General Information:

Instructor: Noelle Theard Phone: (305) 348 - 6860
Office Hours: By Appointment
E-mail: Please use Blackboard Messages; in the event that Blackboard is unavailable, you may email me at: ntheard@fiu.edu

Course Description and Purpose
This course provides a survey of African visual art from the traditional arts of Africa to the contemporary African art movements that are currently energizing global art markets and academic discourses. Students will engage history and aesthetics to comprehend the role that African art has played in both traditional and contemporary African societies. The course will also contextualize the importance of African art on a global scale. Lectures, readings, films, and images explore the breadth of African visual arts. Students will understand the role that African art has played in traditional, colonial, post-colonial and contemporary contexts, and they will understand how historical and geopolitical events have affected African visual arts.
Students will begin by interrogating their own notions of Africa and will be able to analyze the ways in which Africa has been constructed in the popular imagination. Through the study of African history and geography, students will gain a foundational knowledge of the continent and the many countries that comprise it, as well as the role and function of art in traditional African societies. Moving forward, students will study the impacts of colonialism on the African continent, reading both art historical and anthropological texts to deepen their understanding of colonialism’s effects on African art. Students will explore issues such as concepts of authenticity, the art/artifact debates, and modernism’s appropriation of African art. Particular emphasis will be placed on postcolonial realities in Africa as a result of African independence movements and their effects on African visual arts. The course then incorporates African visual arts in the diaspora, and finishes the semester examining contemporary African visual artists.

Course Objectives

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

• Identify critical historical moments and art movements in African art.
• Compare and contrast different styles and genres of African art.
• Understand the global and historical significance of African art.
• Evaluate the importance of African art in a global context.
• Synthesize the links between history and art making.
• Critically engage art historical texts.
• Understand how processes of globalization affect African art.
• Critique African art in the context of international global art movements.
• Appreciate art from the global African Diaspora, as well as continental Africa.
• Explain their personal positions, tastes, and opinions regarding African art

GL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

• GLOBAL AWARENESS: Students will demonstrate their understanding of how world historical events affect African artists and how those artists, through their artistic choices, in turn, influence history.
• GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE: Students will develop an analysis of the short and long term effects of British and French systems of colonialism on African society, and particularly on traditional, modern, and contemporary African visual arts.
• GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: Students will be tasked to engage in their communities to seek out and support African and African Diaspora arts initiatives. They will define problems facing African arts and find solutions to raise awareness of the importance and impact of African visual arts.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures, readings, films, and discussions are the core components of the course.

Student engagement and participation via discussion forums is a key part of the course.

The instructor will regularly post relevant articles and encourage students to also post and interact with other students in the class.

Small group dialogs and chats will also be an important component of the class. Students will learn from each other’s multivalent experiences as students from many different disciplines and walks of life.

Independent research and critical engagement with the course topics will be encouraged.

POLICIES

Please review the FIU’s Policies webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

TEACHING REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer’s operating system and software quickly and
easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "What's Required" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our Technical Requirements webpage for additional information.

Please visit our ADA Compliance webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

There are no proctored exams for this course.

There are no required textbooks for this course. All readings and videos will be provided for you via the Blackboard site.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Review the how to get started information located in the course content
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers
- Review and follow the course calendar
- Log in to the course twice per week
- Respond to discussion boards, blogs and journal postings within 3 days
- Respond to Blackboard Messages within 3 days
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

The instructor will:

- Log in to the course 4 times per week
- Respond to discussion boards, blogs and journal postings within 2 days
- Respond to Blackboard Messages within 2 days
- Grade assignments within one week of the assignment deadline
COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via Messages. All messages should be sent through the Blackboard system. I will respond to messages quickly, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

Messages is a private and secure text-based communication system which occurs within a course among its Course members. Users must log on to Blackboard to send, receive, or read messages. The Messages tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course webpage. It is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

Visit our Writing Resources webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

VIDEO LECTURES AND COURSE CONTENTS

Start each week by viewing the brief video lectures I have recorded summarizing the main ideas we are dealing with each week. These lectures will help to contextualize the course materials into the larger themes in the class, and will help you be successful on your weekly assignments.

All of the materials provided to you to view and read on Blackboard are mandatory. Do not skip or skim the contents, the class has been carefully designed to maximize learning and your understanding of the materials.

PARTICIPATION

Students must participate in the online class discussions each week, and are welcome to post links that are related to the course material.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will have 12 Weekly Assignments worth 50 points each over the course of the semester. This will establish a routine so that you can manage your time accordingly, and it also ensures that you are keeping up with the course materials.

Most assignments will be composed of five questions, worth 10 points each, and should be answered as comprehensively as possible, usually within one long paragraph per question.

Review the detailed Turnitin instructions on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.
FINAL REPORT ON AFRICAN ARTIST

Students will write a final 7-10 page research paper on an African artist of their choice.

Review the detailed Turnitin instructions on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.

Course Requirements

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<th>Total Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 Weekly Assignments (50 points each)</td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Report on African Artist</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Letter Range (%)

A Above 940
A- 900 - 939
B+ 870 - 899
B 840 - 869
B 840 - 869
A- 900 - 939
B+ 870 - 899
B 840 - 869

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Date Tasks Week 1
1. View slideshow on African geography.

Assignments:
Introduce yourself on discussion board

Week 2

To Do:

Assignments:
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment

Week 3

To Do:

Assignments:
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment
Week 4
To Do:
2. African Slave Trade – African Holocaust slideshow

Assignments:
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment

Week 5
To Do:

Assignments:
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment

Week 6
To Do:
1. “The anthropology of African art in a transnational market” and “The quest for authenticity and the invention of African Art” by Christopher Steiner.

Assignments:
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment

Week 7
To Do:
1. Introduction to “The Short Century” by Okwui Enwezor
2. Olu Oguibe. “Into the Heart of Darkness.”
3. Lumumba – a film by Raoul Peck

Assignments:
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment
Week 8  
To Do:  
1. Intro, Chapter 1  
2. Chapter 2 – Kasfir  
3. Slideshow: Cheri Samba  

Assignments:  
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignments.  

Week 9  
To Do:  
3. Slideshow: Seydou Keita and Malick Sidibé  

Assignments:  
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment  

Week 10 NO ASSIGNMENTS - SPRING BREAK  

Week 11  
To Do:  
1. Contemporary African Artists (links and readings on Blackboard)  

Assignments:  
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment  

Week 12  
To Do:  
1. Contemporary African Artists (links and readings on Blackboard)  

Assignments:  
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment  

Week 13  
To Do:  

Assignments:  
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment
Week 14
To Do:
1. Work on your final research papers.

Assignments:
Participate in the discussions and complete your weekly assignment

Week 15
To Do:
1. FINAL RESEARCH REPORT on one African contemporary artist.
2. THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS CLASS.

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