

Eastern Illinois University  
ART 3610G, African Art

1. Catalog Description
  - a. Course level: ART 3610G
  - b. Title: African Art c.  
Credit: 3-0-3
  - d. Term to be offered: S, even-numbered years
  - e. Short Title: African Art
  - f. Course Description: Comprehensive study of the styles and functions of African Arts.
  - g. Prerequisite: No prerequisites
  - h. The course is writing-intensive.

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) Each identify and describe in response papers the unique features and aesthetic values behind various African artistic traditions (critical thinking, writing).

(2) Discuss and evaluate the cultural context and social issues involved in artistic production in Africa (critical thinking and citizenship).

(3) Each present to the class research from the study of one area of African art (speaking and critical thinking)

- 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) Demonstrate an ability to effectively discuss and interpret African aesthetics in the terms and values that are appropriate to the historical period and the culture.

(2) Conduct in-depth research for a presentation on a topic covered in the course outline.

### 3. Course Outline

The course will meet for fifteen weeks of 45 fifty-minute or 30 seventy-five-minute or 15 one-hundred-fifty-minute class periods. This is a sample format.

Week 1	Introduction to the cultures and arts of Africa
Week 2	Geography and its influence in the formation of culture & art
Week 3	The Study of African Art Understanding Iconography
Week 4	Issues in Archeology Debate over the Malian antiquities in the International art market Prehistoric Rock Art of South and North Africa The Lydenburg Heads Nok Ceramic works
Week 5	Architecture Great Zimbabwe Djenne Mosque Nomadic Tents of North and East Africa
Week 6	Royal Arts Benin Royal Bronze Asante Royal thrones & regalia Nubian kingdom
Week 7	Ritual and Clan Art The Bamana chiwara masks Yoruba Egungun Masquerade Senufo rituals Kung! San Trance rituals
Week 8	Magic Ancient Egyptian Medicine and Magic Kongo Nkisi figures Yoruba twins figures: Ere Ibeji
Week 9	Science, & Religion Yoruba Ifa divination Ethiopian Christian art Moslem Calligraphy Blacksmiths in West Africa
Week 10	Handy-crafts Ndebele House painting Central African Throwing knives Makonde wood carving

Week 11	Jewelry & Clothing Kuba raffia cloth Massai Jewelry & Clothing Asante kente cloth
Week 12	Dance, & Music Ladysmith Black Mombazo Bori dance of the Hausa King Sunny Ade & Juju music Capoeira dance martial art
Week 13	Theatre Pende mask traditions (Central Africa) Wole Soyinka (West Africa) Dogon masquerades
Week 14	Modern Twins Seven Seven (Nigeria) Chris Ofili (British) Sokari Douglas Camp (American) Trigo Piula (Congo)
Week 15	Tourist & Political Art The Coffins by Kane Kwei Mami Wata paintings of Zaire South African Township Art

#### 4. Evaluation

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

\* Response papers 40%

The course requires students to write 3 response papers, 2-4 pages in length. These writing assignments will help evaluate the student's critical thinking, writing ability, and factual knowledge about the course content.

\* In-class presentation 20%

Students are also required to give a 15-minute presentation on an assigned topic. The presentation allows students to research in greater detail a particular topic and find an effective means of communicating the subject to the class.

\* Final Project 20%

Students are also required to submit a final project, which can be an 8 to 10 page research paper or a creative project that applies the student's artistic skills to a tradition covered in the course. The final research project allows the students to explore their own area of interest and exploit their own skills and abilities.

\* Final Exam 20%

Lastly there is one final exam which is used to evaluate the comprehension and retention of the course content.

b. African art satisfies the writing intensive requirement because the response papers together constitute 40% of the student's total grade. Furthermore, students will be required to revise first response paper and are encouraged to rework any of the other written assignments in order to improve their grade. Rewritten papers can be turned in any time before the last day of classes as long as the rewritten paper has also been examined by the Writing Center in Coleman Hall.

## 5. Rationale

a. This course, Art 3610G, should be placed in the Fine Arts segment of the Humanities and Fine Arts area of Study. The broad survey nature of this course is intended to give as diverse a background as possible without sacrificing the historical and cultural integrity of the subjects covered.

b. Art 3610G, African Art, should be at the 3000 level because the course is a study of the arts of a single geographic region, unlike Art 2012G, Nonwestern Fine Arts, which is an introductory study of the arts of several geographical regions. Art 3610G is similar in scope to other 3000 level courses offered in the Art Department where a region and/or time period are studied in depth by the students. 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 class. The course is open to Art majors for elective credit only.

c. African Art is not taught in any other course in the same comprehensive and detailed manner. Hence there is no significant overlap with any existing course.

d. Art 3610G may be used as an elective for any of the B.A. in Art options. The course also fulfills third-world non-western requirements for teacher certification majors.

## 6. Implementation

- a. A member of the faculty of the Art Department will be assigned initially.
- b. Required Textbook(s): Perani, Judith and Fred T. Smith. The Visual Arts of Africa: Gender, Power, and Life Cycle Rituals. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1998.
- c. Any additional costs: A reading packet of special materials is available at X-Copy (approximate cost is \$9.50).
- d. Term in which course will first be offered: Fall 2000

## 7. Community College Transfer

A community college course will 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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