CUNY New York City College of Technology
Introduction to African Art, African American Studies #1301

This course will examine the major concepts and themes central to the study of African art starting from a consideration of Saharan rock art and ending with contemporary artistic practices. We will investigate the functional uses of art and the fashioning of African subjects across various examples including sculpture, masking, monuments, headdresses, truck art, photography and installation. The major issues addressed will include power, religion, identity, style and aesthetics, museums, performance and sexuality. Case studies will focus on works that show how the visual represents, regulates, and generates our understanding of African societies and identities of the past and present.

**Assignments and Evaluation**

1) Midterm: 25%
2) Final Exam: 25%
3) Online blackboard discussion: 25%
4) Museum Assignment: 25%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes:</th>
<th>Assessment Methods:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will be able to engage with the major concepts and themes that inform African art history and identify key works of art</td>
<td>Midterm and final exam</td>
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<td>By considering images in class and at the museum, students will be able to take the lead on visual analysis exercises</td>
<td>Class discussions and museum field trip report</td>
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<td>Students will develop critical readings and analytical skills through an exposure to texts chosen from scholarship important to the field of African art</td>
<td>Weekly blackboard discussion</td>
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**General Education Learning Outcomes:**

Learn visual analysis skills that are applicable to all areas of study | Class discussions, exams, museum field trip |
Develop a foundation for continuing interest in art and art history  
Weekly blackboard discussion

Gain a better understanding of why art matters  
Class discussions

**MUSEUM FIELD TRIP ASSIGNMENT:**
You are asked to spend an hour or more at a museum, such as the **Brooklyn Museum of Art** or the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, and to complete the **MUSEUM ASSIGNMENT**, which will be discussed in class.

Please note that admission to the Brooklyn Museum is free on “Target First Saturdays” of every month and admission to the Metropolitan Museum of Art is a suggested amount. You can gain admission to the Metropolitan Museum of Art with a donation of $0 to the suggested amount of $12 for students with a valid ID. Additional NYC-based museums with significant collections of African Art will be discussed in class.

**Proof of museum visit:** As proof of your field trip, you must submit the museum receipt to me OR use your phone to take a photo of you standing next to a work of art in the exhibition and upload the photo to the appropriate blackboard folder.

**CLASS CONDUCT**
Students must arrive on time, in order to fully participate. If lateness is unavoidable, the student is welcome to join the class, but he/she is expected not to disrupt the session already in progress. Students must turn off cell phones and beepers before class begins. In addition, no one is allowed to wear headphones in class. Please note plagiarism is the act of taking someone else’s words and passing them off as your own. IT IS A FORM OF CHEATING! IT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

**New York City College of Technology Policy on Academic Integrity:** Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in formation literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension and expulsion. The complete text of the College policy on Academic Integrity may be found in the catalog.