

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Department of Art and Art History

ARH 345L; WGS 340 48; AFR 374F 13: **Diaspora Visions**

Unique #: 20220; 30423; 47054

Hour: TTH, 12:30-2.00 pm.

Room: DFA 2.204

Instructor: Moyo Okediji, Ph.D., Office: ART 3.428

Office Hours: TTH 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Email: moyo.okediji@utexas.edu Phone: 512-605-8178

Instructor available throughout the week by appointment.

Course Description

Border crossing by cultures and groups from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean islands has generated the production of images by immigrants, exiles, and nomads in alien lands. With examples drawn from various continents, class investigates art across borders in the contexts of the cultural circumstances that produced the diasporas. Students will investigate the arts of voluntary, forced, colonial, distant, and recent diasporas. Illustrations will draw on images, music, and videos.

Texts

Required

J.E. Braziel & Anita Mannur, *Theorizing Diaspora* (TD)

Robin Cohen, *Global Diasporas* (GD) (available free electronic copy at UT library)

Recommended (available on 2-hour reserve at Fine Art Library)

Kobena Mercer, ed., *Exiles, Diasporas and Strangers* (EDS)

Nicholas Mirzoeff, ed., *Diaspora and Visual Culture* (DVC)

Daniel Libeskind, *Lines of Fire*. (LOF)

Goldberg, D.T and J.D. Raynor, *The Jewish people: Their History and Their Religion*.

Accommodation

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.

Academic Integrity

University Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: "Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.

Class Attendance

Students are required to attend all classes. Please inform instructor **ahead** of time if you will miss any class. Full attendance is 20 points. For every unexcused absence from class, a student will drop 2 points. University policy on holy days states, “A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.”

Class participation and presentations.

The class will engage students in discussions, interactions and presentations. A ten-minute presentation in the last weeks of classes will demonstrate student’s grasp and perspectives on the subject of art and the diasporas. Students will discuss together and in assigned groups of three for Friday classes.

Assignments and Grading

Attendance.....	20 points
Class presentation	10 points
2 Essays.....	30 points (due Feb. 23; March 30)
Calligraphy Deconstruction.....	10 points (due April 27)
Research paper.....	30 points due May 10)
Total.....	100 points

A.....	95-100 points
A-.....	90-94
B+.....	85-89 points.
B.....	80-84
B-.....	75-79
C+.....	70-74
C.....	65-69 points.
C-.....	60-64.
F.....	Below 60

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART ONE: CROSSING BORDERS (WEEKS ONE TO EIGHT)

Week One: Tues . January 19 & Thursday. Jan. 21

January 17: Syllabus and class introduction; class divided into two discussion/presentation groups.

Crossing Borders I: Jewish,

Jan. 19: What Are Diaspora Visions? (1)

**Movie: Preston Sturges, *Sullivan’s Travel*, 1941

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0CRAavN4EI>

**Goldberg, D.T and J.D. Raynor 1989. *The Jewish people: Their History and Their Religion.*

**Psalm 137;

Dayenu (דַּיְנוּ) - Passover Song (Judaica)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSfrxV_Kcig

Music: Boney M. "By the Rivers of Babylon"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2j0MUCf6_E

Week Two: Jan. 24 & 26 Crossing Borders II

: Traumatic Diasporas: (2)

Jean Michele Basquiat and Ras Akyem Ramsay;

**Music: Gregory Isaacs "Border," in *Lonely Days*

B. Marley, "Chant down Babylon."

** Vincent Harding, V. *There is a River*

The African Diasporas borders (3)

Week Three: Jan. 31, & Feb. 4. Crossing Borders III

Pidgin/Creole Borders (4)

Howardena Pindell,, Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Quilts,Wiley, Underground

Railroad, Renee Cox, Harriet Powers, Hale Woodruff

GD 31-55W. (5)

<http://hyperallergic.com/125403/the-beauty-of-howardena-pindells-rage/>

TD 85-118 ; <http://www.buffalosoldiers-amwest.org/history.htm>

Re-membering: Border of Art and Politics (6)

DVC 1-18

Music: Lazaros Los, Orisha Aye (bata music)

Week Four: Feb. 7, & 9 Border Crossing IV (Form and Content)

Black Female Body in Diaspora (7)

**Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (New York: Plume, 1988), 200;

**Gwendolyn Dubois Shaw, *Seeing the Unspeakable: The Art of Kara Walker*, 46.

: Community Art (Tiperu Wambui Aliga)

Week Five: Feb. 14, 16 Border Crossing V

Latino/Latina Borders. (9)

Lukumi

Art and Healing

Week Six: Feb. 21, 23 Border Crossing VI (Borders of Europe)

Prometheus and Fire: Classical Borders (10)

European borders 1

First paper Due on February 23.

Week Seven: Feb 28, March 2.
Class presentation on Border Crossing by 6 students

Week Eight: March. 7, 9
Class presentation on Border Crossing by 6 students

PART TWO: VISIONS OF THE CROSSROADS (WKS NINE TO FIFTEEN)

Week Nine: March. 14, 16 Spring Break

Week Ten March 21, 23 **Asian American Borders;
South East Asian and Latin Diaspora**

Week Eleven : March. 28, 30 Sexuality, Art and Psychology
Art and Symbolism—Donatelo, Michelangelo, Bernini, Caravaggio
Donatelo, Michelangelo, Bernini, Caravaggio. Artemisia Gentileschi
Carolee Schneeman Emma Amos, Faith Ringgold, Lili Bernard
SECOND PAPER DUE MARCH 30.

Week Twelve: April 4, 6 Art and Symbolism
Arshille Gorky Armenian Diasporas
Essay on Images of the Crossroad: 15 points

**Week Thirteen April. 11, 13 : Architecture of Word—Armenian and Jewish
Diasporas**
Daniel Libeskind
Word and image
Calligraphy Deconstruction

Week Fourteen April. 18, 20:
Week Fifteen: May 3, 5 Body at Crossroads

Week Fifteen: April 25, 27.
Class presentations on crossroad, 6 students
Calligraphy Deconstruction paper (due April 27).

Week Fifteen May 2, May 4 :
Class presentations on crossroad by 6 students.

Final Paper due: May. 10 at 12 noon by email to instructor.

