



Art in Africa: Spring 2022

Course: ARTH 3366 Art in Africa CRN: 21954

Meeting Times and Location: MWF 9:30-10:20 in FFA Room A458

This course is an introduction to the rich and varied history of art and architecture of all regions of Africa, including Egypt and the Maghreb. Major monuments and art objects from ancient to modern times in a variety of media will be studied in terms of style, iconography and original cultural context and significance. Students will attend three in person lectures in Fox Fine Arts on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30-10:20. Assigned readings from the text must be completed each week and are indicated in the course schedule. Several videos designed to engage students in the visual/performative arts of certain cultures will also be required viewing. All of the Powerpoint lectures are available in Blackboard for students to review each week along with specific required works that they will be tested on. Students will also write a paper about a mask of their own choosing that they have researched independently.

This class is geared to students at the Junior-Senior level from all academic disciplines with an interest in the rich artistic traditions of this remarkable continent. Graduate students are required to complete additional work in order to receive graduate credit for this class.

ARTH 3366 is a required course for art history majors and can also fulfill the upper-division elective for art history minors. Students from other disciplines may fulfill their 3000- Level Fine and Performing Arts elective with this course, as there are no pre-requisites.

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Anne Perry

Office Hours: MW 11:30-1:00.

Office: Fox Fine Arts A354

Email: aperry@utep.edu

Required Text:

There is a single text required for this course, which students should acquire prior to the beginning of class on January 19th: *A History of Art in Africa, second edition*, by Monica Blackmun Visonà, Robin Poyner and Herbert M. Cole. Pearson. ISBN: 9780136128724 It is available to rent in paperback at the [UTEP Bookstore](#) or on [Amazon.com](#).

Technical Requirements (This is a technology enhanced course)

Four unit exams will be delivered via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the most supported browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications with the LMS. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

Make sure you have the following:

- UTEP email account
- Access to a PC or Mac computer with a strong, stable internet connection (the UTEP Library 2nd floor computer lab is open days, evenings and weekends during the semester. Face mask and social distancing will be enforced)
- Firefox and Chrome browsers
- Microsoft Word (for written assignments) and Powerpoint (for viewing lectures)

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the [Help Desk](#). They are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

For technology support: TS.UTEP.EDU | or call 915-747-4357 (HELP)

Blackboard Learn

Please make sure you can access your ARTH 3366 Art in Africa Blackboard link from the my.utep.edu page. Knowledge of Blackboard is a requirement for this class. Exams, announcements, instructional videos, web links to art sites, the syllabus and course schedule, the written assignment, as well as grades will be posted there. You must have access to a strong internet connection either at home or school. A strong Internet connection is especially important when taking exams. For more information about **remote learning** go to:

<https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/learningremotely.html> or the **Blackboard for Students** site at: https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/BB_Students.html

Modules

Course content is delivered in person and in Blackboard modules. We have four Content Units, which correspond to major regions and cultures. With the exception of textbook readings, all of the material that you will need to read or view, including Powerpoint lectures, PDFs, online articles, videos, etc., will be available and accessible in each unit, as will the writing assignment. Whenever you open our course in Blackboard you will always land on the Course Content page with the Welcome and 4 Instructional Units at your fingertips. By clicking on a unit you will see that it is organized into weekly modules that list all tasks that you should complete for each week. Exams will be available on specific days between midnight and 11:59 pm, and you will access them in the corresponding Unit/Weekly module Table of Contents. Your research paper will be assigned in Blackboard and will be submitted in the original assignment at a later date. The Welcome module contains the course syllabus.

Course Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will have:

- a basic knowledge of major works of Africa 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, research and critical thinking skills, leading to increased competency and confidence in the articulation of ideas.
- a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding the creation of works of art

Course Requirements

Exams (4) 80% of your final grade

There will be four exams in this course, which will constitute 80% your overall grade. These exams will not be cumulative, but will only cover material from each unit. Exams may consist of any of the following: slide identifications, short answer questions, slide comparisons, discussions and longer essays. All exams will be available in Blackboard between midnight and 11:59 of the assigned date. The first unit exam will cover select works of art and architecture from the first three chapters of the text. The second exam covers chapters 4-6. The third unit exam will cover chapters 7-9 and the Unit Four exam covers chapters 10-13 and will be available during Final Exams week, on Wednesday, May 11, between midnight and 11:59 pm. Each unit module in Blackboard contains a Powerpoint of the required works for the unit exam. Be prepared to thoroughly identify and discuss each required work based upon information delivered in lectures and your text.

You are not permitted to use any type of study materials or communicate with anyone during exams. Cutting and pasting responses to exam questions from my lectures, reviews or other sources is strictly forbidden. Exams will be completed in a single sitting.

