



# AFRICAN ART

## **Course Information**

Course title: African Art

Course prefix and number: ARTH 3366

Course meeting location: Fox Fine Arts 458

Course meeting times: MWF 9:30-10:20

## **Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor's name: **Anne Perry**

Instructor's office #: FOXA 354

Instructor's office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30 – 1:00

Instructor's phone & email: 747-8744 or 747-5181 Email: [aperry@utep.edu](mailto:aperry@utep.edu)

## **Instructor Introduction**

Professor Perry has a long-standing passion for the visual arts. She studied art history at the University of New Mexico, where she received her M. A. in Pre-Columbian art. She has taught a variety of art history courses and Art Appreciation at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and here at UTEP. She and her family have lived in El Paso for many years.

## **Course Description**

This course is a survey of the rich and varied art and architecture of all regions of Africa, including Egypt and the Maghreb. Monuments and art objects from ancient to modern times in a variety of media will be studied in terms of formal attributes and cultural significance. This class is geared to students at the Junior-Senior level from all academic disciplines with an interest in the diverse artistic traditions of this remarkable continent. Students need not have had any prior experience in art to succeed in this class, however, regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions are fundamental to an understanding of the material presented in this course.

## **Course Format**

Course material is presented in a lecture format, utilizing digitized images of artworks. Images of specific works the student must be able to identify and discuss for each exam are also available on Blackboard; they are located in the Content section, arranged according to examination period and culture. This is a technology- enhanced course and will require the completion of web-based tasks at home or in computer labs on campus.

## **Course Prerequisite Information**

Students with Junior or Senior status and above may enroll in this course. Graduate students will be required to complete additional work in order to receive graduate credit for this course.

## **Course Goals and Objectives**

Goals and objectives for students enrolled in ARTH 3366 include the following:

- Students will gain experience in art historical methods of inquiry, including the formal and iconographic analysis of works of art.
- Students will gain a basic knowledge of the cultural complexity of Africa as revealed through the arts.
- Students will understand the importance of the visual arts in Africa in both the historical and the aesthetic sense.

## **Course Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course will have:

- a basic knowledge of African art in a variety of media, including architecture.
- basic competency in the fields of stylistic and iconographic analysis of works of art, which they may apply to further classroom or viewing experiences.
- the opportunity to improve written expression and critical thinking skills, leading to increased competency and confidence in the articulation of ideas.
- a deeper understanding of the methods of making and issues surrounding the creation of works of art.

# **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

## **Required Text and Materials**

1) Weekly readings are assigned from the following text:

**TEXT:** Monica Blackmun Visona, Robin Poynor and Herbert M. Cole, [A History of Art in Africa](#), second edition, can be rented online at [www.chegg.com](http://www.chegg.com) or at Amazon.com. It can also be purchased used at these sites and at the UTEP Student Bookstore.

2) Images included on exams are in the text or are available as Powerpoints in BLACKBOARD.

3) Books required for the written assignment are on reserve in the main library (circulation desk).

4) Students are required to bring either a notebook or recording device to lectures. Laptops may be used to take notes; any other use will result in the suspension of this privilege.

## **Exams**

There will be three exams in this course, which will constitute 75% of your overall grade. These exams will not be cumulative, but will only cover material from each unit. Exams will consist of the following: slide identifications, slide comparisons, discussions and an essay. The first exam will include a take home essay. Tentative dates for the first two exams are indicated in the following calendar. Be advised that these dates can change. Specific images that you are required to know for all of these exams are available in BLACKBOARD. Images may be downloaded or printed at your convenience.

## **Paper**

For this assignment you will choose a mask from one of the books on reserve in the main library and will write a 5- page discussion of the mask in terms of: appearance (including size and materials used), symbolism, original use and cultural significance. Additionally, I want you to compare your mask with at least one other mask we have seen, considering similarities either in appearance or function, or both. The paper must be written in your own words and reflect your critical thought about the work chosen. Original wording (set apart in quotation marks) or ideas borrowed from any text or online source must be cited in the body of the paper, and references must be listed at the end of the discussion. Your text should be 1 1/2 or double-spaced and written in a legible 12 pt. font with standard 1" margins. It must be at least 5 full pages in length and without extra spaces between paragraphs. In an upper division course such as this, papers are expected to be thoughtful, organized into coherent paragraphs, and absolutely free of spelling or grammatical errors. A hard copy of your paper is due in class Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. This assignment constitutes 25% of your grade in this course.

