ARTS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
EXPLORING MATERIAL AND SOCIAL CULTURE OF AFRICAN SOCIETIES

Running Woman. Neolithic Period from Tassili n'Ajjer, Algeria, ca. 6000-4000 BCE.	Nok Head. Nok from Rafin Kura, Nigeria, ca. 5th century BCE.	Warrior Chief and Attendants. Benin from Benin, Nigeria, ca. 1550-1650 CE.	Nkisi N'Kondi. Kongo from DRC, ca. 19th century CE.	Tower of Great Enclosure. Great Zimbabwe, ca. 1000-1400 CE.
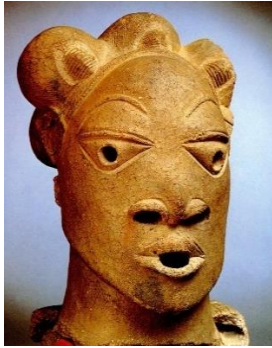
This course explores the artistic traditions (including objects, adornment, and architecture) of cultures south of the Sahara Desert of Africa. Discussions will follow a geographic and chronological format according to the lecture and discussion schedule provided. Indigenous traditions prior to Muslim and European contact will be emphasized. The course will incorporate critical considerations of the biases involved in scholarship of Sub-Saharan arts, particularly as they relate to colonial mindsets. As a service learning component to the course, students will collaboratively construct and present a workshop on African arts and society in partnership with the UTA Center for African American Studies (CAAS).

COURSE MATERIALS & READINGS

- **EAAA:** Garlake, Peter. 2002. *Early Art and Architecture of Africa*. Oxford University Press.
- **BB:** All other resources & readings will be available on Blackboard.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Consider African artworks from formal art historical, aesthetic, and technique-based perspectives
- Understand the role of art and architecture within religious, political, and social contexts across Africa
- Investigate the trajectory of changes in art production and social developments across Africa
- Investigate the impact of external contact on African societies including colonization, religious conversion, and material import/export
- Analyze and critique the long-term western bias in the scholarship of African arts and social development
- Practice skills to communicate with general audiences about African art, cultural history, and change
- Develop collaborative skills to communicate ideas within groups and achieve collective goals

This syllabus represents the current plans and objectives for our course. As we go through the semester, these plans may need to change. I will communicate any changes verbally and in writing. Be sure to stay up-to-date with the schedule and any changes made over the course of the semester.

COURSE COMPONENTS

DAILY ATTENDANCE (10%) & PARTICIPATION (10%)

Attendance will be taken every class meeting. Attendance grades will be determined based on this rubric:
- Earned 10% - consistent and punctual attendance
- Earned 5% - exceeds 3 unexcused absences
- Earned 0% - exceeds 5 unexcused absences (i.e. the highest grade you could earn is 90%)

Absences can ONLY be excused with **documentation** of an emergency, religious, or official university event. Documentation must be a signed and dated doctor's or official's note. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to consult with me or another student about notes, handouts, and assignments you missed.

In addition to note-taking and discussion, there will be participation activities focused on review, and/or application. These participation activities will constitute 10% of your grade. You will earn points for each activity according to its specific instructions. I will drop your lowest participation grade (including a 0 for an unexcused absence BUT EXCLUDING #hints). Participation grades can only be made-up for excused absences.

Attendance and participation grades will be uploaded to BB for Week 4, Midterm, and Final grade deadlines.

ASSESSMENTS (50%) – WRITTEN & VISUAL OPTIONS

Quiz dates are indicated on the course schedule. The quizzes will include:
1) artwork ids (written or visual), including title, culture/period, location, date, artist (if known), significance (not cumulative);
2) written or visual short answer responses focused on artwork significance (thematically cumulative);
3) visually-focused tasks including sketching and labeling (optional);
4) multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions (thematically cumulative).

Questions will be drawn from lecture topics, readings, and discussions. We will be conducting peer grading for some of the assessments. Grade percentages for each assessment are as follows:

Quiz 1: 10%	**Quiz 2**: 15%	**Quiz 3**: 25%

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT (30%)

As a group, we will develop and present a public workshop on African arts and society in partnership with the UTA Center for African American Studies (CAAS). We will determine the structure of modules for the workshop. Students will collaborate to develop and produce written, verbal, and visual presentations of module content. Results will include digital media and visual/oral presentations to be given in the final week of the course and written reports of module content that can be used by CAAS to offer the workshop and use components in their ongoing outreach efforts.

Development of module content will require applications and synthesis of lecture and discussion material from class as well as outside research relevant to the topic. Detailed instructions regarding format, bibliography, and citations will be provided in class and on Blackboard. This project will involve participation in presenting a module for the inaugural workshop to be held at CAAS.

