

# **Mercer County Community College**

## **Arts and Communication Division**

### **ART 126**

### **AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a comprehensive survey of the aesthetic and historical evaluation of African-American Art, artists and culture. Color slides will be analyzed and discussed. Lectures and museum trips are included.

Text (s): "**African American Art**" (latest edition)  
By Sharon F. Patton

Prerequisites: **NONE**

Co-requisites:

**Credits: 3**

**Lecture Hours: 3**

**Studio/Lab Hours: 0**

**Food and Drink are strictly prohibited in classrooms as per Health and Safety Laws. Students are not permitted to bring in chemicals or cleaning fluids without the appropriate MSD Sheets.**

**Course Coordinator: Mel Leipzig**

**Latest Review: Summer 2005**

## **I. RATIONALE**

Man has always produced art, in a variety of forms, long before recorded history. Art has fulfilled many vital personal and social needs. Before language and writing were developed, the visual arts, and signs or symbols provided the most universally understood means for communication.

By studying the works of art of any period, we can better understand the life and culture of the people who produced them, or the patrons they served. The values of a society are often reflected in the styles and functions of the art that it produced. The serious student will learn how to identify the principle characteristics of the various periods and styles of art, and how the contemporary uses of art and design derive from the art produced in the past.

New materials, modern technological advances and new methods for communication provide artists a wider range for visual expression. Air travel, photography, television transmission by satellites and powerful electro microscopes provide humankind with unusual views of natural subjects and with new perspectives and time frames for human experience. Art has always reflected or projected life and culture, and it will continue to do so. In this course, we will study and explore some of the art of modern times and discuss the trends and possibilities for individual expression in the future.

## **II. GENERAL COURSE GOALS**

After completing the course, the student should:

- A. Understand and use correct terms in describing and identifying art or art objects.
- B. Be able to describe correctly the materials, techniques or concepts used in producing paintings, sculpture, architecture, fabrics, crafts items, and other works of art and design.
- C. Be able to list, or describe with reasonable accuracy, the principle characteristics of any given work of art.
- D. Be able to identify the period in which a given work of art was produced, and describe some of the cultural aspects that prevailed at the time.
- E. Develop a sense of aesthetics and an historical appreciation of art and world cultures.
- F. Develop a foundation for continuing interest in art and art history.
- G. Develop a better understanding of the contribution of all forms of art to human culture and the continuous value of supporting cultural pursuits.

## **III. WEEKLY OUTLINE**

### **WEEK 1**

Overview:

1. Introduction of African-American Art.
2. Arts and crafts during the Colonial, Federalist and Antebellum years.
3. Art from the Civil War years through Post-reconstruction Period.
4. The Harlem Renaissance.
5. The Depression and World War II years.
6. Abstraction and realism during the Post-war years.
7. The Black Arts movement, Abstraction and beyond.
8. African-American Art and Post Modernism.

## **WEEKLY OUTLINE** (cont'd)

### **WEEK 2**

Individual Artists:

1. Robert S. Duncanson
2. Joshua Johnston
3. Henry O. Tanner
4. James Audubon
5. Edmonia Lewis
6. Edward Mitchell Bannister
7. Scipio Moorhead

### **WEEK 3**

Individual Artists:

1. Meta Warrick Fuller
2. Hale Woodruff
3. Archibald Motley
4. Aaron Douglas
5. Palmer Hayden
6. August Savage
7. Richmond Barthe
8. Sargent Claude Johnson
9. William Edmondson
10. William E. Artis
11. Nancy E. Prophet

### **WEEK 4**

Individual Artists:

1. Louis Jones
2. Charles White
3. Charles Alston
4. Dox Thrash
5. Selma Burke
6. Robert Blackburn

### **WEEK 5**

Quiz #1

### **WEEK 6**

Jacob Lawrence

### **WEEK 7**

Romare Bearden

### **WEEK 8**

Horace Pippin

### **WEEK 9**

William H. Johnson

## **WEEKLY OUTLINE** (cont'd)

### **WEEK 10**

Individual Artists:

1. Beauford Delany
2. Eldzier Cortor
3. Hughie Lee-Smith
4. Norman Lewis
5. Richard Mathew
6. Edward Clark
7. Herbert Gentry
8. Felraith Hines
9. Alvin Hollingsworth
10. Reginald Gammon
11. Emma Amos
12. Richard Mathew

