

ARHS 3700 Pre-Columbian Art, Fall 2022

The course focuses on the sophisticated and urbanized cultures of the Americas: the Olmec, the Maya, the Mexica (or Aztec), Chavín, Moche, Nazca and Inka. Taking a contextual approach, it pays attention to the ways ancient makers constructed meaning by creating constellations of objects, often collations of buildings, sculptures and cached offerings. It will also look at large scale environmental manipulations, meant to align human occupations with a divine design.

Since how we see ancient art is tangled up in modern attempts to collect and classify it, the last third of the class deals with the ways the art of Ancient America (sometimes called pre-Columbian) has been collected, often looted or secreted out of its country of origin. We will gain firsthand experience with both artworks and provenance by working with the collections at Tulane's Middle American Research Institute and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Credit Hours: 3

Prof. Barbara E. Mundy
Tuesday/Thursday 2 – 3:15pm
201 Woldenberg Art Center

Satisfies: Aesthetics & Creative Arts, Global Perspectives