

Winter 2003

World Art and Culture: A Museum-Based Exploration

Class meets: Tues, O'Hare Campus (6:30 – 9:30 pm), January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11.

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Most people who visit the art museum gravitate to those galleries where the art is familiar and in some ways comfortable, like the Impressionists or the Renaissance. Yet, the art museum can be repository for so much more, if only we knew where to look and what to look for. This course is designed to introduce students to the art and cultures of societies outside of western civilization using the resources of such institutions as The Art Institute of Chicago, the Field Museum, the Mexican Museum of Fine Arts and others. Students will be introduced to objects from China, Japan, Africa, India, and the Middle East, as well as Native America. In a world which continues to grow increasingly smaller because of technology, one of the best ways to understand its people is to study their art and their culture.

Competencies:

A1B: Can use public or private institutions as resources for exploring arts or ideas. Students will visit as part of their class the non-western galleries of The Art Institute, the Field Museum, the Mexican Museum of Fine Arts and one other institution.

A1C: Can analyze artistic or textual works in terms of form, content and style. Students can research a criteria for looking at non-western art. Using that criteria, they can interpret a work or compare and contrast works of art on the basis of form, content and style.

A1G: Can explain the functions of public art and its relationship to communities. Many objects created by tribes are created for public performances. Students can opt to select one of more of these performances and investigate the objects

A5: Can define and analyze a creative process. Students can take the work of one culture and define the philosophy behind the work produced by that culture and the process involved in the making of the objects.

Expected Outcomes:

- Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:
- Have a working knowledge of the major artistic contributions of non-western societies

- Be able to draw relationships between the art of western culture with that of non-western cultures
- Know the location and collections of non-western art in the Chicago metropolitan area.
- Be able to interpret in depth at least one work from each of the cultures to be studied during the course.
- Have a more global understanding of the people and cultures of the world by studying their artistic heritage.

Learning Strategies

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Research
- Field Trips

Textbook

O'Riley, Michael Kampen. Art Beyond the West. Upper Saddle River, N.J: Prentice-Hall Inc. 2002

Assessment Criteria / Specific details will follow upon selection and approval of course competencies:

General Requirements

Regular class attendance and participation in class discussions

Completion of all reading assignments, both in required text and any additional readings as assigned by the instructor.

Field trips to The Art Institute, Field Museum, Mexican Fine Arts Museum and possibly Du Sable Museum of African-American Art.

Research paper for each of the two competencies selected. Each paper should be 8-10 pages in length with a topic pre-approved by the instructor. A bibliography of no less than five works should be included.

Course Outline

- Week 1: Intro to the course
 Completion of all required paperwork
 Intro: Art Beyond the West
 Lecture: Selected works by Native Americans
- Week 2: Lecture: Selected works from East, South, and Central Africa
 Text: Introduction, pp. 12-21; Ch. 7, pp. 242-300; Ch. 2, pp. 24-36
 Video: The Art of Africa
- Week 3: Lecture: Selected works from West Africa
 Text: Ch. 2, pp. 38-56

- Week 3 Lecture: Selected works from the Pacific Rim
Text: Ch. 6, pp. 211-239
- Week 4: Lecture: Selected works from India
Text: Ch. 3, pp. 60-93
- Week 5: Lecture: Selected works from China
Text: Ch. 4, pp. 108-157
- Week 6 Meet at Field Museum (Native American, Northwest Coast, Oceanic and African) Class Field Trip.
- Week 7 Lecture: Selected works from Japan and Korea
Text: Ch. 5, pp. 161-207
- Week 8 Bus Trip: Mexican Museum of Fine Arts in Pilsen and The Art Institute of Chicago. Lunch: Ethnic restaurant
- Week 9: Non-Western Jeopardy
Oral presentation of Research Papers
- Week 10: Oral presentations continue.
All research papers due.