## **Grading Standards and Criteria**

Evaluation of student performance for this course is done in the following manner:  
All grades are calculated using percentages and converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

- 90% & above = A** - excellent work
- 80% & below 90% = B** - above average work
- 70% & below 80% = C** - average work
- 60% & below 70% = D** - below average work
- Below 60% = F** - unsatisfactory work, failing

## **Computer Access to Blackboard**

All of the images you are required to know for exams will be delivered via BLACKBOARD, which you access by following the steps outlined below:

Go to UTEP portal at <https://my.utep.edu> and log in.

Your user name is your e-mail id and your password is your e-mail password. If you do not have an id and password, call the Helpdesk at 747-5257. You MUST have a UTEP email ID to access BLACKBOARD.

Once you are in the **My.Utep** space, you can find the link to BLACKBOARD near the top of the webpage. Your courses appear on the BLACKBOARD homepage. Click on **African Art AH 3366-001 I** to enter our course. Click on Course Content in the menu on the left. Required images are arranged by Unit and region/culture.

# Course Policies

## Attendance Policy:

**Because attendance at lectures is crucial to your successful completion of this course, the following policy has been adopted:**

- Each student is permitted 3 absences without penalty.
- More than 3 absences will result in the student's final average being lowered 5 percentage points. More than 6 absences may result in the student being dropped from the course.
- Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student. Borrow notes from a classmate if you miss a lecture.

## Classroom Etiquette:

- Cell phone use during class time is prohibited. Please turn phones to silent mode.
- Chronic tardiness is a disruptive and disrespectful behavior that undermines everyone's ability to focus; it will not be tolerated in this class. Students who are unable to commit to the scheduled meeting time should take the course at a later date.

## Exam/Paper Etiquette:

**The following policy for conduct during exams will be rigorously enforced.**

- Be in your seat and ready to begin on time. Latecomers will not have access to the images they have missed.
- No talking or communicating in any manner with another person during the exam. Please make sure your phone is turned off.
- At home essays are due in class on the day of the exam.
- Paper is due in class on the due date. No electronic submissions, please.
- Papers are to be written in the student's own words. Original wording and ideas taken from sources other than lectures must be cited. Using someone's idea or original wording and passing it off as your own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course. Students who plagiarize any portion of their essay will be referred to the Office of Student Life for disciplinary action.

## Policy for Make-up Exams:

**Make-up exams are given by arrangement and approval of the instructor. To qualify for a makeup exam the student must meet one of these criteria:**

Student missed exam due to his/her serious illness. The makeup request must include a doctor's note. Routine doctor and dentist visits are not valid reasons for missing an exam.

Student missed exam due to a death in the immediate family. Documentation must be provided.

**Absences due to work related and child-care issues will not entitle the student to a makeup exam. Makeups are given during the instructor's office hours. As per official UTEP policy, makeups are not given for the final exam. No exceptions.**

**Policy for Extra Credit:**

I do not offer extra credit for this course.

**Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail Policies**

- Incompletes or I grades will be considered for students completing satisfactory or better work and having serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All I grades are at the discretion of the instructor and the approval of the Department chair.
- Students hold the full responsibility for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a W. Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade for their performance in the course.
- ARTH 3366 is a grade-based course and is not available for audit or pass/fail options.

**PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT**

**Cheating/Plagiarism:** Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

**Disabilities:** I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways:

Webmail: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)  
Phone:(915) 747-5148  
Union Building East Room 106  
Monday thru Friday 8:00a.m.-5:00 p.m.

# Course Calendar

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule.

