

Moravian College Syllabus
Art History 291 African Art
Spring 2009 Tuesday and Thursday, 2:25-3:35 pm Main Comen 005
Professor Kearns MarthaKearns@Msn.com

Availability: Best time for a conference is immediately before or after class. If this is inconvenient, a meeting can be scheduled in advance in my office, Tuesday or Thursday, 3:50 to 4:50 pm.

Course Goals

Students will gain an aesthetic and cultural understanding of the art of Africa, ancient to contemporary. Sculpture will be the main focus of study, but also included will be architecture, painting, textiles, and artisan works. Students will examine African aesthetics according to religious and cultural principles in their own context, as well as in contrast to the aesthetic principles of western art. Students will also gain an understanding of the influence of the African diaspora and art in Europe, Latin America and the United States, as well as acquire use of the vocabulary of African Art to critically discuss and analyze works of art.

(This course meets LinC M5/Global Awareness Requirement)

Required Text for purchase or loan

Africa: The Art of A Continent. Edited by Tom Phillips, NY: Prestel Publications, 2004.

Course Requirements

1. Students must attend all classes and bring the required text to each class.
2. Students must complete two analyses, a midterm, a final project, and a final exam.
3. Students must attend the SMA African Art Museum Field Trip as assigned.
4. Students must complete peer group sessions as assigned.

Evaluation

Grading: 40% of your grade is determined by written work; 40% by exams and the final project, 10% by peer group participation, and 10% by attendance.

Papers: there will be an Aesthetic Analysis required on two different topics. Criteria for these will be given beforehand.

Peer Group Analyses: field assignments will require preparation for discussion. Criteria for each will be given beforehand.

Exams: There will be a Midterm and a Final Exam, identifying, comparing, and analyzing images from the text.

Final Project: A power point presentation will show the aesthetic, cultural and historical influences of each group's choice for **Greatest Works of African Art, 77,000 BP. to 2009 AD**

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Week 1/ January 20 and 22

Introduction, African Aesthetics, *Weltanschauung*, Paleolithic to predynastic Egypt. Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 8-37, 179-191, 103-105, 548-552.
Ancient Egypt and Nubia. Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 41-115.

Week 2/ January 27 and 29

African Aesthetic and Cultural Influences in Minoan, Mycenaean, Etruscan Civilizations, Classic Nok to Meroe. Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 48-9, 107-115, 194-5, 534-43, 553-8, 478, 484, 326, 526-531.
African Aesthetic and Cultural Influences in the Greco-Roman World, Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, p 543, 536-8, 553-8.

Peer Seminar I Black Athena (hand out) Due January 1/29

Week 3/ February 3 and 5

Ancient West Africa, Coptic Christianity, Islam, 500 BC-1500 AD
Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 178, 196, 230, 240, 326-412/179, 198-99, 327, 406, 468-70, 478-83, 488-95, 576-82, 538-43, 559-61, 586-91.

Greatest Works of African Art Group Meeting #2 2/5
Aesthetic Analysis I Due 2/5

Week 4/ February 10 and 12

South Africa, Igbo-Ukwu to Ife in West Africa, Ife Aesthetics
Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, p 178, 182-4, 194-6, 327-45, 383-95, 404-08.

Peer Seminar II: African Art *in situ* Due 2/12

Week 5/ February 17 and 19

Nigeria Sculptural Continuity, Ife to Benin
Read **Africa: The Art of A Continent**, pp 327, 412-431.
Greatest Works of African Art Group Meeting #2 2/19

Week 6/ February 24 and 26

Ancient Djenne-Juno, Ancient Mali, Dogon
Read **Africa: The Art of A Continent**, pp 479-95.
Midterm Exam February 26

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Week 7/ March 3 and 5

Spring Break No Class

Week 8/ March 10 and 12

Divination

Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 231-9, 244-8,
268-9, 288-91, 427, 454, 456, 527.

Peer Seminar III: African American Art Due 3/12

Week 9/ March 17 and 19

Benin, African Art to the 18th Century

Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 337-345, 395-403.

Week 10/ March 24 and 26

African Art, European Colonialism in the 19th Century,
Diaspora of African Art to Europe

Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 231-325, 440-6,
448, 452-5, 517, 132, 150, 162, 166, 174-5.

Greatest Works of African Art Group Meeting #3 3/26

Week 11/ March 31 and April 2

West African Art to the 19th Century, African Art and Modern
European: Cubism/Expressionism

Read **Africa: The Art of A Continent**, pp 327, 412-431, 337-45,
395-403, 231-325.

**Note: Required NYC field trip tentatively scheduled for
Friday, April 3**

Week 12/ April 7 and 9

Central African Art to the 19th Century, African Art and the
New York City's Harlem Renaissance

Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 145-53, 170, 346, 348, 355,
358, 363, 366-7, 372, 382, 392, 440-3, 500-2, 513, 517, 522.

Field Aesthetic Analysis II due 4/9

Week 13/ April 14 and 16

Early 20th Century African Art, African Diaspora in the Americas

Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 142-3, 146-7, 153,
158-9, 204-8, 256, 260, 276-8, 280, 300, 305, 312, 357-8, 421-6,
432, 436, 447-52, 456--7, 460-3.

Peer Seminar IV: African Art/Western Art due 4/16

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Week 14/ April 21 and 23

Contemporary African Art, 1980-2009
Read **Africa: The Art of A Continent**, pp 218-9, 372, 472,
465-6, 501, 520-2, 525, 544-6, 570-1, 573-5.
Greatest Works of African Art Groups Meeting #4 4/21

Week 15/ April 28 and 30

Greatest Works of African Art Presentations
Due 4/28 and 4/30

Week 16/ Week of May 4

Final Exam, date and classroom to be announced