Research Paper 20% of your final grade

Students will research a specific mask of their choosing from library materials, including the list of online sites given below, and write a 5-page discussion of the mask in terms of its appearance. (including size and materials used, as well as the rest of the costume work by the masquerader if known), any symbolism it conveys, its original function and significance to the individual or community. Additionally, students are asked to carefully compare their mask to a single comparable mask covered in course lectures, considering similarities in the masks' appearance or function, or both. You might, for example, choose to compare your chosen mask to one with a similar appearance that differs in materials and meaning. Similar functions could also be the basis for your comparison. Do not compare your mask to another from the same culture.

On the due date, you will submit a clear and coherent paper of at least 5 full pages in length in the Blackboard Written Assignment. Your Microsoft Word text must be 1 1/2 or double-spaced in a legible 12 pt. font, with standard one-inch margins. It must be organized into coherent paragraphs free of spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors. Do not include extra spaces between paragraphs. Do include a cover page with your name, the date, the course number, and the title of your paper.

As is the case for any paper submitted for college credit, your paper must be written in your own words. Any excerpt, quotation, description, idea, thought or concept that belongs to another person-- whether from a book, article, or the Internet-- must be correctly documented. For instructions on proper citation of sources in the Chicago style, consult the [Purdue Owl Online Writing Lab](#). Plagiarism is not tolerated in this class. If any portion of your paper is plagiarized you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict resolution, which could result in a zero on the work in question, a failing grade in the course, disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal. For some tips on avoiding plagiarism, see: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf>. Furthermore, if your paper contains an excessive number of quotes from other sources, it will be returned to you without a grade and you will not receive credit for this assignment.

If you need help with technical aspects of writing (grammar, punctuation, organization into coherent paragraphs, etc.) or your written expression in general, please seek assistance at the [Writing Center](#) in the main library well before the due date. Your paper is due to me on Monday, May 2 by 11:59 pm.

Finding Your Mask

While you may choose to further research a category of mask that we have covered in the text and lecture, I encourage you to spend some time looking through various online collections of African art to find an example that we have not studied. The largest digital collection of art online is called [ARTSTOR](#), and is available through UTEP library. There are also wonderful collections of African art at museums around the world, including: [The Metropolitan Museum](#), [Smithsonian National Museum of African Art](#), [The British Museum](#), the [Brooklyn Museum](#), the [Barbier Mueller Museum](#), [Art Institute of Chicago](#), The [Quai Branley Museum/Louvre](#) and [The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco](#).

Conducting Research

The [UTEP Library Art Research Guides](#), compiled by librarian David Flores, is a good place to begin research into your chosen mask. Included in David Flores's site are some very useful links to sites devoted to the study of African art, including the University of Michigan site, [Mother of All Art and Art History Links](#), as well as [Stanford University Library's Africa South of the Sahara](#), an annotated bibliography of internet resources that you can explore by country or topic. Be sure to check out the website devoted to African art created by Dr. Christopher Roy at the University of Iowa: [Art and Life in Africa](#). [Smarthistory](#) articles and videos about African art may also be useful. The UTEP library also offers decades of African Arts magazine, a scholarly magazine with peer reviewed articles, available in JSTOR. [Grove Art Online](#) (Oxford Art Online) is also available as a UTEP database.

Use only quality reputable scholarship. Wikipedia is not peer-reviewed and is thus not reputable, but some entries have bibliographies at the end and those may be useful.

GRADING: Final grades for this course will be based on the results of three examinations, three online class discussions and the essay. Your grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Four Exams	80%
Research Paper	20%

Grading Standards and Criteria: All grades are calculated using percentages and converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

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

Students hoping to raise their grades should communicate with the professor about strategies for improved performance on assessments well before the end of the semester.

Course Policies

ATTENDANCE: You are expected to attend all class meetings unless ill or in the midst of a personal or family emergency. I will take attendance before most lectures. Be advised that excessive unexcused absences will result in your being dropped from the class.

At the time of this writing Covid-19 illness is on the rise again in El Paso; therefore, if you become ill please remain at home until better. You should also be tested for Covid. Be sure to contact me at aperry@utep.edu to inform me of your situation.

MASKING UP: I cannot mandate that you wear a mask while in class, but I do ask (as someone who is part of the group designated as high risk) that you do so. The new Omicron variant of the virus is highly contagious and can be transmitted by vaccinated persons; for this reason the CDC recommends that we all wear masks in indoor public spaces. If you are not yet vaccinated [please visit this website](#). Being vaccinated, wearing masks and social distancing are the most effective measures we have to keep one another safe.

FYI: I am vaccinated (and will deliver lectures in a mask).

