

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, SIUE

Dr. Cory Willmott

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Office Hours: Tues. 3:30 – 5:00 pm and Wed. 11:30 – 1:00 pm, or by appointment

ANTH 404: Anthropology and the Arts

COURSE CONTENT:

This course examines anthropological approaches to art through readings, films, lectures and hands-on museum laboratory exercises. Students then apply these approaches to a research project on an artifact or an aesthetic tradition represented in SIUE and other museum collections.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To learn an overview of anthropological approaches to art and to museum exhibits.
- 2) To develop an understanding of how human creativity and aesthetics are influenced by historical and cultural contexts.
- 3) To develop hands-on skills in the examination, description and analysis of the arts.
- 4) To learn how to apply a theoretical framework to questions concerning aesthetics and artistic production in non-Western societies and/or to create an artwork in a non-Western art tradition.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION UNDERGRADUATE:

#1) 15%	75 pts.	Textbook Homework (15 online quizzes of 5 MC questions each @ 1 pt. per question)
#2) 2.5%	12.5 pts.	Selection and approval of artifact or type of artifact for project
#3) 10%	50 pts.	Project proposal (Title, abstract, annotated bibliography)
#4) 5%	25 pts.	Primary Artifact Analysis (2 to 3 pages, plus bibliography and figures)
#5) 15%	75 pts.	Research Essay (8-10 pages, plus references cited and figures) or Artwork (5-7 pages, plus references cited and figures)
#6) 2.5%	12.5 pts.	Oral Presentation (5 minute oral summary of your findings)
#7) 30%	150 pts.	2 Term Tests (30 multiple choice questions each @ 2.5 pts. per question)
#8) 15%	75 pts.	Final Exam (30 MC questions @ 2.5 questions each)
#9) 5%	25 pts.	Participation (attendance; contributions to discussions; communications with the instructor)
#10) Bonus	25 pts.	15 for assignment submission format; 10 to be announced depending on circumstances
Total: 105%	525 pts.	Final grade out of 100.

Detailed description of the assignments is on a separate hand-out and is also available under the “About this course” button of the course Blackboard site.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION GRADUATE:

#1) 15%	75 pts.	Textbook Homework (15 online quizzes of 5 MC questions each @ 1 pt. per question)
#2) 5%	25 pts.	Selection and approval of artifact or type of artifact for project
#3) 10%	50 pts.	Project proposal (Title, abstract, annotated bibliography)
#4) 10%	50 pts.	Literature Review (3-6 pages, plus references cited)
#5) 10%	50 pts.	Primary Artifact Analysis (3-6 pages, plus bibliography and figures)
#6) 20%	100 pts.	Artifact Spreadsheet and Images (museum research findings)
#7) 20%	100 pts.	Research Essay (14-16 pages, plus references cited and figures) or Artwork (9-11 pages, plus references cited and figures)
#8) 5%	25 pts.	Oral Presentation (10 minute oral summary of your findings)
#9) 5%	25 pts.	Participation (attendance; contributions to discussions; communications with the instructor)
#10) Bonus	25 pts.	15 for assignment submission format; 10 to be announced depending on circumstances
Total: 105%	525 pts.	Final grade out of 100.

REQUIRED TEXTS (selected chapters from):

- 1) CS = *Calliope's Sisters: A Comparative Study of Philosophies of Art*, 2nd Ed. (Anderson 2004)
- 2) ASSS = *Art in Small-scale Societies* (Anderson 1991)
- 3) BB – Clifford, selection from *The Predicament of Culture*, 1988; Brown et al, selections from *Material Histories*, 2008.

COURSE FORMAT and EXPECTATIONS:

The course will employ a combination of lectures, class discussions and small-group exercises. Students are expected to: 1) **read the syllabus in full** and consult it regularly for directions on scheduling, readings, assignments and policies; 2) **come prepared to class** by having read the assigned readings (always bring the assigned reading to class even if you haven't read it); 3) **take notes during class** on lectures and discussions; and 4) **regularly utilize the resources provided on Blackboard**. Success in the course depends upon meeting these expectations - failure to do so will result in inadequate preparation for assignments and exams, and hence lower grades.

Blackboard:

- Lectures are posted in weekly folders under "Coursework."
- **Check announcements at least once a week!**
- Grades will be posted on this site as soon as they are available.
- Weekly Textbook Homework quizzes will be found under "Coursework." These will be posted up until class time each week, and NOT afterwards! Save and/or print them BEFORE you submit your responses in order to retain all possible answers.
- artifact images and links for research project are posted in "Project Resources" folder under "Coursework"

POLICIES:

Grading:

The evaluative scale to be used in this course is as follows:

90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 0 - 59 = F

A = excellent; B = good to very good; C = satisfactory; D = less than satisfactory; F = failing.

Enrolment:

Students who fail to come to class four consecutive times during the first ten weeks will be withdrawn from the course by the instructor.

