Ancient World	45-57
Tue., Sep. 9	The Southwest –Precontact to Modern Pueblos **Assignment 1 Due**	58-70
Thu., Sep. 11	The Southwest – Navajo & Apache Arts	71-83
Tue., Sep. 16	The East and Southeast	85-101
Thu., Sep. 18	The East and the Great Lakes	103-123
Tue., Sep. 23	The West – Art of the Great Plains	125-155
Thu., Sep. 25	The West – Art of the Great Plains **Assignment 2 – In-Class Project**	125-155
Tue., Sep. 30	The West – Arts of California & the Great Basin	156-163
Thu., Oct. 2	The North – Arts of Boreal Forests & the Arctic	165-181
Tue., Oct. 7	The North – History to Contemporary Arctic	185-203
Thu., Oct. 9	The Northwest Coast – Development of Styles	205-222
Tue., Oct. 14	The Northwest Coast – Contexts	223-241
Thu., Oct. 16	**Midterm Exam**	
Tue., Oct. 21	Modern Native Arts – The Beginning	243-252
Thu., Oct. 23	*NO CLASS*	
Tue., Oct. 28	Modern Native Arts – The Studio-Style	255-261
Thu., Oct. 30	Mid-Century Modernisms	262-264
Tue., Nov. 4	Mid-Century Modernisms	268-284
Thu., Nov. 6	Mid-Century Modernisms **Assignment 3 Due**	
Tue., Nov. 11	Artists and Activism in Canada & US	287-291
Thu., Nov. 13	Artists and Activism in Canada & US	
Tue., Nov. 18	Contemporary Native Art after 1980	293-300
Thu., Nov. 20	Contemporary Art – Modes of Expression	302-329
Tue., Nov. 25	Contemporary Art – Modes of Expression	332-340
Thu., Nov. 27	**THANKSGIVING**	
Tue., Dec. 2	**Virtual Tour Assignment Due** **Assignment 4 -In-Class Presentations**	
Thu., Dec. 4	**Assignment 4 -In-Class Presentations**	
Thu., Dec. 11	**Final Exam - 8:00-10:00 am**	