

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Department of Art and Art History

ARH 346L; AFR 374F; WGS 340: **Africana Women's Art**

Unique #: 19615

Time: TTH-11:00-12:30

Classroom: DFA 2.204

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

Office Hours: TTH 9:45-10:45 am. Instructor available at other times by appointment.

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



VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS (Core Component 050)

This course may be used to fulfill the visual and performing arts component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, teamwork, and social responsibility.

Course description:

Can we adopt the criteria used for the analysis and presentation of western art and artists for the analysis and presentation of works by Africana women artists? How do we define Africana women's art and artists? Who are the most influential Africana women artists, and in which mediums do they work? What tasks do they tackle and what challenges face

them? What are the stylistic diversities that define and distinguish their contributions? What are the technological tools available to them, and how have they manipulated and fashioned these tools? How have they shaped the past and present trends in art history, and what are their aspirations and hopes for the future? These are some of the questions that this course will investigate with the use of art historical and critical theories that draw on oral and written literatures, music, films, and other formal and informal documents.

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>.

Religious Holy Days

It is university policy that you must notify me of a pending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, assignment, examination or in-class project in order to observe, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

CANVAS

In this class I use CANVAS—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://canvas.utexas.edu>—to distribute course materials and collaborate online. If you require support in using CANVAS call the Information Technology Services Help Desk at 512-475-9400, Monday-Friday, 8AM-6PM, please plan accordingly.

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence

Since email is an official method of receiving university and course communications, it is important that your e-mail address on file with the university is kept up-to-date. I will only be able to contact you through the address on file. You should check your e-mail regularly to stay current. You can find instructions for updating your address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/>.

Documented Student Disability

The University provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 512-471-6259 (voice) or 512-232-2937 (video phone).

Other Resources Available

The University has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning:

- The UT Learning Center: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/>
- Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>
- Counseling & Mental Health Center: <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>
- Career Exploration Center: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/>
- Student Emergency Services: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors
- Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the University Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services

Behavior Concerns Advice Line

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center, the Employee Assistance Program, and The University of Texas Police Department. Call 512-232-5050 or visit <https://www.utexas.edu/campus-life/safety-and-security>.

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."

Assignments and Grading

Attendance, participation and discussions	20 points
First essay (Due Oct. 10).....	15
Second essay (Due Nov. 7).....	15
Practicum	10
Class presentation.....	10

Final research paper.....30 points (due December 9)

Total.....100 points

Extra point: Lecture by Janine Sytsma, September 26, 4:00 pm, at the ART building. (5 points)

Grade Scale

Your final grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

GRADE	%
A (4.00)	93-100
A- (3.67)	90-92
B+ (3.33)	87-89
B (3.00)	84-86
B- (2.67)	80-83
C+ (2.33)	77-79
C (2.00)	74-76
C- (1.67)	70-73
D+ (1.33)	67-69
D (1.00)	64-66
D- (.67)	60-63
F (0.00)	≤59

List of artists

1. Mary Evans
2. Nathalie Mba Bikoro
3. Denenge Akpem
4. Tinuomi Afilaka
5. Esther Mahlangu
6. Tracy Rose
7. Julie Mehretu
8. Carrie Mae Weems
9. Betye Saar
10. Wangechi Mutu
11. Maria Magdalena Campos Pons
12. Nandipha Mntambo
13. Ingrid Mwangi/Robbert Hutter
14. Virginia Ryan
15. Mickelene Thomas
16. Lorraine O'Grady
17. Adrian Piper
18. Ghada Amer
19. Berni Searle
20. Faith Ringgold
21. Jane Alexander
22. Howardena Pindell

23. Wura Natasha Ogunji
24. Elizabeth Catlett
25. Deborah Willis
26. Winnie Owens Hart
27. Sue Williamson
28. Etso Ugbodaga Ngu
29. Esther Mahlangu
30. Lorna Simpson
31. Rosana Paulino
32. SONYA CLARK
33. Renee Stout
34. Peju Alatise
35. Lili Bernard
85. Lalla Essaydi
36. Zanele Muholi
37. Lisa Bradley
38. Nnenna Okore
39. Nike Davies
40. Georgina Beier
41. Sophie Sanders
42. Kara Walker
43. Ellen Gallagher
44. Barbra Chase Riboud,
45. Chakaia Booker
46. Maren Hassinger
47. Emma Amos
48. Camille Billops
49. Nenga Sengudi
50. Grace Ndiritu
51. Lynette Yiadom-Boakye
52. Otobong Nkanga
53. Camille Turner
54. Sokari Douglas Camp
55. Zanele Muholi
56. Egbeyemi Akingbade
57. Fiona Kirkwood
58. Houria Niati
59. Diane Smith
60. Virginia Chihota
61. Minnette Vári
62. Ifeoma Anyaeji
63. Dawn Okoro

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/200-Influent-Africana-Artists/415015031959814>

Required Text

Barbara Thompson, *Black Womanhood*.

