ARThist 345-01/AAAS 348-01/ICS 223-01/
African Art: From Royal Court to Contemporary Marketplace
Tuesday, 1:45pm - 4:15pm
Professor Richard Powell
Required Readings: Sakai Course website

Required Readings: Online

Class Assignment I

Each student will create a PowerPoint presentation and lead an introductory discussion about the 4 scheduled African Art Topics on November 2, November 9, and November 16. After informing Professor Powell by Tuesday, September 7 of their preferred African Art Topic to present via a PowerPoint and lead a class discussion on, they will meet with Professor Powell on Wednesday, Oct. 13 in the Nasher Museum of Art’s courtyard to discuss their progress and raise possible questions.

Class Assignment II

The culminating assignment in African Art: From Royal Court to Contemporary Marketplace will be a 750-word-plus description and analysis of a work of art from the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina. The list of African art objects from which students can choose to write about will be provided at the beginning of the semester. By September 28th students will submit the names of preferred 4 works of African art from the North Carolina Museum of Art. After finalizing the definitive list of student/artwork assignments (by Thursday, September 30th), students will begin to conduct research and write their essays, which are due on Friday, December 3rd. A brief presentation on the chosen work of art will take place in the African Art Galleries at the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC, on Tuesday, November 30th.

Tuesday, September 7/Inland West African Art.

Tuesday, September 7: Preferred African Art Topic for the student introduction/PowerPoint presentation due by today.
Tuesday, September 14/Nigeria & Cameroon.

Tuesday, September 28: Midterm Exam. Each student’s preferred list of 4 North Carolina Museum of Art African artworks for the 750-word-plus description and analysis due by today.

Friday, October 1: Fall break begins.

Wednesday, October 6: Classes resume.
Tuesday, October 12/East & South African Art

Tuesday, October 19/Conducting African Art Research: A Workshop with Heather Martin & Lee Sorensen.

Tuesday, October 26/African Art Topic I: The Benin Kingdom

Tuesday, November 2/African Art Topic II: Benin Art & Culture, Post-1897.

Left: Photograph of an ivory hip mask of Idia, the mother of the Benin King Esigie, c. 1520. on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Right: Photograph of soldiers sitting among the Oba’s royal artifacts following the “British Punitive Expedition,” Benin City, Nigeria, 1897.
Tuesday, November 9/African Art Topics III: The Restitution of African Cultural Heritage.

Upper left: Felwine Sarr, Anne-Marie Bryan Distinguished Professor of Romance Studies, Duke University, and Benedicte Savoy, Professor of Art History, Technische Universität Berlin. Below left: Musée du quai Branly, Paris.
Tuesday, November 16/

Tuesday, November 23: Virtual check-in about student presentations. Thanksgiving recess begins at 10:30pm.

Monday, November 29: Classes resume.
Above left: North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC.

Below left: African Art Gallery, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC.

Tuesday, November 30/North Carolina Museum of Art presentations.
Friday, December 3: Undergraduate classes end. 750-word-plus description and analysis of a work of African art from the North Carolina Museum of Art due today.

Saturday-Tuesday, December 4-7: Undergraduate reading period.

Wednesday-Monday, December 8-13: Final exam period.
Film still from *Beyoncé: Black is King* (2020) with a copy of Robert Farris Thompson’s *Black Gods and Kings* (1971).