COMMUNICATION: There are a couple of ways to email me: through Blackboard Course Messages, which you access in the Course Menu or through my regular UTEP email account at: aperry@utep.edu. Be sure to use your UTEP email account when you contact me. I will often communicate with the class through the Announcement tool on Blackboard, so you should check there (click on Announcements in the course menu) frequently for updates and reminders.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: You are expected to check Blackboard and your syllabus frequently and to keep up with the class. You must take exams and contribute to discussions during the window of time in which they are open, unless there is some sort of **serious emergency** (not a conflict that you schedule) that makes it impossible, and that can be documented with a note from an appropriate professional. It is also your responsibility to turn in your paper on time. If you miss a deadline due to circumstances outside of your control, communicate with the instructor immediately, so that we may determine the best course of action to take. Non-communication could result in your being dropped from the course.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS/MISSED ASSIGNMENTS: Makeups will be permitted for assignments missed due to illness or a serious situation beyond your control.

TO DROP THIS COURSE: Please contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, please contact the instructor. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an F for the course.

INCOMPLETES: 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.

PASS/FAIL: The pass/fail option is not available for this course.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Plagiarism is the use of the ideas, information, or words of another author or fellow student without giving proper credit to your source. You are responsible for citing your sources as indicated by the instructor and, in cases where you directly quote from a source, for enclosing those words that are not your own in quotation marks. Failing to give proper credit to your sources in these ways is academic dishonesty. You are also responsible for adhering to the instructor's rules on exams; to do otherwise is considered scholastic dishonesty. All suspected incidences of academic dishonesty will be referred to the office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for investigation. See UTEP policy on this issue at <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>. For some tips on avoiding plagiarism, see: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or at their [website](#). For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [this address](#). CASS staff are the only individuals who can validate and, if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities. Students can now access or request services online and from the safety and comfort of their home 24/7. Do so through CASS's new [AIM Portal](#).

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. **The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.**

A STATEMENT FROM THE PROVOST: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the

vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit <https://www.epstrong.org/>

All COVID-19 updates for UTEP can be found at www.utep.edu/coronavirus.

Course Calendar

UNIT ONE- Chapters 1-3

WEEK ONE (1/17-1/21)

(W/19) OUR FIRST CLASS MEETING

Lecture: Introduction to African Art

Homework: Read and review the course syllabus

Purchase text and read Introduction, pp. 14-19

(F) Lecture: Introduction to Saharan Rock Art

WEEK TWO (1/24-1/28) Chapter 1: Sahara and Maghreb

Lectures: Rock Art of the Saharan Desert; The Maghreb

Homework: Read Text Chapter 1

Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 1: Sahara and Maghreb

Study Required Works for Chapter 1

WEEK THREE (1/31-2/4) Chapter 2: Lands of the Nile: Egypt, Nubia, Ethiopia

Lectures: Egypt: Old and New Kingdoms

Nubia: Kush and Meroe; Ethiopia: Aksum

Homework: Read Text Chapter 2

Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 2: Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia

Study Required Works for Chapter 2

WEEK FOUR (2/7-2/11) Chapter 3: Central Sudan

Lectures: Nok Terracotta Figures

Sokoto and Bura Terracotta Figures; Chamba and Mumuye Cultures

Hausa and Fulani cultures

Homework: Read Text Chapter 3

Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 3: Central Sudan

Watch: [Male Head, Nok Culture](#)

[Fulani: Art and Life of a Nomadic People](#)

Study Required Works for Chapter 3; Study for Unit One Exam

UNIT TWO- Chapters 4-6

WEEK FIVE (2/14-2/18) Chapter 4: Mande Worlds and the Upper Niger

(M/14) Unit One Exam (Covers Required Works for Chapters 1-3 and videos)

Available midnight until 11:59 pm

Lectures: Ancient Malian Terracottas of Jenne Jenno

Mud Buildings of Djenne

Bamana Wood Sculpture and Masking Traditions

Homework: Read Text Chapter 4

Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 4: Mande Worlds and the Upper Niger

Watch: [Lost History: the terracotta sculpture of Djenne Djenno](#)

Study Required Works for Chapter 4

WEEK SIX (2/21-2/25) Chapter 5: Western Sudan

Lectures: Dogon Architecture, Wood Sculpture and Masks

[Dogon Dama Ceremony in Tireli](#)

Senufo Masking Traditions and Figural Sculpture

Homework: Read Text Chapter 5

Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 5: The Western Sudan

Watch: [Dogon Couple \(Dogon peoples\)](#)

Study Required Works for Chapter 5

WEEK SEVEN (2/28-3/4) Chapter 5 Continued

Lectures: Bwa Masks and Masquerades

Lectures: [Bwa Masks of Leaves and Wood](#)

[Masks of the Bonde Family in Boni Perform](#)

Mossi Masks; Nankani Architecture

Homework: Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 5: The Western Sudan

