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.


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

Department contact person:  Glenn Hild

Campus phone:  217.581.3410