CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS  
Course name: Latin American Architecture and Art  
Course code: ARCH 3112  
Total contact hours: 48 hours

FUNDAMENTALS FOR THE COURSE  
This course will be offered in English to overseas students taking Spanish intensive courses with the Language Department, as an opportunity to expand the knowledge of the Latin American culture and learn about its architecture and art, adding credits to their university syllabus.

OBJECTIVES  
Main objective:  
To travel through time in Latin America, in order to grasp the main events and influences that contributed to the making of past and present architecture, analyzing the artistic manifestations and achieving a better understanding of the culture. Through guided theoretical classes assisted by visual images, and the visits to museums and specific sectors of San José, this course offers the opportunity to expand the knowledge of the Latin American culture through the history of its architecture and the richness of its art, with a closer look to the diversity of the Latin American society and a general view of the land.

Instructive objective:  
To broaden the experience of learning and challenge the analysis capacity through exposure, individual investigation, on site observation, group analysis and general discussions.

Specific objectives:  
- To learn about pre-Columbian art and architecture in Latin America.  
- To grasp the importance of the discovery and conquest of Latin America and its consequences reflected in its art and architecture.  
- To understand the colonial society and culture of Latin America.  
- To analyze the various external influences in Latin American art and architecture.  
- To explore Latin American Art and Architecture today and its influence upon the rest of the world.
CONTENTS

I. Introduction to Latin America
   A. Brief History of Latin America: summary of historical events from the
discovery and conquest to this date.
   B. Latin American Culture
      1. Geography, Natural Environment and Resources
      2. Ethnic groups
      3. Politics and Economics
      4. Social Organization and Religion
      5. Artistic Manifestations

II. Pre-columbian Art and Architecture in Latin America
   A. The Mayans
      1. Social structure and economy
      2. Religion
      3. Arts and crafts
      4. Architecture and cities
   B. The Aztecs
      1. Social structure and economy
      2. Religion
      3. The conquest of Mexico
      4. Art and Architecture
   C. The Incas
      1. Social structure and economy
      2. Religion
      3. Conquest of Peru
      4. Art and Architecture

III. Colonial Art and Architecture in Latin America
   A. When America completed the World
   B. Colonial culture
      1. Social structure, economics and religion
      2. Architecture: colonial settlements, religious architecture, the
courtyard house
      3. Art: painting and sculpture
   C. Independence Movements

IV. Baroque Art and Architecture
   A. Painting and Sculpture
   B. Religious Architecture

METHODOLOGY
- Theory presented with plenty of visual images and examples.
- Practice based on active participation of students in class discussions, on
  site analysis and observation during the field trips.
- Individual exercise of applied art for group evaluation. Any form of art may
  be suggested by the student, around the theme of pre-Columbian art.
- Individual investigation on a particular aspect of Latin American architecture in the last century (of student’s choice)

- Three field trips

  1. Visit to the Jade Museum and walk through Barrio Amon.
  2. Visit to the Gold Museum, Central Park and San Jose Cathedral.
  3. Visit to the National Museum.

EVALUATION SYSTEM

Class assistance, participation, individual and group class work………………..30%
Pre-Columbian art assignment…………………………………………………………20%
Individual Investigation on Contemporary Latin American Architecture………35%
Field trips………………………………………………………………………………15%

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Curtis, William  _Modern Architecture since 1900_ Phaidon U.S.A. 1987


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