ARTS 3690 (3) LEC. Pr. Sophomore standing; 6 hours of 1000-level Art History or departmental approval.
An introduction to the art, artists, themes and issues in African art from the pre-colonial period to the contemporary era.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing and completion of 6 hours of 1000-level Art History or departmental approval.


Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the art, artists, themes and issues in African art from the pre-colonial period to the contemporary era. Students will study painting, sculpture, architecture, body art, textiles, masquerades and other forms and practices that make up this complex history. Students will be expected to recognize the arts of major cultural groups in Africa, use appropriate art historical terminology, and grasp important concepts in African art and culture.

Classroom Format: Class meetings will consist of illustrated lectures, large and small-group discussions, and short in-class writing sessions that will develop students’ use of art historical methodology and practice.

Requirements: Students are expected to engage fully with the course material by completing all reading assignments, participating actively in discussions, asking questions as needed, and attending class meetings, in addition to fulfilling all assignments in a timely manner. Students may withdraw from the class (with a W on their transcripts) until midsemester.

Attendance: Consistent attendance is required and is necessary for a student’s success in the class. Attendance will be taken daily. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the attendance sheet before leaving lecture. Students may miss a total of three (3) class periods over the course of the semester.
without penalty. After three absences, three (3) points will be deducted from the final course grade for each unexcused absence. Excused absences include serious documented cases such as illness, or death in the family, per AU policy. Consult the current Tiger Cub Student Handbook for more information.

**Make-ups:**
In-class assignments and exams may be made up with proper University approved excuses within one week of the original due date, per AU policy.

**Class conduct:**
Students should not arrive late, leave class early, or wander in and out of class unless absolutely necessary. Cell phones, BlackBerries, iPods, computers, and other electronic devices must be silenced and put away during class meetings. Emailing, texting, surfing the web, playing computer games, etc. are all expressly forbidden. Baseball caps, hats, cell phones, computers, other electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom during exam periods.

At all times student behavior in the classroom must communicate the utmost respect for others. Talking while others are speaking, being openly disrespectful of different opinions, or in any way impeding the free exchange of ideas will result in the students being asked to leave the classroom.

**Academic Honesty:**
The Auburn University Student Academic Honesty Code is in effect at all times in this course. Violations such as cheating on exams, sharing answers on assignments, plagiarizing papers, or signing someone else’s name to the attendance sheet will be handled according to the processes laid out in the Academic Honesty Code. For more information, see [http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/ahc.html](http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/ahc.html)

**Accessibility:**
Students who require accommodations should provide me with the appropriate documentation as soon as possible. Please contact the Program for Students with Disabilities if you have questions. For more information see [http://www.auburn.edu/academic/disabilities/](http://www.auburn.edu/academic/disabilities/)

**Please note:**
Students are strongly encouraged to speak with me periodically throughout the semester during office hours, or as needed. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you need additional help in this course.

--Students may withdraw from the class (with a W on their transcripts) until midsemester.
--Make-ups for all missed and late work are allowed with proper University approved excuses within one week of the original due date.
--Student emails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt.
--The final exam will be given at the University set time and date.
--All readings are to be completed before coming to class.
--There are no unannounced quizzes.
ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Exams: Two exams [dates] will test students’ knowledge and understanding of specific images, contextual and historical information, and broader themes and issues in African art. Exam material will be drawn from lectures, the textbook, additional readings, and class discussions. The exam format will consist of slide ids, terms, and essay questions. Review sheets for exams will be distributed periodically throughout the semester. Exam #2 (the final exam) will be given at the University set time and date.

Quizzes: There will be three (3) quizzes over the location of major African countries and cities. Maps and study guides will be provided. There are no unannounced quizzes.

Research Project: Over the course of the semester students will explore a particular work of art through a series of assignments, leading to a final research paper. Assignments include a visual analysis essay, annotated bibliography, outline, and final paper (to be submitted with all previous graded assignments). Specific guidelines will be distributed and discussed in class. Students are encouraged to meet with me periodically to discuss their research and writing.

Readings/Responses: All readings are to be completed before coming to class. Students will also write five responses to additional readings during the semester. Readings and guidelines will be located on BlackBoard. Students may choose which five readings they will respond to, however, responses are due on the day for which the reading is assigned.

In-class Assignments: Short responses, essays, worksheets, and other types of in-class assignments, based on readings, previous lectures, and discussions, will be assigned regularly and will constitute part of the participation grade. In-class assignments may not be made up, except in serious cases of illness, etc. See AU policy.

Grade Breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography Quizzes (3)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Analysis</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responses</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</table>
Grading Scale: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 0-59%

Other Guidelines: Please, NO email submissions of any assignments and/or excuses. All assignments (except in-class work) are to be typed in the following format: Times New Roman, 12 pt, double spaced, one-inch margins.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

All readings (both textbook and additional readings) must be completed by all students before the class period under which they are listed.

