Intro to Sub-Saharan African Art
Rhodes College
Fall 2006
ART 265
T/TH 11:00-12:15
Gena Hill-Thomas

Course Description
This course will explore the art of Sub-Saharan Africa from ancient sculpture to modern textile techniques. It will emphasize late 19th and early 20th century arts from four main regions: West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, and South Africa. We will spend more time in West and Central Africa because this is where the majority of research on African art has been done. By the end of this course, you will have a solid base of the art of several renown peoples, a working knowledge of the context in which the objects were used, and an overall idea of the current issues and theories within the field.

Format and Requirements
This course will consist of lectures, readings assignments, class discussions, and two small writing assignments. Students will be expected to attend all classes and abide by the Rhodes Honor Code. We will meet twice a week, from 11:00 until 12:15. Special meetings may be scheduled for study sessions, in which case attendance is not required. We will also arrange special meeting for an outing to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art to view the collection of African Art; attendance is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. If you cannot attend a class due to extenuating circumstances, please contact me in advance by e-mail (gena_hill@yahoo.com) or by phone (216-225-5137).

There will be four exams throughout the course, the first and third being rather small, the second counting as a midterm, and the fourth counting as a final. Your grades will be weighted as follows:
Written Assignment 1 – 5 %
Exam 1 - 10 %
Exam 2, Midterm - 20%
Written Assignment 2 - 15%
Exam 3 - 10%
Exam 4, Final - 30%
Participation - 10%

I have a ZERO TOLERENCE policy for plagiarism. Not only is it a violation of the Rhodes Honor code, but it is also a crime. Plagiarism includes – but is not limited to – quoting sources without citing them, paraphrasing sources without citing them, cutting and pasting from the internet, and claiming someone’s original ideas as your own. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, do not hesitate to ask me. For all written assignments, you may only use the journal of *African Arts* for research unless you obtain permission from me. This publication is available online through the Rhodes library website. Your bibliography should follow the format of cited works in *African Arts*.

**Texts**

There is only one required text for this course:


I suggest that you purchase this text, as it is a wonderful resource and will most likely be of use to you in the future whenever you have a question about African art. Copies are available at the campus bookstore. Other required and optional readings will be placed on reserve in the library. Please bring the book and any pertinent required readings to class every day.
Office Hours/ Contact Information

Office hours will be held directly after class on Tuesdays in 410. Feel free to e-mail me or call me with ANY questions or comments pertaining to the course or the topic of the course. E-mail me at gena_hill@yahoo.com or call at 216-225-5137. This is my personal cell phone, so please do not call this number past 10 PM!

Tentative Schedule of Classes

Week 1
8/24 – Course Introduction, Important Concepts in Central African Art
   Required Reading: VISONA, p.14-23

Week 2 – Central Africa: Congo Basin and Gabon
8/29 – KONGO and the YOMBE
   Required Reading: VISONA, p.366-378

8/31 – FANG and the KOTA
   Required Reading: VISONA, p.355-364

Week 3 – Central Africa: Congo Basin
9/5 – CHOKWE
   Writing Assignment #1 – Explanation of the assignment.
   Required Reading: VISONA, p.379-385

9/7 – YAKA, SUKU and the PENDE

Required Reading: VISONA, p.385-394


**Week 4 – Central Africa: Congo Basin**

9/12 – KUBA

Required Reading: VISONA, p.396-406


9/14 – LUBA, HEMBA, and the TABWA

Required Reading: VISONA, p.412-422


**Week 5 – Central Africa: Congo Basin**

9/19 - SONGYE, LEGA, BEMBE and the MBOLE

**Writing Assignment #1 due**

Required Reading: VISONA, p.422-429

9/21 – Review for Exam #1

Writing Assignment #2 – Explanation of the assignment.

Week 6 – East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania
9/26 – Exam 1, begin Concepts of East African Art

9/28 – MAASAI
  Required Reading: VISONA, p. 456-469

Week 7 – East Africa and beyond: Mozambique, Madagascar
10/3 – MAKONDE & MALAGASY

10/5 – GREAT ZIMBABWE and the SHONA
  Required Reading: VISONA, p.478-487

Week 8 – Southern Africa: Zimbabwe, South Africa
10/10 – NDBELE and the ZULU
  Required Reading: VISONA, p.487-493

10/12 - Exam 2 - MIDTERM

**Week 9 – Moving into West Africa: The Grasslands**

10/17 – NO CLASS – Fall Break

10/19 – CAMEROON GRASSLANDS

Bibliography for Writing Assignment #2 due

Required Reading: VISONA, p.336-352


**Week 10 – West Africa: Nigeria**

10/24 – Ancient Cultures: NOK, IFE-IFE, and OWO

Required Reading: VISONA, p.228-238

10/26 - BENIN

Required Reading: VISONA, p.310-327


**Week 11 – West Africa: Nigeria and Mali**

10/31 – YORUBA (Video Class)

Required Reading: VISONA, p.239-259
11/3 - DJENNE-DJENO, BAMANA, and the TAUREG (Video Class)
   Required Reading: VISONA, p.106-124

**Week 12 – West Africa: Mali**

11/7 – TELLEM, DOGON, and the SENUFO (Video Class)
   Required Reading: VISONA, p.130-152

11/9 – **Exam #3** and Class Activity TBA

**Week 13 – West Africa: BURKINA FASO**

11/14 – BWA, MOSSI
   Required Reading: VISONA, p.155-162

11/16 – General class on Burkina Faso

**Week of Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 14 – West Africa: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire**

11/28 – BAGA, MENDE, and the DAN
   **Writing Assignment #2 due**
   Required Reading: VISONA, p. 176- 189
11/30 – BAULE and the AKAN
   Required Reading: VISONA, p. 194-216, 218-220

Week 15 – Art of the Diaspora
12/5 – The United States and the Caribbean
   Required Reading: VISONA, 500-518

12/7 – Review Class for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 11th, 8:30 am