ART HISTORY STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER

Art History majors will produce a research paper as a portion of their grade. Topics that directly relate to workshop content and/or UTA African Art collections are encouraged. Full guidelines and paper expectations will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

GRADE SCALE

Your final grade will be calculated as a percentage according to the component percentages provided in the "Course Components" section. Your final grade percentage will be rounded to the nearest whole number, e.g. 89.2 = 89 but 89.6 = 90. Letter grades and GPA will be determined according to the following scale:

A = 90-100% (4.00 GPA) - Excellent
B = 80-89% (3.00 GPA) – Good
C = 70-79% (2.00 GPA) – Satisfactory
D = 60-69% (1.00 GPA) – Poor
F = 59-0% (0.00 GPA) - Fail

Grades will be posted on Blackboard. I recommend setting preferences to notify you about grades & announcements to track your progress throughout the semester. All students will receive Early Alerts, Midterm Grades, and Final Grades according to the university requirements and schedule.

LATE WORK, MAKE-UPS, & INCOMPLETES

See attendance policy in the "Course Components" section. Late submissions of the Project will be penalized with a 10% deduction per calendar day. Make-ups for assessments will not be allowed expect for excused absences (see attendance policy). Incompletes will be given only in the event of documented and extreme emergencies. There are no grade changes.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE & APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

ALL PHONES & MOBILE DEVICES MUST BE SILENCED & PUT AWAY UPON ENTERING THE CLASSROOM. You may take notes with a laptop or tablet. Other non-class related activities on such devices are not allowed. Repeated issues with phones or electronics will result in the offending student losing attendance and participation credit and/or changes to no electronics use in class for all students. If you are expecting an important call or text during class, let me know beforehand.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students enrolled in all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:
I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at https://www.uta.edu/conduct/.

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the attendance policy described in the "Earning a Grade in this Course" section. While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

DROP POLICY

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance or poor performance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao).

SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO YOU

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, contact resources@uta.edu, or view the info at http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php.
- Visual Resource Commons (FA 2109) and Rita Lasater (rlasater@uta.edu)
- UTA Library (library.uta.edu/ 817-272-3395); Art History Librarian Diane Shepelwich (dianec@uta.edu)
- The English Writing Center (**FREE** appointments and walk-in; www.uta.edu/owl/ ; Central Library 411)
- The IDEAS Center offers **FREE** tutoring (ideas@uta.edu; 817-272-6593); located 2nd Floor of Library
- University Tutorial & Supplemental Instruction (UTSI) (817-272-2617; www.uta.edu/utsi ; Ransom Hall 205) offering 60 minute one-on-one tutoring sessions, Start Strong Freshman tutoring program, and Supplemental Instruction.
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (www.uta.edu/caps/ ; 817-272-3671); available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives
- On-campus Emergency – UT Arlington Police Department 817-272-3003 or 911.

DIFFERNETLY-ABLED ACCOMMODATIONIS

UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including The *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

TITLE IX POLICY

The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Info about activating and using MavMail: http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

CAMPUS CARRY

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK

For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located down the main stairwell on the second floor. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

ARTS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading
Tu Jan 16 Th Jan 18	Studying African Arts	EAAA: Introduction
Tu Jan 23 Th Jan 25	Earliest Africa and Rock Art	EAAA: Rock Art of South Africa
Tu Jan 20 Th Feb 1	Early Niger River Cultures	EAAA: The Niger River
Tu Feb 6 Th Feb 8	**QUIZ 1**, Peer Grading, & Project Dev. Later Niger River & Western Sudan Cultures	None
Tu Feb 13 Th Feb 15	Later Niger River & Western Sudan Cultures	BB: de Grunne 1995
Tu Feb 20 Th Feb 22	Early West Atlantic Forest Cultures	EAAA: West African Forests
Tu Feb 27 Th Mar 1	Later West Atlantic Forest Cultures	BB: Obayemi and Pemberton 1991
Tu Mar 6 Th Mar 8	**QUIZ 2** Quiz De-Brief & Project Development	None
Mar 12-16	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	None
Tu Mar 20 Th Mar 22	**PROJECT PRELIMINARIES DUE** Central African Cultures	BB: MacGaffey 2010
Tu Mar 27 Th Mar 29	East African Cultures	EAAA: The East African Coast
Tu Apr 3 Th Apr 5	South African Cultures	EAAA: Great Zimbabwe & the S. A. Interior
Tu Apr 9 Th Apr 12	South African Cultures Project Work Day	BB: Huffman 2011 None
Tu Apr 17 Th Apr 19	Colonial, Postcolonial, & Arts Today	BB: van Haute 2008 & Willett 2002
Tu Apr 24 Th Apr 26	Review **QUIZ 3**	None
Tu May 1 Th May 3	Project Finalizing **PROJECTS AND/OR PAPERS DUE** & Practice	None
Tu May 8	**PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**	

S U B J E C T   T O   C H A N G E