

Eastern Illinois University
ART 3340G, Multicultural Aesthetics

1. Catalog Description

- a. Course level: ART 3340G
- b. Title: Multicultural Aesthetics
- c. Credit: 1-4-3
- d. Term to be offered: F, S
- e. Short Title: Cultural Aesth
- f. Course Description: The study of cultural aesthetics through the comparison of art within different societies. Lecture, studio, and writing experiences will introduce students to the culturally significant meaning of different art forms. Not open to students whose major or minor is art.
- g. Prerequisite: No prerequisites
- h. The course is writing-active.

2. Student Learning Objectives

- a. List student learning objectives that are designed to help students achieve one or more of the following goals of general education and university wide assessment:
 - EIU graduates will demonstrate the ability to write and speak effectively.
 - EIU graduates will demonstrate the ability to think critically.
 - EIU graduates will function as responsible citizens.

In successfully completing this course, students will:

- (1) Complete two writing assignments relating to lecture topics. One will be a research paper and the other will be a comparative analysis paper. (critical thinking, writing)
- (2) Develop a basis for understanding and evaluating visual works in terms of their production and aesthetics. Learn to apply historical, philosophical, and critical concepts to the artwork of the various cultures studied to recognize relevant relationships between cultures and being able to identify the similarities and differences. The course will provide the student with the foundation necessary to appreciate and understand diverse cultures and viewpoints through art. (critical thinking, citizenship)
- (3) Understand the diversity of other cultures through the artwork of those cultures. By studying the artwork of differing cultures students will be able to appreciate and make more informed decisions as to how these cultures define themselves through their art. (citizenship)
- (4) Apply historical, philosophical, and critical concepts learned in the lecture to the lab assignments to create four individual projects showing understanding of aesthetic principles and concepts. This involves identifying and interpreting information, recognizing relationships, and formulating a conclusion by way of an individual project. (critical thinking).

- (5) Participate in group and individual critiques, both verbal and written, of art works on exhibit and completed lab projects. (speaking, writing)
- b. Indicate additional student learning objectives, if any designed to help students achieve the goal of the course and /or a particular discipline or program.
 - (1) The student will also become aware of how historical and cultural issues influence contemporary artwork
 - (2) The student will learn about various three-dimensional art processes and materials.
 - (3) The student will learn how to use material and tools in a safe and appropriate manner.

3. Course Outline

The course will meet for fifteen weeks, five hours per week for three credits. The course has lecture and studio components. The lecture component will meet once a week for 50 minutes and the studio component will meet twice a week for a total of 200 minutes.

Week 1 Introduction to the course and the writing assignments
 The class syllabi and Lecture Handbook will be reviewed including discussions of course content, writing assignments, and class safety.

UNIT ONE: JAPANESE AESTHETICS

Week 2 Slide Lecture: Japanese Aesthetics: The Kimono

The Kimono (Kosode) has become a universal symbol of beauty in Japanese culture and can be studied for its rich historical emphasis on beautiful design.

Fabric dying techniques will also be studied in relationship to their use in developing the design on the Kimono.

Studio Experience: Discussion of materials, technical demonstrations and design assignments in preparation for studio project.

The students will be exposed to different studio experiences based on the expertise of the instructor. However, the projects will address themes based on the lectures.

Examples: Development of a silk scarf or clay object with emphasis on Japanese aesthetics as it relates to technique and design.

Individual and group critiques will be conducted during and on completion of the assignment. A quiz and/or written assignment will be given on studio procedures.

Week 3 Slide Lecture: Japanese Aesthetics: Mingei (People's Art/Folkcraft)

The lecture will convey an insight into the Japanese idea of beauty by studying various aspects and media known as Mingei (People's Art).

Studio Experience: Continued work on studio assignment.

Week 4 Slide Lecture: A Comparison of Media

The student will be introduced to various media (clay, textiles, wood, glass, and metal) by viewing slides comparing work from several cultures.

Studio Experience: Continued work on studio assignment.

UNIT TWO: NATIVE AMERICAN AESTHETICS

Week 5 Slide Lecture: Native American Aesthetics: A Unity of Art and Life. (Basketry)

Through the study of Native American basketry the student will develop an insight into the universal human urge to beautify the things one makes, an aesthetic drive that continues into contemporary time.

Studio Experience: Discussion of materials, technical demonstrations and design assignments in preparation for studio project.

The students will be exposed to different studio experiences based on the expertise of the instructor. However, the projects will address themes based on the lectures.

Example: Development of a basket form with the emphasis on Native American aesthetics as it relates to technique and design.

Individual and group critiques will be conducted during and on completion of the assignment. A quiz and/or written assignment will be given on studio procedures.

Week 6 Slide Lecture: Functions of Dress: A Reflection of Culture and Society.

Through the study of the functions of dress in various cultures the student will gain an understanding of the different textile techniques used by different cultures in the development of their dress.

Studio Experience: Continued work on studio assignment.

Week 7 Lecture: Review for Midterm Exam

Studio Experience: Continued work on studio assignment.

Midterm Exam

UNIT THREE: AFRICAN AESTHETICS

Week 8 Slide Lecture: African Aesthetics: The Decorative Spirit - Body Adornment.

The student will study the cultural lifestyles of seven geographical African groups, ie. Rendille, Dinka; Benin, Asanti; Bobo, Dogon; Fulani, Wodaabe; Tuareg, Moors; Berbers; Coptic Christians, Rashida. Each group uses body adornment as a means of physical expression which shows the identity of the individual and the group.