### **WEEK 11**

**Quiz #2:**

Black artist or American artist defining black art.  
The evolution of a modern black aesthetic

### **WEEK 12**

Individual Artists:

1. Vincent Smith
2. Faith Ringgold
3. David Hammons
4. Betsy Saar
5. Elizabeth Catlett
6. Melvin Edwards
7. Barbara Chase-Riboud
8. Joe Overstreet

### **WEEK 13**

Individual Artists:

1. Benny Andrews
2. Ben Jones
3. Sam Gilliam
4. Mary Lovelace O'Neal
5. Alma Thomas
6. William T. Williams
7. Alvin D. Loving, Jr.
8. Minnie Evans
9. Richard Hunt

### **WEEK 14**

Individual Artists:

1. Robert Colescott
2. Jean Michael Basquait
3. Howardena Pindell
4. Adrian Piper
5. Alisan Saar
6. Martha Jackson-Sarvis

### **WEEK 15**

Individual Artists:

1. Lorna Simpson
2. Kara Walkor
3. Christian Walker
4. Dawoud Bex
5. Pat Ward Williams
6. Maren Hassinger
7. Martin Puryear

### **WEEK 16**

**FINAL**

#### IV. INSTRUCTIONAL MODES

- A. Two weekly meetings, 1 hour and 15 minutes each - 15 weeks.
- B. Assigned and suggested readings.
- C. Required and optional field trips.
- D. Lectures and group discussion.
- E. Films, slides, prints, etc.
- F. Essay assignment

#### V. ATTENDANCE, EVALUATION AND GRADING

In a course of this nature students must participate in order to have meaningful discussions. Therefore, it is the students' responsibility to attend all of the lectures and presentations, to maintain the assigned reading schedules, and to contribute to discussions whenever possible.

For the successful completion of the course, the student is expected to:

- A. Attend all lectures, or study the appropriate materials before the next meeting of the class.
- B. Read all text assignments as they occur.
- C. Participate in class discussions and slide presentation analysis.
- D. Study and be able to use new terms presented in lectures or textbooks.
- E. Answer test or quizzes, with at least 60% accuracy, as they occur.
- F. Attend, if able, field trips.
- G. Produce an original 300-word essay on an assigned subject related to the course material. (This will be valued at 20% of the course final grade.)

##### **Attendance**

If a student must miss a class meeting, he or she should notify the instructor, at the first opportunity, and is responsible for knowing the material covered in the interim, before attending the next session. The periodic quizzes, given in class cannot be taken later. In cases of an unusual nature, or in extreme emergencies, reasonable provisions will be made for the make-up of a missed midterm or final examination.

## **Evaluation**

Evaluation of progress, and grades, are determined by the instructor, based upon the following considerations:

- a. Attendance at lectures and presentations. (20%)
- b. Results of periodic quizzes. (20%)
- c. Individual essays. (20%)
- d. Midterm examination. (20%)
- e. Final examination. (20%)

## **Grading (See the College Catalog for grading policies)**

The grade of "C" will be earned by students who demonstrate mastery of the essential elements of the material presented. Achievement will be demonstrated when all of the specific course objectives (A to G) are fulfilled with at least 70% accuracy.

The grade of "B" will be earned by students who demonstrate more than adequate mastery of the essential elements of the material presented, show acceptable knowledge of the course content. Achievement will be demonstrated when all of the specific course objectives (A to G) are fulfilled with at least 80% accuracy.

The Grade of "A" will be earned by students who demonstrate more than adequate mastery of the essential elements of the material presented, show acceptable knowledge of the course content, and contribute to class discussions and analysis. Achievement will be demonstrated when all of the specific course objectives (A to G) are fulfilled with at least 90% accuracy.

The instructor will determine the final grades based on the results of all of the written quizzes, examinations, and essays, as well as his estimate of the quality of reports, the amount of participation in classroom discussions, and other contributions or efforts of students.

## **VI. VOCABULARY**

Many of the terms used in art, or in describing art, or the tools and techniques for producing art, are unique. Some are so unusual that they are not part of everyday or common language. If you hear a word or phrase which is strange, or not clear to you, make a note of it, and ask for an explanation at an appropriate time in the discussion period.