



Art History 6666

Colonial Latin American Art Seminar: Visualizing the Natural World **Syllabus**

Professor Maya Stanfield-Mazzi, Ph.D.

University of Florida, Spring Semester, January 9–April 25, 2023 (3 credit hours)

Tuesdays Periods 8–10 (3:00–6:00) in Fine Arts C 116A

Final paper due Monday, May 1 at midnight

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Office hours: Wednesdays Periods 4–5 (10:40–12:35)

Course Description

An important tool for increasing our understanding of nature is the ability to represent it visually. From ancient times, artists in the “New” World used art forms as diverse as sculpture, painting, and embroidery to visualize the natural world. Underlying these images were structures that helped conceptualize the broader world. After Europeans arrived in the New World, Latin American nature (especially that of the tropics) played a large part in the development of western scientific knowledge about the natural world. Again, visual images were key to this progression. From the vantage point of Latin America, this class has two goals: (1) to approach some non-western ways of knowing and visualizing nature, and (2) to consider the implications of Europeans’ coming into direct contact with Latin American nature *and* confronting native ways of knowing nature. By analyzing visual representations related to these goals, we will engage in epistemology that speaks to both human intellectual diversity and nature’s biodiversity.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Each student should:

- Engage in the history of science as an art historian.
- Take an epistemological approach to the various examples of the visualization of nature.
- Analyze visual images and their compilations orally and in writing.
- In weekly reading summaries, show the ability to synthesize and summarize authors’ arguments in relation to the class topics.
- Identify a feasible research topic in consultation with the professor.
- Hone bibliographic and scholarly paper writing skills to produce a substantial research paper.
- Present the progress of your research to the class in advance of the paper due date. Incorporate feedback into the final paper.
- Complete a constructive peer review of a classmate’s paper.

Assigned Reading

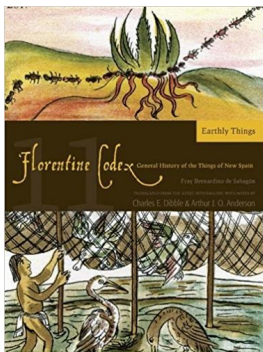
Required for purchase (but also on reserve):

- William Gates, Martín de la Cruz, and Juan Badiano, *An Aztec Herbal: The Classic Codex of 1552*. Dover Publications, 2000. ISBN: 0486411303
- Daniela Bleichmar, *Visible Empire: Botanical Expeditions and Visual Culture in the Hispanic Enlightenment*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012. ISBN: 0226058530
- Daniela Bleichmar, *Visual Voyages: Images of Latin American Nature from Columbus to Darwin*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017. ISBN: 0300224028
- Kim Todd, *Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis*. Mariner Books, 2007. ISBN: 0156032996



Recommended for purchase (also on reserve):

- Bernardino de Sahagún; translators Charles E. Dibble and Arthur J.O. Anderson, *Florentine Codex: Book 11: Earthly Things (Florentine Codex: General History of the Things of New Spain)*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2012. ISBN: 1607811669



Other required readings are on the **Canvas** site for the course, under Files or on reserve in the Fine Arts Library.

Requirements

Students should plan to attend every class and participate fully in class activities. For each class students should come having read all of the required readings for that day. They should also come with a short written summary of each reading, not to be turned in but to serve the student throughout the semester. Each week specific students will be assigned to read their brief summaries to the class and lead discussions on their selections using questions they have written in advance. Those summaries will be turned

in for evaluation, and should be submitted on Canvas the day they are discussed. The class will be discussion-based but will include viewing of artworks and, if needed, the provision of additional content by the instructor.

Students should complete a roughly 15-page research paper on a topic of their choice related to the course theme, which will be selected in consultation with the professor. In preparation for this, students should meet with the professor to select a topic and submit a brief project abstract and working bibliography on March 21st. Each student should also present an illustrated summary of their research in class on either April 18th or April 25th. Students will exchange drafts of their papers to serve as each others' peer reviewers. These drafts are due April 18th. Peer reviews (completed using a standard questionnaire) are due April 25th. Final papers are due May 1 at midnight.