Chapters and page numbers refer to the textbook (Visona – Art in Africa). Additional readings (and questions) available on the Blackboard (BB) site: https://blackboard.auburn.edu

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

WEEK 1

Meeting 1 Introduction to the course: Objectives, Requirements, and Expectations What is “African Art”? Concepts, Methods, and Issues


WEEK 2

Meeting 1 Arts of the North African Sahara Read: Chapter 1, pp. 26-47

Meeting 2 Arts of Ancient Egypt and Early Christian Ethiopia Read: Chapter 2, pp. 48-77 **Geo. Quiz 1 (North and West Africa)

WEEK 3

Meeting 1 Arts of the Central Sudan: Nok, Hausa, Fulani cultures Read: Chapter 3, pp. 78-105
WEEK 4

Meeting 1  Mande Arts
Read: Chapter 4, pp. 113-129
Additional Reading: McNaughton, P., “The Power Associations: Komo”

Meeting 2  Art of the Western Sudan: The Tellem and Dogon
Read: Chapter 5, pp. 130-144

WEEK 5

Meeting 1  Art of the Western Sudan: The Senufo, Bwa, and Mossi
Read: Chapter 5, pp. 130-165
Additional Reading: Glaze, A., “Women, Power, and Art in a Senufo Village”

Meeting 2  Ancient Art of West Africa
Read: Chapter 6, pp. 168-172

WEEK 6

Meeting 1  Masking Societies of West Africa
Read: Chapter 6, pp. 173-190
**Visual Analysis Essay Due**

Meeting 2  Cross-currents and Hybrid Forms: History of Coastal ports in West Africa
Read: Chapter 6, pp. 191-192

WEEK 7

Meeting 1  Cross-currents and Hybrid Forms (continued)
Film: “The Language You Cry In: The Story of a Mende Song” (1998)

Meeting 2  **MIDTERM EXAM**

WEEK 8

Meeting 1  The Akan: Art and Leadership
Read: Chapter 7, pp. 194-208

Meeting 2  The Akan: Funerary arts, shrines, and masks
Read: Chapter 7, pp. 208-227
*Mid-semester point (last day to withdraw with a W)*

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**WEEK 9**

Meeting 1  Arts of Ancient Yoruba: Ife, Owo, and Esie
Read: Chapter 8, pp. 228-239

Meeting 2  Royal Arts, Divination Practices and Masquerades of the Yoruba
Read: Chapter 8, pp. 239-273
Additional Reading: Pemberton, J. “Introduction” to *Insight and Artistry in African Divination*

Field Trip:  Visit to the African Collection of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta

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**WEEK 10**

Meeting 1  Arts of Ancient Igbo Ukwu
Read: Chapter 9, pp. 274-278
*Annotated Bibliographies Due*

Meeting 2  Arts of the Lower Niger
Read: Chapter 9, pp. 278-310

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**WEEK 11**

Meeting 1  Royal Arts of Benin
Read: Chapter 9, pp. 310-327
Additional Reading: Blackman, B. “Reading a Royal Altar Tusk”

Meeting 2  Arts of Central Africa: Cross River, Cameroon Grasslands, and Gabon
Read: Chapter 10, pp. 330-365
*Geo. Quiz 2 (Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa)*

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**WEEK 12**

Meeting 1  The Western Congo Basin
Read: Chapter 11, pp. 366-411
*Paper Outlines Due*
Meeting 2  The Eastern Congo Basin  
Read: Chapter 12, pp. 412-437  
Additional Reading: Roberts, M. “The Naming Game: Ideologies of Luba Artistic Identity”

WEEK 13

Meeting 1  Arts of East Africa  
Read: Chapter 13, pp. 440-471  
Additional Reading: Kasfir, S., “Patronage and Maconde Carvers”

Meeting 2  Arts of Southern Africa  
Read: Chapter 14, pp. 472-497

WEEK 14

Meeting 1  Arts of the African Diaspora: African art in the Americas  
Read: Chapter 16, pp. 516-541  
Additional Reading: Selections from The Quilts of Gee’s Bend

Meeting 2  Contemporary African Art: Traditional and Modern Practices  
Read: Chapter 15, pp. 500-515  
Additional Reading: Enwezor, O., “The Black Box”

**Final papers due (along with graded versions of visual analysis essays, bibliographies, outlines, draftis, and editing assignments)**

WEEK 15

Meeting 1  African Art in the Global Economy  
Film: “In and Out of Africa” (1986)  
** Geo. Quiz 3

Meeting 2  Review of Semester and Final Thoughts: The Future of “African Art”
Final Exam: scheduled according to the University-set dates and times for final exams