

Department: Art History

Course number: 3050W

Course title: African American Art

Credits: 3

Contact Person:Jean Givens

Content Area:

Q/W: W only

Catalog Copy:ARTH 3050W African American Art, Either semester. 3 credits The artistic and social legacy of African American art from the eighteenth century to the present day. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800; open to juniors or higher.

Course Information

There are five main objectives for this course:

1. To familiarize students with African American visual culture as well as the critical debates that have historically surrounded the artists and art objects discussed.

2. For students to be conversant with the racial history and dialogues in the United States generally and with particular emphasis on the African American experience

3. For students to have a more complicated understanding of American art and the methodological challenges of defining art by nation, time period, or race.

4. For students to be familiar with the outline of African American history.

5. For students to appreciate the particular opportunities and challenges that African American artists (historical and contemporary), face.

b. Course requirements: Graded written work includes two revised papers totaling 15 pages exclusive of notes, bibliography and illustrations, two essay exams, and journal assignment based on questions and topics that direct the readings. The first of the papers is a formal analysis based on specific images, the second a research paper. Readings include a textbook, a novel, primary text readings and approximately 30 journal articles.

c. Major themes to be covered:

1. African America art

2. African American history,
3. Theories of race
4. Methodological issues raised by the study of American and African American art

W Criteria

As outlined in the syllabus and in keeping with the art history department's template concerning W-courses, this class will emphasize writing, research, and critical reading skills. In W section meetings there will be two major writing assignments, a 5-page paper and then a 10-page paper. These two papers will serve as opportunities to work with students on research and library skills, creating outlines, building thesis arguments, perfecting clear sentence and paragraph structure, and teaching the value of revising and working from drafts. 50% of the grade will come from writing work produced in the W section over the course of the term. Students will write both papers in stages, from prospectus to outline to thesis statement to first draft, and so on. There will be various modes of evaluating and discussing writing in this course including individual student meetings, intensive comments from the professor on the multiple drafts, and directed in-class peer review. Finally, to pass the class with a "W," students must pass the "W" requirements.