Grade Breakdown

Class attendance: 10%

Participation in class discussions: 15%

Assignment for Week 2, due Week 3: 5%

Summaries and discussion questions on assigned days: 10%

Project Summary and Working Bibliography: 5%

Presentation of research: 10%

Peer review of classmate's paper: 10%

Response to revisions suggested by classmate: 10%

Final paper: 25%

Attendance, Makeup, and Class Conduct Policies

If illness or another dire event prevents a student from completing any work, they should speak to the professor about making up what was missed. Any acceptance of late work will be at the instructor's discretion.

Students should arrive to class on time and ready to speak, and should refrain from eating in class. A 15-minute break will be given halfway through the class period. Laptops should be used only for taking notes or consulting class readings in electronic format. Students are expected to bring copies (printed or electronic) of the class readings to the appropriate class sessions.

Details of this syllabus are subject to change as needed. Other important information is at the end of this document in the Appendix.

Communication

The principal form of communication for this course is email, using students' @ufl.edu addresses. Students should be sure to check their UF email often and use it to communicate with the professor, mstanfield@ufl.edu. Emails will be responded to within 48 hours. Any important announcements posted on Canvas will also come to students as emails, and students may use Canvas to send messages to the professor. If you cannot come to office hours but would like to speak to the professor, feel free to call her office number during office hours (Wednesdays 10:40–12:35), 352-273-3070. Otherwise ask for an appointment to meet in person or by Zoom.

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**January 10th**

Introductions; discussion of course topic, semester outline, and expectations. Viewing of materials related to UF's Biolink project and the Tree of Life.

Required reading:

- This syllabus; purchase textbooks.

January 17th**Visualizing Nature and Indigenous Knowledge**Assignments:

Details on assigned readings is provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

- Check out a library book that is some sort of catalogue of New World species, with visual images. Provide a full citation of the book as your title (Chicago Style). Write a 1–2 page analysis of the book's structure and scope, focusing especially on the visual materials—how are they organized? What medium are they in? What type of information do they include, and what do they leave out? How do they contribute to the book's larger aim? Bring the book to class on January 24th. Submit your written analysis on Canvas.

Knowing Nature in the Ancient Americas**January 24th****Approaching the Ancient Americas**Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

January 31st**Nature for the Paracas/Nasca People**Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

A Meeting of Worlds in the Sixteenth Century**February 7th****An American Natural History**Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

February 14th

Indigenous Knowledge Between Worlds

Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

February 21st

**Indigenous Knowledge in Encyclopedic Form
Research Session with Librarian Ann Lindell**

Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

February 28th

Nature for Commercial Profit

Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

March 7th

Nature for Spiritual Profit

Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

March 14th—SPRING BREAK

March 21st

**PROJECT ABSTRACT AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
Expanded Paradigms of Biodiversity: Ecology**

Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

March 28th

Visits to Harn Museum and McGuire Center at FLMNH

Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

April 4th

Expanded Paradigms of Biodiversity: Enlightened Imperialism

Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

April 11th

New Horizons with Latin American Independence

Required reading:

Details on assigned readings are provided to enrolled students on Canvas syllabus.

April 18th

**DRAFT PAPER DUE FOR PEER REVIEW
Research Presentations**

April 25th**PEER REVIEW FORM AND MARKUP OF PEER'S PAPER DUE****Research Presentations; Class Conclusions; Complete Course Evaluation****FINAL PAPER DUE MONDAY, MAY 1 BY MIDNIGHT.****Appendix****Grading Scale**

Grades are tabulated on a 100-point scale and a letter grade is assigned as follows:

94–100 A	90–93 A-	87–89 B+	84–86 B	80–83 B-
77–79 C+	74–76 C	70–73 C-	67–69 D+	64–66 D
60–63 D-	59 and below F			

If you have questions about how grade points are assigned by the University, go to:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Students with Disabilities

I will make every attempt to accommodate students with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Health and Wellness Resources

- *UF COVID-19 Information*: <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu>
- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit counseling.ufl.edu or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu .
- *University Police Department*: Visit police.ufl.edu or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center .

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. [Career assistance and counseling services](#).
- *Library Support*: Visit cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask for various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/