## **WEEK ONE (1/19-1/23)**

**(M/19) No Classes – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

(W) OUR FIRST CLASS MEETING

Introduction to African art; Syllabus overview

Purchase Text and Read Introduction pps. 14-19

(F) Introduction to Saharan Rock Art

## **WEEK TWO (1/26-1/30) Text: Read Chapter 1 Sahara and Maghreb**

Saharan Rock Art

The Maghreb

## **WEEK THREE (2/2-2/6) Text: Read Chapter 2 Lands of the Nile: Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia**

Lands of the Nile: Egypt: Old and New Kingdoms

Visit to 3-d Animation of Tomb Chapel of Nebamun in British Museum

Lands of the Nile: Nubia: Kush and Meroe; Ethiopia: Aksum

## **WEEK FOUR (2/9-2/13) Text: Read Chapter 3 Central Sudan**

The Central Sudan: Nok Terracotta Figures

Sokoto and Bura Terracotta Figures; Chamba and Mumuye Figures

Hausa and Fulani culture

DVD: *Fulani: Art and Life of a Nomadic People*

## **WEEK FIVE (2/16-2/20) Text: Read Chapter 4 Mande Worlds & Upper Niger**

Ancient Malian Terracottas

Mud Buildings of Djenne; You Tube Viewing of *Great Mosque of Djenne*

African Masking Traditions: An Overview

Bamana Wood Sculpture and Masking Traditions

## **WEEK SIX (2/23-2/27) Text: Read Chapter 5 Western Sudan** **Study for Exam I; Complete Essay for Exam I**

Dogon architecture, wood sculpture and masks

Senufo masking traditions and figural sculpture

Bwa masquerades

## **WEEK SEVEN (3/2-3/6)**

DVD: *African Masks: Burkina Faso*

The Mossi of Burkina Faso; Nankani Architecture

**(F/6) EXAM I (Chapters 1-5)**

**Essay portion due in class today**

**WEEK EIGHT (March 9-13)**  
**SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES**

**WEEK NINE (3/16-3/20) Text: Read Chapter 6 West Atlantic Forests**

Sapi Culture; Sapi-Portuguese Ivories; Jola horned masks; Baga Masks  
Mende: Sande Masks of Sierra Leone  
The Dan and their Neighbors; Guro masquerades

**WEEK TEN (3/23-3/27) Text: Read Chapter 7 Akan Worlds**

Akan Culture: regalia and Arts of Statecraft  
Asante gold weights, Akua'ma shrine sculptures  
Baule Sculptural Traditions; Fante

**WEEK ELEVEN (3/30-4/3) Text: Read Chapter 8 Yoruba and Fon**

Yoruba: Ife Portrait Heads and Figures of the Pavement Period; Owo

**(T/31) No Classes – Cesar Chavez Day**

Yoruba Royal Arts; Arts of the Divinities; Masking Traditions: Egungun & Gelede; Fon

**(F) No Classes – Spring Study Day**

**WEEK TWELVE (4/6-4/10) Text: Read Chapter 9 Lower Niger**  
**Study for Exam 2**

**(M/6) Course Drop Deadline – Last day to drop a course with a “W”**

Royal Arts of the Benin (Edo); Igbo Ukwu bronzes  
Igbo Shrines (Mbari) and Masking Traditions  
Other Lower Niger Masking Traditions: Ibibio, Okpella, Kalabari, Ijaw

**WEEK THIRTEEN (4/13-4/17) Text: Read Chapter 10 Cross River, Cameroon**  
**Grasslands & Gabon**

Ekoi/Ejagham masks of the Cross River region of Cameroon

Royal art of the Cameroon grasslands; Cameroon masking traditions: Kuosi Society Masks

**(F/17) EXAM 2 (Chapters 6-9)**

**WEEK FOURTEEN (4/20-4/24) Text: Read Chapter 11 Western Congo Basin**

Gabon Cultures: Fang *Bieri* heads and figures; Kota reliquary figures  
Masks of the Fang, Kwele and Punu  
Kongo Kingdom; Minkisi (power figures); Yombe Pfemba figures  
Chokwe Leadership and Initiation Arts, Pende masking

**WEEK FIFTEEN (4/27-5/1) Text: Read Chapter 12 Eastern Congo Basin**

Masking Traditions of the Yaka, Lulua style; Kuba masks

Luba, Hema and Songye

Court art of the Azande and Mangbetu

**(F/1) PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

**WEEK SIXTEEN (5/4-5/8) Text: Read Chapter 13 Eastern Africa**

Tutsi Basketry of Rwanda and Burundi; Buganda Ceramics

Contemporary Ceramics of Kenya: Magdalene Odundo

Personal Arts of the Maasai

**(F/8) Dead Day – No Classes**

**FINAL EXAMS WEEK**

**Your final is Wednesday, May 13 @ 10:00 am**

**Regular Classroom**

**Exam covers Chapters 10-13**