Studio Experience: Discussion of materials, technical demonstrations and design assignments in preparation for studio project.

The students will be exposed to different studio experiences based on the expertise of the instructor. The projects will address themes based on the lectures.

Examples: The use of jewelry as body art or the development of a mask form to make a personal aesthetic statement.

Individual and group critiques will be conducted during and on completion of the assignment. A quiz and/or written assignment will be given on studio procedures.

Week 9 Slide Lecture: African Aesthetics: The Decorative Spirit - Masks.

The mask form will be used as a means of showing the symbolic relationship between humanity, myth, and nature. A comparison will be made between the masks of several cultures (Africa, Northwest Coast Indians, Mexico, New Guinea, and Japan).

Studio Experience: Continued work on studio assignment.

Week 10 Slide Lecture: African Aesthetics (Continued)
The use of the mask form of different African tribes will be compared.

Studio Experience: Continued work on studio assignment.

UNIT FOUR: MULTICULTURAL AESTHETICS

Week 11: Slide Lecture: Western Aesthetics in Multicultural Perspective.

Society's role in the aesthetics of cultural expression as seen in historical perspective by means of a comparison between western and non-western art forms. Lecture continued Week 13.

Studio Experience: Continued work on studio assignment.

Week 12 Slide Lecture: Western Aesthetics in Multicultural Perspective: A Comparison of European, American, and African-American Quilts.

The study of the quilt form and its history is an excellent vehicle for the student to study the multi-cultural aspect of a single art form.

Studio Experience: Discussion of materials, technical demonstrations and design assignments in preparation for studio project.

The students will be exposed to different studio experiences based on the expertise of the instructor. However, the projects will address themes based on the lectures.

Examples: Projects that compare western and non-western art forms such as folk arts from various cultures (the quilt form).

Individual and group critiques will be conducted during and on completion of the assignment.
A quiz and/or written assignment will be given on studio procedures.

Week 13 Slide Lecture: Western Aesthetics in Multicultural Perspective: A Comparison.

Society's role in the aesthetics of cultural expression as seen in historical perspective by means of a comparison between western and non-western art forms.

Studio Experience: Continued work on studio assignment.

Week 14 Lecture: Review for Final Exam

Studio Experience: Continued work on studio assignment.

Week 15: Lecture: Final Exam

Studio Experience: Final critique of studio projects.

4. Evaluation

a. Achievement of student learning will be evaluated on the following:

- Research Paper and Lecture Writing Assignments 10%

The course will include two writing assignments. One will be a research paper and the other a comparative analysis paper relating to the lecture topics.

- Studio Projects 50%
Students will be evaluated on the completion of four individual projects related to specific topics introduced during the semester. The projects allow the students to apply historical, philosophical, and critical concepts learned in the lecture sections to their own individual projects.
 - Studio Writing Assignments 10%
Students will be evaluated on the completion of studio writing assignments relating to the studio experience. These writing assignments may include written critiques of gallery exhibits or completed lab projects.
 - Midterm and Final Exam 30%
Evaluation will also be done by means of a midterm and final exam with essay questions.
- b. This will be a writing-active course. The course will include two writing assignments one of which will be a research paper and the other of a comparative nature relating to the lecture topics. The mid-term and final exam will include essay questions. The students will also have short writing assignments relating to the studio experience.

5. Rationale

- a. This course, Art 3340G, should be placed in the Fine Arts segment of the Humanities and Fine Arts area of study. The visual arts are a means of communicating, teaching, and transmitting cultural ideas and values. This course will analyze the various meanings of art and explore the ways these meanings function in the lives of people from different cultures in comparison to our own society.
- b. Art 3340G, Multicultural Aesthetics, should be at the 3000 level because the course is a study and comparison of the aesthetics of cultures as displayed in the functional artworks of those cultures. The course is not a broad based introductory course where each lecture or studio session is devoted to discussing or experimenting with several different visual ideas or artworks. Art 3340G is similar in scope to other lecture/studio courses offered at the 3000 level in the Art Department where a subject matter is narrowly defined and lab experiences are extended activities directly related to the lecture component. The course does not have any prerequisites as the course content does not assume any prior knowledge in art or the cultures discussed in the course.
- c. There is no significant overlap with any existing course.
- d. This course, Art 3340G, is not an approved elective for any programs, majors, or minors in the Art Department; the course is not open to students whose major or minor is art. The course does fulfill the third world, non-western requirements for teacher certification majors and may be used as an art elective for education majors selecting Art as area of concentration.

6. Implementation

- a. Suzan G. Braun will be assigned initially as course coordinator. She will be responsible for the lectures and will coordinate the studio experience. Other instructors will be Mr. Dave Pooley and other art faculty as needed.
- b. Required Textbook(s): Richard L. Anderson. CALLIOPE'S SISTERS: A Comparative Study Of Philosophies of Art, 1990.
Richard L. Anderson. ART IN SMALL-SCALE SOCIETIES, 1989.
Alice Sprintzen. CRAFTS: Contemporary Design and Techniques, 1987.
- c. Any additional costs: Students taking this course will be assessed a \$15.00 material usage fee. This fee will cover the cost of most materials for studio projects such as wax, dye, silk scarf, clay and glazes, metal, and stained glass. The student will also be asked to purchase a LectureHandbook for \$2.00 from the EIU Bookstore.
- d. Term in which course will first be offered: Fall 2000

7. Community College Transfer

A community college course may not be judged equivalent to this course.

8. Date Approved by Art Department February 1, 2000

9. Date Approved by CAHCC March 8, 2000

10. Date Approved by CAA October 19, 2000

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