

Fall Semester 2009
Afro-American Studies/Art History 241
Elvehjem Building, Chazen Museum of Art, L160
M/W 2:00-2:50pm
plus discussion section (120 Elvehjem)
Course Website: hum.lss.wisc.edu/hjdrewal/index.html
Office hours: M 3-4pm or by appointment

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Introduction to African Art and Architecture

This course examines the rich heritage of African arts and architecture as they shape and have been shaped by the histories and cultural values (social, political, religious, philosophical, and aesthetic) of African peoples.

Readings and Course Resources

Various subjects are covered on a weekly basis. The **required text** is a course reader to be purchased at Bob's Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue, 257-4536. Other **required readings** are in Visona et. al. A HISTORY OF ART IN AFRICA . Due to the high cost of this textbook, there are five copies (3-hour reserve) in this course's College Library reserves, listed under the author's name. If you're interested in purchasing your own copy, you might try some good websites for discount books: www.half.com or www.bookfinder.com.

Seeing and thinking visually are central to this course; the **course website** (this will soon also be linked to the Department of Art History course websites) is designed to aid and complement your studies. The website contains all of the course's materials, including the syllabus, course description, maps, and web pages that correspond to the lecture topics. In addition, you should consult the course website for the **original color images** that accompany the required readings in the course reader—not only will the images contribute to your understanding of the course readings, but your analysis of both image and text is crucial to your success in this course. You will find the readings' original images linked to the online syllabus. **Optional recommended** readings can be found on e-reserve; they are indicated by an ** below.

Required reading assignments supplement class lectures and should be read **BEFORE** topics are presented and discussed in class. You should also consult the course website (see above) which introduces topics and serves as an important study guide. A CD-ROM entitled ART AND LIFE IN AFRICA is also on reserve in the College Library and is recommended as another supplement to your assigned readings. There is also an extensive collection of videos on African and African Diaspora arts and culture at College Library and the Kohler Art Library and feature films from Africa at the LSS Language Lab, 2nd floor -- Van Hise. Students are encouraged to consider using these for potential extra credit projects (see below).

Requirements

One paper (approx. 3 double-spaced, 12 pt font, typewritten pages) is required. It will be a style (formal) analysis of a work of African art. In all cases, a drawing must accompany your style analysis (a photo is optional). You can select an art work from 1) A small exhibit of African art curated by my graduate student Marguerite Heckscher that is on display in a niche case in the Chazen Museum of Art, third floor or 2) a bus fieldtrip to Chicago we will do on Sunday,

September 27 (7:30am –6:30pm) when you can select an African art work at either the Art Institute of Chicago and/or the Field Museum of Natural History. Your cost for the Chicago fieldtrip is \$25 for bus and museum admissions (the African Studies Program at UW is covering the bus expense – food is at your own expense. \$25 cash is due to Jeanne Essame by Wednesday, September 16 – first come, first served – after Sept 16 we will open seating to others. The style analysis paper is due on **Monday, October 5, 2009**. Turn in your paper and drawing (and optional photo) in class that day.

In addition, there are two examinations, a mid-term (**Wednesday, October 28, 2009**) and a final (**Tuesday, December 22nd at 10:05 – 12:05 in our classroom L160**). Discussion sections will be run by the Graduate Teaching Assistant, **Jeanne Essame**. Her office hours are T – 1-2pm, and TH -- 1-2pm or by appointment in **4130** Helen C. White (4th floor), tel. 265-8250; email essame@wisc.edu.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their preparation, class and discussion section participation, paper, and exams. Examinations will test both 1) the material presented and discussed in class and sections, and 2) the readings (required readings from course packet and Visona et al.). Students are therefore urged to attend all classes and assigned sections, take careful notes, and review all readings. Each part of your grade (paper, midterm exam, final exam, and class prep/participation/discussion participation/attendance) is worth 25% of the final grade. In addition, your discussion section may entail small, short quizzes (e.g. African map quiz at the beginning of the semester) as well as short assignments or presentations designed to jumpstart and deepen discussion. Your performance on these quizzes and discussion assignments will be factored into the participation and preparation component of your final grade.

****You are allowed two unexcused absences from discussion section, after which your final grade will be lowered one category per additional unexcused absence (ex: A becomes AB after three unexcused absences, AB becomes B after four, etc. etc.).**

Extra credit projects (3 points maximum added to final average) are encouraged. These can be: 1) service-learning projects (ideally) related to African arts and culture (organized through the Office of Service Learning and Community-based Research; a Service Learning Fellow (Jeannette Velazquez) will assist you); 2) short critical papers (2-3 typed pages) on guest lectures, performances, films, videos, exhibits, etc.; 3) critical review and presentation in discussion section of an optional reading, or 4) class presentations (5-10 minutes) such as slide lectures, demonstrations, masking, dance, and/or musical performances, etc. on any topic related to African arts and culture. All these are to be determined after consultation with the instructor. They may be either group or individual projects that will be presented during the final class session(s). You should be aware that there are a variety of arts events this semester related to Africa and the African Diaspora – these will be announced in class as the semester progresses. For other resources, check the bulletin board by my office and also the African Studies Program website at: <http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afirst/local/index.htm>. You are encouraged to attend and participate in these events, and to submit reports of them for extra-credit in the course.