

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic Department:	Communications & The Arts
Programme:	American Studies Art History and Visual Cultures Film Studies International History
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Non-Western Visual Cultures
Course Code:	AVC 6102
Total Hours:	160
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credits:	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course explores issues that relate to the interpretation, perception, and representation of the visual arts of non-Western cultures, with a focus on indigenous (ethnographic) and prehistoric (archaeological) art. The course investigates issues that relate to engaging with art across cultures and considers colonial/neo-colonial/postcolonial encounters. The course takes a critical and self-reflexive approach to the representation and display of non-Western visual cultures in the West. A range of case studies will be examined which usually range across Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas.

Prerequisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To examine a variety of examples of 'non-Western' visual cultures in context
- To examine the colonial and post-colonial history of research on indigenous and prehistoric visual cultures
- To engage with the range of inter-disciplinary theories and methods for approaching and interpreting art across cultures
- To analyse the representation of 'world arts' in museums and galleries

Programme Outcomes:

American Studies: Aii, Bii, Ci, Cii, Ciii, Civ, Di, Dii, Diii

Art History and Visual Culture: A6(iii), B6(i), B6(ii), C6(i), C6(ii), C6(iii), C6(iv), D6(i), D6(ii), D6(iii)

Film Studies: A6(iii), B6(i), B6(ii), C6(i), C6(ii), C6(iii), D6(i)

International History: Ai, Aii, Bi, Bii, Biv, Ci, Cii, Ciii, Civ, Di, Dii, Diii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a broad yet detailed knowledge of a range of 'non-western' visual cultures
- Show a good, critically engaged understanding of the colonial and post-colonial history of research on indigenous and prehistoric visual cultures
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of a range of theoretical and methodological approaches to 'non-western' visual cultures
- Show critical engagement with the display of 'world arts' in museums and galleries
- Demonstrate well-developed skills (eg; group work, report writing, oral presentation) which translate to the workplace.
- Complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 6000-level course

Indicative Content:

- The interpretation, perception, and representation of the visual arts in 'non-western' cultures
- Issues that relate to engaging with art across cultures, including colonial/neo-colonial encounters
- The representation and display of other cultures
- Case studies usually ranging across Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through classroom lectures and seminar classes, and through a series of closely guided site visits. Lectures are structured as surveys and overviews of both accepted knowledge and current debate on each theme/topic. Short seminars will be held as feed-back opportunities in the subsequent session following each site visit, with a view to ensuring the integration of individual learning/interpretation from each site into the learning of the whole class. Seminars rely upon active student preparation, note-taking, and response to each site, and will

consist of student-led discussion of historical, perceptual and heritage issues arising from each site.

Indicative Texts:

- Bhabha, Homi K. & Diana Sorensen, *Territories and Trajectories: Cultures in Circulation*, (Duke University Press, 2018).
- Burt, Ben 2013 *World Art: an Introduction to the Art in Artefacts* (London: Bloomsbury, 2013).
- Powell, Richard. *Black Art: A Cultural History*. (London: Thames & Hudson, 2021)
- Zijlmans, K. and W. Van Damme (eds). *World Art Studies: Exploring Concepts and Theories*. (Amsterdam, Valiz, 2008).

Journals:

- Grant, Catherine & Dorothy Price (eds). *Decolonizing Art History*, Art History, (Association for Art History: February 2020).
- Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*, University of Toronto Press
- Southeast of Now: Directions in Contemporary and Modern Art in Asia*, National University of Singapore Press
- Visual Studies*, Taylor & Francis Online.

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	