Recommended Texts

Lisa Farrington, *Creating their Own Image*.
Randy Conner, *Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions*.
Hassan, *Gendered Vision*
Omari-Tunkara, *Manipulating the Sacred*.
Phillys Galembo, *Divine Inspiration From Benin to Bahia*.
bell hooks, *Yearnings: Race, Gender and Cultural Politics*
Beverly Guy-Sheftall, *Words of Fire*
William Bascom, *Sixteen Cowries*

Week One: Thursday, August 29

Thursday August 29: Course Introduction and syllabus presentation

Week Two: Tuesday, September 3; Thursday, September 5

Rituals and image making (Akire and Akodi Orisa artists).
Tinuomi Afilaka, Akingbade Egbeyemi: Women's Indigenous Painting as Performance:
<http://www.universityofafricanart.org>
Ritual Culture as points of connections between nature and reality, process and product, process as product: Celebratory, therapeutic, economic, spiritual, psychological, aesthetic, analytical and intellectual: Indigenous Painting, Pottery, Weaving, Quilting and Divination
Barbara Thompson, *Black Womanhood*, Introduction, pp. 15-23.

Week Three: Tuesday, September 10; Thursday, September 12: Divination and rituals—Èrindínlógún.

Ritual as gendered practice.
William Bascom, *Sixteen Cowries*, "Introduction," pp. 15-23.

Week Four: Tuesday, September 17; Thursday, September 19

Theoretical perspectives: Counter hegemony and Afrofemcentrism. Traditional, Contemporary, Diasporic images.

Frieda High Tesfagiorgis, "Afrofemcentrism and its fruition in the art of Elizabeth Catlett and Faith Ringgold." <https://msu.edu/course/ha/452/tesfagiorgis.htm>
Bell hooks, "Choosing the Margin as a Space of radical Openness."
Barbara Thompson, *Black Womanhood*, 49-69.
Anguezomo Mba Bikoro—see:
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=716135298399152&set=gm.631530236905086&type=1&theater>

Week Five: Tuesday, September 24; Thursday, September 26: Transition and Women Rites of Passage

Class visit by Janine Sytsma

Week Six: Tuesday, October 1; Thursday, October 3

Africana Sexuality

Body decorations and adornments.

Barbara Thompson, *Black Womanhood*, 71-93.

Judith Gleason, *Sacred Waters*, p 49-73.

Randy Conner, *Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions*.

Tracey Rose,

see: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=672520892760593&set=gm.590465251011585&type=1&theater>

Week Seven: Tuesday, October 8; Thursday, October 10.

Installations and performances

(Fe)male divinities and art making. Reality in forms of aesthetic hero/heroine, prototypes genius: connections with transition into power of eternity, regeneration and deathlessness.

Male/Female divinities: Mamiwata: Oshun,/Oya, Ogun/Sango

Cultural remixing with quilts and collages of visual, verbal, musical, performance components and compounds; an awareness of these tasks as a textile of complex experiences. Natural performance—movements of water, wind, fire, blood, hills, snow, rain, sunrise, dawn, dusk, noon, night and interactions with flesh, spirit and mind./ ritual cultural performances as painting, textiles, song, pottery, poetry, dance, architecture.

Omari-Tunkara, *Manipulating the Sacred*.

Phillys Galembo, *Divine Inspiration From Benin to Bahia*.

Otobong Nkanga: see

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=750869404925741&set=gm.470921233010080&type=1&theater>

FIRST ESSAY DUE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Week Eight: Tuesday, October 15; Thursday, October 17.

Rituals, Installations and performances: Hassan, *Gendered Vision*

Barbara Thompson, *Black Womanhood*, 143-161.

Ifeoma Anyaeji, see:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=679459838733365&set=gm.596998060358304&type=1&theater>

Week Nine: Tuesday, October 22; Thursday, October 24

Afropunk and Afrofuturism

Class visit by Dawn Okoro.

Art of Denenge Akpem, Lina Iris Viktor, Wangechi Mutu, Camille Turner

Week Ten: Tuesday, October 29; Thursday, October 31

Black Female Body and Psychoanalysis

Video, film, photography

Kasi Lemmons "Eve's Bayou."

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=652107981468551&set=gm.570873222970788&type=1&theater>

Week Eleven: Tuesday, November 5; Thursday, November 7

Practicum: Erindinlogun Art and Installation

Second paper due on Nov. 7

Week Twelve: Tuesday, November 12; Thursday, November 14

Class Presentations

Week Thirteen: Tuesday, November 19; Thursday, November 21

Class Presentations

Week Fourteen: Tuesday, November 26; Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving Week

Class Presentations

Week Sixteen: Dec. 3 and 5.

Final discussions, group Presentations

Final research paper.....30 points (due Tuesday December 10)

Send paper to moyo.okediji@utexas.edu by noon. Late papers will attract penalties of 3 points daily.