

Anthropological Perspectives on Art  
Anth 3450W. DRAFT ONLY

TuTh:

Professor Françoise Dussart

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Course description:

This course will consider approaches to cultural creativity and aesthetics in the graphic and plastic arts. Empirical examples from Non-Western artistic traditions will be provided. Special attention will also be given to the entire issues of museuming, as well as marketing “culture” through “art”. Through the study of particular traditions the following topics will be addressed: basic concepts and definition of human symbolic activity; theories; individual, society and creativity; art and systems of communication; meaning, function, content, style, structure, form; "primitive" art; change in aesthetic productions, tourism and art; museuming, and marketing and the reification of Otherness.

Requirements:

The success of this course depends on students taking responsibilities as course-participants seriously. Discussions will be built around the readings and visual presentations in-class. Students will gain little from the class sessions if they fail to read assigned chapters ahead of time. The readings will be discussed in class and students need to be prepared to answer questions on the assigned readings.

In class Examinations will be based on the lectures and the readings. There will be one required mid-term examination and one required final examination. **Each exam = 10%**

There will be 4 assignments to email me before class (2-5 paragraphs), which will count for **15% for the midterm**,

**15% on class participation.** By class participation I do not mean just showing up to class, but participating in discussions, asking questions on assigned readings, as well as participating in the class discussions about exhibitions and films.

Students will each produce a paper, which will be written in 4 different stages. The purpose of the paper is two-fold: First student will produce a working document (10 pages) in which they will present a project for a future exhibition on marginalized and/or indigenous arts. I will comment on this first draft and students will subsequently revise it. Once this first half of the paper is revised, students will work on the second half of the paper and produce a 10-page paper explaining clearly what specific themes will be used to frame the display of specific objects that they will select. I will make comment this second paper. Student will revise the second paper, and combine both documents. This final paper will be due during exam week. Each paper counts for 25%, drafts and revised versions will be graded. **Final paper is worth 50 %.**

Students discuss via email or after class with me their ideas about each phase of their papers. Remember I do not answer email between midnight and 6AM.

**Remember you cannot pass the course if you do not pass the written part ie Final Paper.**

**\*\*Use of Personal laptops is not permitted in this class\*\***

**\*\*\*Please do not use your cellular phones in class\*\*\***

ALL READING MATERIAL CAN BE FOUND ON HUSKYCT

DATE	TOPIC
Tuesday	Introduction.
Thursday:	Museum Tour. Benton
Tuesday	<b>Functionalism:</b> Read: Franz Boas. (2 pdfs)
Thursday	<b>Symbols and Structures:</b> Read Claude Lévi-Strauss.
Tuesday	<b>Psychological and Symbolic interpretations: A Case Study: Rock Art of Southern Africa</b> Read -J.D. Lewis-Williams: "The San Artistic Achievement." -J.D. Lewis-Williams: "A Dream of Eland." -J.D. Lewis-Williams & T.A. Dowson: "On Vision and Power in the Neolithic"
Thursday	<b>Abelam Artist</b> Read Anthony Forge: And Brigitta Hauser-Schäublin

**Before class and by 10 AM please email me your answer.**

Tuesday	<b>Anonymous Artists and Collections</b> Read Susan Vogel
Thursday	<b>Primitivism”, Indigenous Anonymous and Western Artists:</b> Read William Rubin
Tuesday	<b>Primitivism”, Indigenous Anonymous and Western Artists cont.:</b> Read Sally Price

**Before class and by 10 AM please email me your answer**

Thursday                      In class discussion of what is an outline, what is expected in your papers and museum exhibition projects

Tuesday                      **Museum visit.**

Thursday February 28 **Aesthetics and Spiritual Power:**  
Read Howard Morphy

**First Detailed outline (working document) due**

Tuesday March 5            **Antiquities and the Far Eastern Art**  
Read Craig Clunas: Oriental Antiquities

**Detailed outline returned to students with comments**

Thursday March 7           **MID-TERM EXAM.**

Tuesday March 12          Natural History Museum  
**Commodification, Activism, and the remaking of the Others’ Art:**  
Read Nelson Graburn

First Draft of first paper (Working document) due

Thursday March 14          **Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art. Is it “New Art”?:**  
Read Dussart

**Spring Recess**

Tuesday                      **Museum visit**

**Working document draft returned with comments to student**

Thursday                      **Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art and the Art Markets**  
Read Fred Myers

**Start revising working document**

Tuesday                      In class discussion of second paper

Thursday                      **Trading Near and Far:**  
Read Christopher Steiner

**Second Outline due for exhibition themes document**

Tuesday                      **Collecting, Displaying, Indigenizing**  
Read Ruth Phillips: Museums and Indigenization  
**Before class and by 10 AM please email me your answer**

Thursday                    **Museum visit**  
Museum **Indigenous Curatorial Perspectives**  
Read Jolene Rickard (two articles)

**Return Second outline with comments**

Tuesday                    **Contemporary Maori Art and National Imaginings**  
Read Nicholas Thomas  
**Before class and by 10 AM please email me your answer**

Thursday                    **Guest Speaker:**  
**Second Paper due (Exhibition themes document)**

Tuesday                    **Guest Speaker:**

Thursday                    **Rearranging art categories, venues**  
FILM: Exit\_Through\_the\_Gift\_Shop

Tuesday                    **Museum visit**

**Return second paper with comments**

Thursday                    **Wrapping up**

FINAL EXAM DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED  
FINAL PAPER DUE DURING EXAM WEEK