

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Modern languages and Literatures  
Graduate course in Hispanic Studies

**SP 9100 A – Fall 2017**  
**Migration and Ethnic Relations in Colonial Latin American Art (ca. 1520-1810)**

**Professor:** Alena Robin

**Schedule:** Wednesday 3h30 – 6h30 pm, room TBA

**Office:** AHB 3R08A

**Email:** arobin82@uwo.ca

**Office Hours:** Friday 12:00 - 2:00 pm

### **I. DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Colonial/ Viceregal Latin American art (ca. 1520-1810) through the perspective of migration and ethnic relations. Beginning with the Conquest of America by the Spaniard and Portuguese, America received outside influence that had a major impact on artistic creation. Not only did European artists come to work in America, but there was an on-going artistic commerce between the metropolis and the colonies. Patrons, religious or secular, also came with their own cultural background. Prints, books and ideas also circulated widely. The artistic influence was not, however, going in a one way direction. Moreover, the indigenous presence is something that gave Latin American Viceregal art a unique touch, but also the Asian and African influences must be taken into account. All of those traditions somehow met in Latin America and gave birth to unique artistic creations. Some topics to be considered: the encounters, race and ethnic relations as an artistic topic, early collecting, the artists behind the works of art, patronage, devotion to images of Christ and the Virgin, gender issues, Asian and African influences.

**NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ART HISTORY IS NECESSARY TO TAKE THIS COURSE.**

### **II. THE COURSE AIMS TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING:**

- Discover monuments, works of art and artists from different areas of Latin America, in the Viceroyalties of New Spain, Peru and Brazil, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, under the lens of migration and ethnic relations;
- The confirmation that Latin-America was not a passive receptor of artistic ideas and concepts coming from Europe, but creator of forms, iconographic expressions, techniques and materials of its own;
- Reflect upon the active role that American colonies had in the transmission of the message of the militant and triumphant Church so peculiar to the Counter-Reformation;
- Manage the most recent bibliography that has been published on the topic;
- Know the most recent lines of research applied to the object of study;
- The ability to express adequately a work of art, in verbal and written forms.

### **III. EVALUATION**

**Participation (25%):** The success of the course depends on the frequency and quality of the participation of its members. Assigned readings must be done prior to class in order to be adequately discussed in class. Students are expected to come prepared with ideas for discussion. Being present at class does not necessarily imply participating in it. Similarly, being absent from class on a repetitive basis will seriously affect the participation mark.

Students are expected to attend every class unless medical circumstances prevent them from doing so. When absent, it is still the student's responsibility to complete and turn in coursework on time and to

catch up on the material covered in class. Students must inform their professor by email of any absence as soon as possible.

**Oral presentations (25%):** By the end of the semester, the students will present their essay topic and share progresses with the group (approximately 15 minutes). The presentation calendar will be adjusted according to the group size.

**Essay (10% + 40%):** Each student will write an essay on a topic of his choice in relation to the thematic of the course, and ideally one that is related to your area of interest or research, in consultation with the professor.

- Essay proposal: On **Wednesday October 18** a brief description of the essay is due, with a minimal bibliography (around 2 pages long proposal, with an annotated bibliography, 10%).
- The essay is due **Monday December 11 by 9:00 am** (15/25 pages in length MA/ PhD, 40%). Please submit the essay by email to [alena.robin@gmail.com](mailto:alena.robin@gmail.com). I will acknowledge reception of essays by email; if you do not receive a confirmation within 24 hours, please contact me again.

The essay will be graded on research, originality of thesis and approach, argument, structure and style. All university regulations concerning plagiarism apply. If you are unsure about plagiarism, please ask.

All essays must be typewritten in Times New Roman, 12 point font (no other font will be accepted), double-spaced, and prepared according to MLA style.

**IMPORTANT:** The only acceptable reason for turning in a late assignment or missing an examination is for medical purposes. Late assignments will lose 5 points per day (on 100%). Assignments turned in a week after the due date (7 days) will not be accepted and will receive a grade of "0."

**Calendar of activities and readings will be available by the beginning of the semester.**