

Los Angeles Mission College – Spring 2013
Art 109, Section 0118
The Arts of Africa, Oceania and Ancient America
Friday 8:50-12:00 p.m. CSB-207
Professor Nouchinne Nila Lavasani
Email: Lavasanm@lamission.edu
Office Hours: Fridays 12:00-12:35/by appointment

Make sure you print this syllabus before attending the first day of class. No printed copies will be given in class. You would need to have the hard copy with you on the first day of class. If you don't have access to a printer at home, feel free to use the printer located on Campus Library.

This course is designed as a comprehensive study of the painting, sculpture, architecture and craft of Africa, the Pacific Ocean areas, and the indigenous populations of North and South America in relation to their history, religion, and general culture. We will focus on the social as well as religious contexts of art as a way of understanding the history of art as a broad cultural phenomenon greatly affecting our way of looking at the world.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze the function of art by these indigenous people within historical, religious and cultural contexts in order to develop an aesthetic understanding and responsiveness.
2. Compare and contrast works of art and architecture of the indigenous people of Africa, Oceania and Ancient America in terms of style and function.

Required Text:

Kleiner, Fred S., and Mamiya, Christin J.

Gardner's Art Through the Ages, Non-Western Perspectives, 13th. edition

The text is bundled with additional learning materials. Students will also make use of the companion website for the course. (http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&discipline_number=37&product_isbn_isn=049_5003654)

You may purchase the text at the LAMC bookstore, or online.

Readings will be assigned on a weekly basis. The readings will serve as a primary source of information and should be completed prior to the discussions that will take place in class.

Recommended Text:

Barnett, Sylvan. *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, 10th. edition. Prentice Hall, NJ, 2010 ISBN: 978-0136138556. This is an extremely valuable book that provides you with wide range of topics in writing an art history paper from 'description vs. analysis' to avoiding 'sexist and Eurocentric language' and clear instructions for writing

footnotes and bibliography. I strongly suggest you acquire this valuable resource and make use of it in this class and your other art history courses throughout your academic career.

Course Objectives

To introduce the student to the art of diverse cultures such as those found in Africa, Oceania and indigenous civilizations of North and South America. By studying their art, religions, and customs, the student can develop greater awareness, deeper insights, and a better understanding for the differences that exist between peoples, and for the means of visual expression chosen by them. Appreciation for the choices of others and developing an aesthetic responsiveness become important parts of the fabric of our personal as well as public lives.

Attendance

It is **imperative** and **required** that students attend class. I will take attendance and/or pass around a sign-up sheet for each class meeting. It is YOUR responsibility to sign in during each class. It is also your responsibility to know deadlines to drop if no longer attending class. **Failure** to do so will result in an **"F"** for the course. Please make sure you mark your calendars for the important dates provided below.

According to Board Rule 9701, "presence in a District Classroom shall be limited to duly enrolled students of the class." Any unauthorized person will be asked to leave the classroom.

You are responsible for all information presented during class time. You are required to be an active and courteous member of the class. **Students who miss class are responsible for finding out about the material covered in lectures. So make sure you befriend a classmate and exchange email addresses. If you are absent more than 2 times in class, you will be dropped. Three tardiness or early departure from class counts as one absent. This is a 3 hours class and you are required to be present throughout the entire class.**

Attendance is particularly important in this course because you are graded on projects that will be completed in collaboration with your fellow students. If you miss class, you will not only miss valuable information, but also impact the performance of your study group, hence your grade and theirs.

Children and animals may not accompany you to class due to fire regulations. There is no eating in the classroom.

Makeup Exams/Quizzes

Makeup exams/quizzes will be given **ONLY** for an **excused, documented** absence (i.e. doctor's visit or other medical situations) on the day of the exam. You are **responsible** to notify me in advance if you anticipate being absent on a test day with a doctor's note.

Study

In order to gain the most from the lectures, you should come to class having read the assigned material, and you should be familiar with the names of the objects and sites and vocabulary discussed in your text. Lectures may sometimes include artworks that are not

illustrated in the textbook. I will assign you into groups for Discussions and workshops. Please make sure you make most of this collaborative experience by active participation.

Grading

Grades are based on a midterm presentation (20%) and a final exam (30%), a typed museum artwork report of 2-3 pages (20%), and classroom assignments, including quizzes, and participation (30%).

The museum paper will be based on your response to a non-Western artwork in a Southern California museum collection. More details will be distributed in class. We will go over how to write your paper in class, so do not panic if you have never written an art history paper. You will have sufficient practice with the presentation. Extra credit opportunities will be announced in class and mostly based on the documentary films shown in relation to the lectures or upon visiting museums on your own and writing a summary for the exhibition. You will have an online assignment.

Exam dates and due date for the museum report along with details on extra credits will be announced in class.

Academic Honesty

Lack of honesty in the classroom is considered a very serious offense. Any form of cheating on tests, or engaging in plagiarism, is a violation of academic integrity and will not be tolerated at Mission College. The penalties for plagiarism are outlined in the campus catalog.

Class Environment

This class is a community. You all have the same objective: to learn and enjoy while learning! I'd need each of you to approach our class with a great attitude, respect and willingness to learn, respect and help each other. Cell phones, iPhones, iPads, iPods... and other communication devices cannot disrupt class or distract you. Many of you use laptops to record your notes, you are **not** allowed to be distracted by email, or any social networking such as facebook, etc.. No form of distraction will be tolerated in class.

However, the use of internet is allowed under certain circumstances, such as presenting your work, or viewing different online materials. Please be a respectful and courteous member of this class. If you believe that it is critical for you to be available by cell phone, or email, you must set the device to vibrate or to some other non- disturbing setting—that would, of course, mean no texting. A ringing cell phone may not be answered in the classroom—please quietly leave the classroom to answer your phone.

I am always here to help you, but I truly believe your experience will be more fulfilling if you establish good level of communication with your fellow class-mates as well. You will be collaborating with each other on several projects and we will be using the first couple of weeks to get to know each other. Is there a student with whom you have something in common? Let them know and share. Let's work together and make this semester a great learning experience.

Let's keep the following 'ground rules' in mind as we begin the course:

1. Participation in class discussions is **mandatory**.
2. Spend time reviewing the syllabus
3. Try to exchange email addresses with a couple of students. You need to contact them for homework in the event you are absent from class.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Mission College to make its services, facilities, programs, and accommodations accessible to all students, including people with disabilities, and comply fully with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If a disability prevents you from fully using our facility or enjoying our services and programs, we would like your input and ideas on how we can serve you better. Any concerns, comments, or suggestions should be directed to Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSP&S), telephone (818) 364-7734, TDD (818)364-7861.

Please keep in mind, that you can always come and see me regarding any Disability issue you may have and I will do my best to guide you.

Some important information and dates to remember at this point:

Consult LA Mission College website for important dates to: Drop class without receiving a W with refund (in person) Drop class without receiving a W with refund (online) Drop class without incurring fees or with a refund

A "W" or Withdrawal on your transcript counts as an attempt and there is a 3-attempt limit now for most courses. Therefore, if you drop a course after the deadlines, you will receive a "W".

A Tentative timetable is handed out separately on the first day class.

The content of this syllabus is subject to change.

Please come to class on the first day of meeting with a printed copy of this syllabus.