Assignments:

- See the Assignments handout for general instructions on assignment submission and grading, as well as the requirements needed to receive the 10 bonus points available for assignment submission format.
- **All assignments must be submitted in hard copy and electronic format (Word '07 or '10) through Blackboard's Turnitin tool.**
- **Do not slip assignments under my office door!**

Late Assignments:

Except under exceptional circumstances, assignments submitted after the due date will not be accepted. Late assignments will forfeit all bonus points. Appeals for extensions must be requested **before** the scheduled class time of the due date of the assignment. I cannot guarantee timely grading of late assignments.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic misconduct, including plagiarism and cheating, is described on p. 1 of the SIUE Student Academic Code. Academic Misconduct on an assignment, paper, test or exam will result in an F in the course. Please also familiarize yourself with the University policy on penalties outlined in the Code. The Faculty reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Classroom Behavior:

- 1) Turn cell phone ringers OFF before entering class.
- 2) Arrive on time. Do not leave before the end of class without prior permission.
- 3) Do not hold private conversations (either oral or written). Do not speak during lectures unless called upon; listen and speak respectfully to your fellow students.
- 4) Do not read extraneous materials during lectures.
- 5) Do not fall asleep in class.

Failure to obey the above rules will result in deductions from your participation grade.

Disability Support Services:

Students with disabilities are welcome in this course. Academic accommodations you may require must be arranged through the SIUE Disability Support Services office in MUC (650-3726) and brought to my attention at the beginning of the term.

Contacting me:

I welcome all your comments and questions via telephone, e-mail, text and in person during my office hours or by appointment at (almost) any time. Email and text are most effective methods of contacting me. Please do not assume that I have received your message(s) unless you receive a reply.

Blackboard Readings:

Brown, Alison *et al.* 2008.

Clifford, James. 1988. "On Collecting: Art and Culture." In *The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth Century Ethnography, Literature and Art*. Cambridge, MS: Harvard University Press, pp.214-51.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week	Date	Theme	Activities	Readings	Assignments
		PART ONE	Foundational Concepts and Primary Analysis		
One	8/22	Introduction to cross-cultural art research	Discussion: Projects Lecture: Semiotics ATM Exercise: Looking at Art (Mexican masks)	BB Clifford	TH#1
Two	8/29	Definition of "art"	Lecture: What is Art? (Boas and Clifford) Exercise: What is Art?	ASSS Ch. 1 (28 pgs.)	TH#2
Three	9/5	Making Art	ATM Exercise: working with materials (e.g. hide and wood)	BB Brown et al (pp.80-99)	TH#3
Four	9/12	Sensory analysis of art	Lecture: Primary Analysis ATM Exercise: Primary Analysis	CS Ch. 14 (19 pgs.)	TH#4 #2 Topic
Five	9/19	Iconography and Symbolism	Library Instructional Session (at Lovejoy Library) Lecture: Iconography and Symbolism	ASSS Ch. 3 (31 pgs.)	TH#5
		PART TWO	Secondary Analysis – Process and Meaning		
Six	9/26	The Artist	Term Test 1 (15%) Exercise: Secondary Analysis	ASSS Ch. 4 (36 pgs.)	Term Test 1 (15%) TH#6
Seven	10/3	Yoruba Aesthetics: Process	<i>Divine Design: West Africa</i> ATM Exercise: Twin Statues Video: <i>Art of the Dogon</i>	CS Ch. 6 (31 pgs.)	TH#7
Eight	10/10	Navajo Aesthetics: Process	Guest Lecture: Jill Ahlberg Yohe (SLAM) Video: <i>Weaving Worlds</i>	CS Ch. 5 (23 pgs.)	TH#8 #3 Proposal

Nine	10/17	Cultural Meaning	Lecture: Chinese Symbolism ATM Exercise: <i>Divine Design: Taoism and Buddhism</i>	CS Ch. 13 (27 pgs.)	TH#9
Ten	10/24	Comparative Aesthetics: Meaning	Lecture: Comparative Asian Iconography Video: <i>Islamic Art</i>	CS Ch. 13 (21 pgs.)	TH#10 #4 Primary
		PART THREE	Secondary Analysis – Function and Value		
Eleven	10/31	Functions of art	Term Test 2 (15%) Lecture: Functions of Art	ASSS Ch. 2 (25 pgs.)	Term Test 2 (15%) TH#11
Twelve	11/7	Inuit Art: Function and Value	Lecture: Inuit Art ATM Exercise: Function Versus Value in Inuit art	CS Ch. 2 (27 pgs.)	TH#12
Thirteen	11/14	Aboriginal Aesthetics: Function	Film: <i>Whale Rider</i> (Maori, New Zealand)	CS Ch. 3 (23 pgs.)	TH#13
Thanksgiving BREAK!					
Fourteen	11/28	Aesthetics in Early India: Function and Value	Lecture: Arts of India ATM Exercise: Functions of Indian art (comparative)	CS Ch. 8 (15 pgs.)	TH#14 #5 Essay
Fifteen	12/5	TBA	Oral Presentations	TBA	TH#15 #6 Oral
FINAL	12/12		EXAM: 6:30 – 8:10 pm		