

## **Arts 2H/ Intl 21 Native Arts of Mesoamerica and South America**

Cadge-Moore

Winter Quarter, 2008

Paper Assignment: Museum visit

**DUE: Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Visit the Stanford University Art Museum, the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, on the Stanford Campus, Palo Alto. It is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 AM-5 PM, Thursday, 11 AM –8 PM. Free though donation is requested. Bring money for parking. General info.: 650-723-4177, [www.stanford.edu/dept/ccva/](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/ccva/) CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY!

Explore the **Ancient Americas** gallery (go right at entrance through Asian section to **back stairs area, go up stairs to upper area in stairwell** - you can follow the museum map given when you enter). Make sure you find the right gallery - art from Mexico, Central America and South America. Choose two or more works to compare and contrast. You may choose similar objects, such as two vessels, or two very different objects with a common aspect, such as subject or function (ie. Two cats, two examples of metal or ceramic work). You can choose objects from the same culture or region, or works from completely different contexts. Write a comparison of the art works discussing style and historical or cultural context.

**Assignment:** Write a 4-5 double-spaced, typed essay comparing and contrasting at least two works of art. **\*\*\*PROVIDE a word count – Paper needs to be approximately 1200-1500 words total. Proofread carefully your essay!** We will be discussing how to write a comparison in class.

### **General guidelines:**

1. An introduction to your topic. Make sure to include a clear, thesis statement!
2. A description of the art works (stylistic analysis). What do the objects look like? Include specific detail. You may want to refer to the class handout (attached to syllabus), Outline for Describing a Work of Art.
3. A comparison of the art works – What are the similarities? What are the differences?
4. Discuss the context of the art you are addressing. You can focus upon one or more issues related to the social, cultural, historical, political, or ceremonial contexts – there are many ways of approaching this section.
5. Conclusion.
6. **A bibliography of four sources is required.** Sources can be internet sources, videos, handouts as well as books or articles. **We will go over correct formats in class.**
7. **Footnotes or notes within the text are also required.**

\*\*\*Make sure you write your paper in a clear, well-organized essay format and that you proofread your work! Use only your own ideas and writing. You may use your text or any information provided at the museum or in class to supplement your stylistic descriptions and research.