

Moravian College Syllabus

Art History 291 African Art

Spring 2010 Monday and Wednesday, 2:35-3:45 pm Comenius 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 the Art Office, Mon – Wed 1:15 to 2:15 pm.

Course Goals

Students will gain an aesthetic and cultural understanding of the art of Africa, from prehistory to the present day. Sculpture is the primary medium studied in the course, but textiles, painting, artisanal works and architecture are also included. Students will consider how religion and cultural influences affect the development of regional and national styles. The influence of the African diaspora on art in Europe, Latin America and the United States will be considered. Students will acquire the critical vocabulary required to analyze and interpret African Art, and apply it in both discussion and writing.

(This course meets LinC M5/Cultural Values and Global Issues Requirement)

Text: Africa: The Art of a Continent. Edited by Tom Phillips, NY: Prestel Publications, 2004. *Special note about text for Spring 2010. The text is currently out of print, although used copies are available on Amazon.com. We have copies of the text available for loan in the Art Office (South Hall, Lobby Level, near Payne Gallery). Since we do not have sufficient copies of the text for this large class, you may sign out copies for two nights, or a weekend. You may come before or after class, or during Art Office Hours daily from 9 to 12, or 1 to 4:30. If you have any questions, call the Art Office at 610-861-1680, or email to jciganick@moravian.edu. Please contact us before coming in the event of weather issues. Please do not wait until late afternoon on Fridays to sign out the text. We are planning to scan the text and have it available on Blackboard by no later than the fourth week of class.*

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 African Art Museum Field Trip as assigned.
4. Students must complete peer group sessions as assigned.
5. Students should expect to work 3 hours per week outside of class to adequately prepare for this class.

Attendance: The Art Department established this department-wide attendance policy to apply to students in all art classes. For classes that meet twice a week: **After the second unexcused absence, final grade will be dropped by one full letter. After the fourth unexcused absence, student will receive a failing final grade.**

An excused absence is one confirmed by a note from the Dean's Office, Student Services, the Learning Center, or verified with a doctor's note (within 24 hours of illness). Death in family should be confirmed with Student Services.

Documentation is required for sports. Coach should email a note to instructor confirming matches, meets, departure time for away games, or anything that would require absence from class. Practice is not an excused absence.

Job interviews or doctor's/dentist's appointments are not to be scheduled during class.

Missing Portions of Class: The following count as unexcused absences

- More than 15 minutes late for class
- Failure to bring supplies to class
- Failure to return from break
- Leaving class half an hour or more early
- Being tardy more than 3 times. Tardiness: being 5 to 15 minutes late for class

Students: If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility (not the professor's) to find out what you missed and to catch up in a timely manner.

Disability Statement: Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

Academic Honesty Policy: Please reference the College policy in Student Handbook. Cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated and will result in a 0 or F. Written assignments are designed to engage students with material covered in class through visual participation and personal reaction. Papers must be your own thoughts, impressions and reactions. The Internet can provide valuable source material, but you must participate by visiting the artwork yourself, in person, and offering your own viewpoint. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Be aware that I am very familiar with art websites, such as those of major art museums, when you write your papers.

Evaluation

35% Written Work (papers)

Papers are an Aesthetic Analysis required on two different topics. Criteria for these will be given beforehand. **Aesthetic Analysis I** is 15%, and **Field Analysis II** is worth 20%.

35% Exams (midterm 15%, final 20%)

There will be a Midterm and a Final Exam, identifying, analyzing and comparing images from the text. A review power point will be available on Blackboard prior to each exam.

15% Peer Seminars (Peer Group Analyses): 3 analyses, each weighted 5%.

Field assignments will require preparation for discussion with the peer group. Criteria for each will be given beforehand. **Peer Seminar I, II, and III:** each is weighted 5%. **Peer Seminar I** is a group discussion. **Peer Seminar II and III** are short individual power point presentations.

10% Final Project – Most Influential / Greatest Works of African Art

A power point presentation will show the aesthetic, cultural, and historical influences of each group's choice for **Greatest Works of African Art**. Criteria for this will be given at the group's first meeting.

5% Attendance

ART 291 African Art Proposed Schedule of Meetings Spring 2010 (Subject to change)

Week 1/ January 18 and 20

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 25 and 27

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 1/27

Week 3/ February 1 and 3

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 2/3
Aesthetic Analysis I Due 2/3**

Week 4/ February 8 and 10

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 2/10

Week 5/ February 15 and 17

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 2/17

Week 6/ February 22 and 24

Ancient Djenne-Juno, Ancient Mali, Dogon
Read **Africa: The Art of A Continent**, pp 479-95.
Midterm Exam February 24

Week 7/ March 1 and 3

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 3/3

ART 291 African Art Proposed Schedule of Meetings Spring 2010 (continued)

Week 8/ March 8 and 10 Spring Break No Class

Week 9/ March 15 and 17

Benin, African Art to the 18th Century
Read **Africa: The Art of a Continent**, pp 337-345, 395-403.

Week 10/ March 22 and 24

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 3/24
REQUIRED NY Field Trip Friday March 26

Week 11/ March 29 and 31

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,

Week 12/ April 5 and 7

Note: No Class April 5 due to Easter Break
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 4/7

Week 13/ April 12 and 14

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.

Week 14/ April 19 and 21

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 4/19

Week 15/ April 26 and 28

Greatest Works of African Art Presentations Due 4/26 and 4/28

Week 16/ Week of May 3

Final Exam, date and classroom to be announced