Study Required Works for Chapter 5

WEEK EIGHT (3/7-3/11) Chapter 6: West Atlantic Forests

Lectures: Sapi Culture; Sapi-Portuguese Ivories; Jola horned masks; Baga Masks

Mende: Sande Masks of Sierra Leone

The Dan and their Neighbors; Guro masquerades

Homework: Read Chapter 6

Read and Review Powerpoint 6: West Atlantic Forests

Watch: [Headdress: Female bust \(D'mba\)](#)

Watch: [Bundu / Soweï Helmet Mask \(Mende peoples\)](#)

Study Required Works for Chapter 6; Study for Unit Two Exam

WEEK NINE (3/14-3/18)

Spring Break – No Classes

UNIT THREE- Chapters 7-9

WEEK TEN (3/21-3/25) Chapter 7: Akan Worlds

Lectures: Akan Culture: Regalia and the Arts of Statecraft

Akua'ma Shrine Sculptures; Baule Sculptural Traditions; Fante

Homework: Read Text Chapter 7

Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 7: Akan Worlds

Watch: [Sika dwa kofi \(Golden Stool\), Asante people](#)

[Asafo flags: Stitches through time](#)

Study Required Works for Chapter 7

(W/23) Unit Two Exam (Covers Required Works for Chapters 4-6 and videos)

Available midnight until 11:59 pm

(F/25) César Chávez Day – No Classes

WEEK ELEVEN (3/28-4/1) Chapter 8: Yoruba and Fon

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

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

Homework: Read Text Chapter 8

Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 8: Yoruba and Fon

Study Required Works for Chapter 8

(R/1) Drop Deadline- Last Day to Drop a Class with a W.

WEEK TWELVE (4/4-4/8) Chapter 9: The Lower Niger

Lectures: Royal Arts of the Benin (Edo); Igbo Ukwu bronzes

Igbo Shrines (Mbari) and Masking Traditions

Other Lower Niger Masking Traditions: Ibibio, Okpella, Kalabari, Ijaw

Homework: Read Text Chapter 9

Read and Study Powerpoint Lecture 9: The Lower Niger

Watch: [How to impress your courtiers: a lesson from the Kingdom of Benin](#)

Study Required Works for Chapter 9; Study for Unit Three Exam

UNIT FOUR- Chapters 10-13

WEEK THIRTEEN (4/11-4/15) Chapter 10: Cross River, Cameroon Grasslands And Gabon

Lectures: Ekoi/Ejagham masks of the Cross River region of Cameroon

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

Gabon Cultures: Fang *Bieri* heads and figures; Kota reliquary figures

Read Text Chapter 10

Read and Review Powerpoint 10: Cross River, Cameroon Grasslands and Gabon

Watch: [Elephant Mask, Kuosi Society, Bamileke Peoples, Cameroon](#)

[Male Reliquary Guardian Figure \(Fang peoples\)](#)

[Keeping your loved ones close: a Kota reliquary figure](#)

Study Required Works for Chapter 10

(W/13) Unit Three Exam (Covers Required Works for Chapters 7-9 and videos)

Available midnight until 11:59 pm

(F/15) Spring Study Day – No Classes

WEEK FOURTEEN (4/18-4/22) Chapter 11: Western Congo Basin

Masks of the Fang, Kwele and Punu

Kongo Kingdom; Minkisi (power figures); Yombe

Chokwe Leadership and Initiation Arts

Watch: [Female \(pwo\) mask \(Chokwe peoples\)](#)

[Power Figure \(Nkisi Nkondi\) Kongo peoples](#)

Read Text Chapter 11

Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 11 Western Congo Basin

Study Required Works for Chapter 11

TH/21 5:00-7:00 pm - Quin 212 - 7th Annual Art History Symposium (Extra credit event)

WEEK FIFTEEN (4/25-4/29) Chapter 12: Eastern Congo Basin

Lectures: Pende Masking Traditions

Masking Traditions of the Yaka and Suku; Lulua style; Kuba masks

Luba Culture; Hemba Masquerade

Homework: Read Chapter 12

Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 12 Eastern Congo Basin

Study Required Works for Chapter 12

WEEK SIXTEEN (5/2-5/6) Chapter 13: Eastern Africa

M/2 Paper Due by 11:59 pm

Lectures: Songye Masks and Minkisi; Court Art of the Mangbetu

Tutsi Basketry of Rwanda and Burundi; Buganda Ceramics

Contemporary Ceramics of Kenya: Magdalene Odundo; Personal Arts of the Maasai

Homework: Read and Review Powerpoint Lecture 13: Eastern Africa

Study Required Works for Chapter 13

Study for Unit Four Exam

(F/6) Dead Day – No Class

FINALS WEEK (5/9-5/13)

(W/11) Unit Four Exam (Covers Required Works for Chapters 10-13 and videos)

Available midnight until 11:59 pm