

**Pre-Columbian Art in Middle America**

Code: 100566  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500239 Art History	OT	3	2
2500239 Art History	OT	4	2

## Contact

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## Teaching groups languages

You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject. Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2023.

## Teachers

Ana Belen Villalonga Gordaliza

## Prerequisites

In addition to the understanding of catalan and spanish, a good reading comprehension is recommended in other modern languages.

## Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of this subject is to provide students with the theoretical and methodological tools needed to deep in their knowledge of pre-Columbian cultures in Mesoamerica, from a historical-artistic point of view. One of the first elements to be reviewed will be the concept of art understood, not from our Western aesthetic perspective, but from the point of view of Americanist studies.

The main objective is that the students learn how to identify the forms of artistic expression of the cultures that developed in Mesoamerica during the Formative periods until the conquest of America and understand how the diffusion processes affected in different cultures. Finally, special emphasis will be placed on the manifestations produced in the field of visual arts and their iconographic interpretation.

## Competences

Art History

- Critically analysing from the acquired knowledge a work of art in its many facets: formal values, iconographic significance, artistic techniques and procedures, elaboration process and reception mechanisms.
- Interpreting a work of art in the context in which it was developed and relating it with other forms of cultural expression.
- Recognising the evolution of the artistic imagery from the antiquity to the contemporary visual culture.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Accurately defining and explaining an artistic object with the specific language of art criticism.
2. Analysing ideas about an artistic phenomenon in a given cultural context.
3. Analysing the creators of an artistic phenomenon in a specific cultural context.
4. Analysing the recipients of an artistic phenomenon in a specific cultural context.
5. Applying the iconographic knowledge to the reading of artistic imagery.
6. Connecting an artistic imagery with other cultural phenomena within its period.
7. Distinguishing the elaboration techniques and processes of an artistic object.
8. Engaging in debates about historical facts respecting the other participants' opinions.
9. Examining an artistic imagery and distinguishing its formal, iconographic and symbolic values.
10. Explaining the reception mechanisms of a work of art.
11. Identifying the artistic imagery, placing it into its cultural context.
12. Reconstructing the artistic outlook of a particular cultural context.

## Content

### INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction to the study of pre-Hispanic art. Geographical, environmental and cultural framework. Stages and cultural areas. Concept of art and artist in pre-Hispanic Mexico. The historiography of pre-Hispanic art and its sources.
2. Population of America. Chronological framework and problems. Ancient and modern theories of settlement: news perspectives. Cultural areas. Americanist studies.
3. Rock art (engravings and paintings)

### MESOAMERICA

4. Concept of Mesoamerica. Stages and cultures. General characteristics of his art. Worldview. Society.
5. The Formative. The village cultures of the Mexico Basin and the Olmec Culture of the Gulf. Dissemination and contact. Olmec architecture (San Lorenzo, La Venta, Tres Zapotes). Sculpture: colossal heads, steles and other reliefs. Ceramics.
6. The Classic. Teotihuacan culture. Evolution of society. Religion. Teotihuacán as a sacred city. Architecture of men and gods: palaces, residential complexes and temples. Painting, sculpture in stone and ceramics.
7. The splendor of the Classic and its transition to the Postclassic. Mayan culture. Society and religion. Periodization. Architecture: techniques, elements, typology of buildings and styles. The cities: A) Central zone (Tikal, Bonampak and Palenque) b) North zone (Chichén Itzá and Uxmal). Sculpture: materials, types and styles. Painting. Ceramics.

8. The Postclassic period. Aztec culture. Society and religion. Written sources. Architecture: Tenochtitlan, Malinalco and Calixtláhuaca. Stone sculpture and reliefs. Ceramics. Minor arts and goldsmithing.

9. Women representation in Mesoamerican art: interesectionality in society and material culture.

## Methodology

Ø Theory classes directed by the teacher. The teacher explains orally and with the visual support of PowerPoint to the students the essential aspects of the subject, systematizing the contents and suggesting suitable bibliography to prepare the exam.

In certain cases, prior to the exposition of the contents of some topics, prior reading of texts will be necessary.

Ø Attendance at seminars and/or conferences.

Ø Comprehensive reading of texts. Carrying out activities related to the readings that will have to be delivered or discussed in the classroom.

Ø Personal study.

Ø Supervising process: elaboration of a poster about an artistic work (to be determined) in a gender perspective relating it to the evidence of material culture and society.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Attendance at seminars and/or conferences	6	0.24	3, 4, 2, 5, 9, 8, 12, 6
Theory classes	37	1.48	3, 4, 2, 11, 5, 1, 7, 9, 10, 8, 12, 6
Type: Supervised			
Elaboration of a poster about a work of art in a gender key.	10	0.4	3, 4, 2, 11, 5, 9, 12, 6
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study	45	1.8	3, 4, 2, 11, 5, 1, 7, 9, 10, 12, 6
Writing activities focused on specialized readings.	10	0.4	3, 4, 2, 5, 1, 7, 9

## Assessment

The subject will be evaluated applying the following procedures:

\* Final test: 50%.

\* Group oral presentation: 30%.

\* Carrying out works, reviews, summaries and / or analytical comments on the texts: 20%.

#### Single evaluation

\* Theoretical and conceptual test 50%

\* Preparation of papers, reviews, summaries and / or analytical comments on the texts 30%

\* Review of a reading/lecture with a gender perspective 20%

#### Remarks:

At the time of each assessment activity, lecturer will inform students (Moodle) of the procedure and date of review of each test.

The student will receive the grade of "Not assessable" as long as he / she has not completed more than 30% of the assessment activities.

#### Recovery procedure

The Faculty establishes an official date for recovery during the last days of the course. Students who have opted for single assessment and students who have opted for continuous assessment can apply for this recovery

In the case of continuous assessment, students must have previously submitted each of the partial written tests. If you have not submitted to each of the marked written tests, the right to final recovery is lost. Students with the partial written tests approved can not submit to the recovery to raise note.

Recovery is only possible to pass the failed tests with a maximum grade of 6. The oral presentation or other evaluable activities that have not been presented on the date set by the teacher are excluded from the recovery process.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject. These affected evaluation activities will not be recoverable.

### **Assessment Activities**

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Critical report	20%	20	0.8	3, 4, 2, 11, 5, 1, 9, 10, 8, 12, 6
Final test	50%	2	0.08	3, 4, 2, 11, 5, 1, 7, 9, 12, 6
Group oral presentation of poster.	30%	20	0.8	3, 4, 2, 11, 5, 1, 7, 9, 12

### **Bibliography**

MESOAMERICA:

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- TALADOIRE, Eric., *Archéologie et art précolombiens: la Mesoamérique*. Paris: École du Louvre, 1995.
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Recommendation on how to cite bibliography:

<https://www.uab.cat/web/estudia-i-investiga/com-citar-i-elaborar-la-bibliografia-1345708785665.html>

## Software

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