



AFRICAN ART

Spring 2018

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; [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 history to succeed in this class; however, attendance at all class meetings, participation in class discussions, and taking thorough lecture notes are fundamental to your 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 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 or at Amazon.com. It can also be purchased used at these sites and at the UTEP Student Bookstore.

MATERIALS: Students are required to take notes (in a notebook or on a laptop) or use a recording device during lectures.

2) Books available for the written assignment are on reserve in the main library at the circulation desk.

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, prompted 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 Monday, April 30th. 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

Course Policies

Attendance Policy:

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

- **As per Liberal Arts policy, the student is expected to attend all class meetings.** Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Each student is permitted 3 absences without penalty.
- More than 3 absences or 5 tardies 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.
- Requests for excused absences due to teacher accreditation examinations, medical or pharmacy school interviews, or UTEP sponsored activities, must be accompanied by official documentation of these activities. Without proper documentation, these absences (if increasing your total absences to 4 or more) will be penalized.
- **Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student. I do not provide lecture notes for students; 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. If you are expecting an emergency call, please leave the classroom quietly and take the call.
- Food and beverages are allowed in this classroom, provided that each student takes responsibility for keeping his or her area clean.
- Chronic tardiness is a disruptive and disrespectful behavior that undermines everyone's ability to focus; it will not be tolerated in this class. Be on time!

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.
- Take home essays are due in class on the day of the exam unless another date is specified.
- The paper is due in class on the due date. No electronic submissions, please.
- Papers are to be written in the student's own words. Wording taken from any online or printed source must be set off in quotation marks and cited. 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 Conduct and Conflict Resolution 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.

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

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. I cannot provide accommodations for a student if I have not received official notice from CASS documenting the student's eligibility and requirements. Each student registered with CASS needs to speak with me about their accommodations in the classroom (and testing procedures on examination days) at the beginning of the semester or as soon as they are registered with CASS.

Course Calendar

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

WEEK ONE (1/15-1/19)

(M/15) No Classes

(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 (1/22-1/26) Text: Read Chapter 1 Sahara and Maghreb

Saharan Rock Art

The Maghreb

WEEK THREE (1/29-2/2) 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 (2/5-2/9) 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 (2/12-2/16) Text: Read Chapter 4 Mande Worlds & Upper Niger

Ancient Malian Terracottas
Mud Buildings of Djenne
Bamana Wood Sculpture and Masking Traditions

WEEK SIX (2/19-2/23) 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 2/26-3/2)

DVD: *African Masks: Burkina Faso*
Nankani Architecture

(F/2) EXAM I (Chapters 1-5)
Essay portion due in class today

WEEK EIGHT (3/5-3/9) 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 NINE (March 12-16)
SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES

WEEK TEN (3/19-3/23) 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 (3/26-3/30) Text: Read Chapter 8 Yoruba and Fon

Yoruba: Ife Portrait Heads and Figures of the Pavement Period; Owo
Yoruba Royal Arts; Arts of the Divinities; Masking Traditions: Egungun & Gelede; Fon
(R/29) Course Drop Deadline – Last day to drop a course with a “W”
(F/30) CESAR CHAVEZ DAY – SPRING STUDY DAY - NO CLASSES

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

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 (4/9-4/13) 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/13) EXAM 2 (Chapters 6-9)

WEEK FOURTEEN (4/16-4/20) Text: Read Chapter 11 Western Congo Basin

Chapter 10 continued; Gabon Cultures: Fang *Bieri* heads and figures; Kota reliquary figures
Masks of the Fang, Kwele and Punu

WEEK FIFTEEN (4/23-4/27) Text: Read Chapter 12 Eastern Congo Basin

Chapter 11 continued: Kongo Kingdom; Minkisi (power figures)
Chokwe Leadership and Initiation Arts, Pende masking
Masking Traditions of the Yaka, Lulua style; Kuba masks

WEEK SIXTEEN (4/30-5/4) Text: Read Chapter 13 Eastern Africa
(M/30) PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Chapter 12 continued: Luba, Hamba and Songye
Court art of the Azande and Mangbetu
Tutsi Basketry of Rwanda and Burundi; Buganda Ceramics
Contemporary Ceramics of Kenya: Magdalene Odundo; Personal Arts of the Maasai
(F/4) Dead Day – No Classes

FINAL EXAMS WEEK

Your final is Wednesday, May 9 @ 10:00 am
Regular Classroom
Exam covers Chapters 10-13