

Liba 497.001: The Arts and Diversity in 20th-Century America
Spring, 2006

Instructor: Dr. M. Skoglund
Texts: various!

Office: TC 224; ph: 465-1023
E-mail: skoglund@usi.edu

Course description: The course will survey the contributions made to the arts in America by those termed "minority" artists, musicians, and writers. These contributions will be studied in context, placing them within their appropriate historical, cultural, and socio-political settings, while at the same time comparing them to their counterparts within mainstream art, literature, and music. Following a brief look to the 16th-early 19th centuries, the course will focus on the period beginning in the late 19th century and running up to the present.

Requirements: 3 exams, readings, reports on the readings, a short paper, and class discussions and participation. Regular attendance is expected; 3 unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the final grade.

Week One: Introduction to the course.

Jan 9-13 Background Study I: a look back at the history of diversity in the United States, 17th-18th centuries, its historical and socio-political background. Lecture material and handouts to be given in class.

Reading:

Frances K. Pohl, Framing America (excerpts) Handout: pp. 131-34;

Reading:

Carl Waldman, The Atlas of the North American Indian (excerpts)
Handout: pp. 20-24, 32-38; on reserve: pp. 52-68.

Extra recommended reading:

Pedro Castaneda, et al., The Journey of Coronado (excerpts)
(Contemporary accounts of the exploration of North America by various explorers traveling with Francisco Vasquez de Coronado [1540-42]).

Robert Hine and John Mack Faragher, The American West, a New Interpretive History (excerpts).

VIDEO: Views of a Vanishing Frontier :The Expedition of Prince Maximilian and Karl Bodmer to the Native Americans of the Great Plains

Week Two: Background Study IIa: a look back...the 19th century.

Jan 16-20 Major focus: Native Americans, their situation, their art, their music, their literature.

Required Readings:

The Atlas of the American Indian. (excerpts on reserve: pp. 83-101)

Framing America (excerpts on reserve: pp. 126-36.)

Recommended reading: Hine and Faragher, **The American West...**
(excerpts)

SLIDE LECTURE: Native American Art

Week Three: Background Study IIb: a look back ... the 19th century.
Jan 23-27 Major focus: African-Americans, slavery, the Civil War,
Reconstruction, the emergence of Black artists and writers.

Readings:

The Atlas of African-American History (excerpts on reserve)

Romare Bearden and Harry Henderson, **A History of African-American Artists** (excerpts: on Duncanson, Bannister, Lewis, and Tanner on reserve)

Recommended reading: Narrative **of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave**, with an introduction by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
(on reserve)

SLIDE LECTURE: 19TH CENTURY African-American Art

Week Four: African-Americans in the Early 20th Century.
Jan 30-Feb 3 Readings:

W. E. B. DuBois, **The Souls of Black Folks** (1903). (excerpts on reserve)

Bearden and Henderson, **A History of African-American Artists**
(excerpts on reserve)

VIDEO: Against the Odds: the Artists of the Harlem Renaissance

Week Five: African-Americans in the Early 20th Century (cont.).
Feb 6-10

Readings: Zora Neale Hurston, **Their Eyes Were Watching God**
(excerpts on reserve) and a sampling of the writings of Langston Hughes. Richard Wright, **Native Son** (excerpts on reserve)

The Atlas of African American History (excerpts on reserve)
The music of Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, etc.

TAKE HOME EXAM #1.

Week Six: Latin American Artists Come North.
Feb 13-17

Mexican artists Rivera and Orozco in the United States (handouts)

Reading:

To be assigned.

Video: The Buena Vista Social Club (Cuban musicians)

SLIDE EXAM # 1

Week Seven: The Civil Rights Era
Feb 20-24

Suggested Readings:

Harvard Sitcoff, The Struggle for Black Equality, 1954-92
(excerpts)

Required Readings:

Frantz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks (excerpts on reserve)
(sociology)

Karen Plunkett-Powell, Remembering Wollworth's (excerpts)
(largely a photo essay on the time)

Samplings of the writings of Malcolm X and the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. (handouts)

Eva Cockcroft, John Pitman, and James Cockcroft, Toward a People's Art, the Contemporary Mural Movement (sections on African-American and Chicano murals from the '60's). On reserve.

Week Eight: The Civil Rights Era (cont.) Growing Up African-American
Feb. 27-
March 3

Readings:

Adalberto Aguirre, Jr. and Jonathan H. Turner, American Ethnicity: the Dynamics and Consequences of Discrimination, Ch. 4: "African-Americans"

Suggested Readings:

Terry H. Anderson, The Movement and the Sixties (excerpts)
(political science)

Claude Brown, Manchild in the Promised Land (growing up on the Streets of Harlem) (excerpts)

or

Rosemary L. Bray, Unafraid of the Dark (growing up poor in Chicago in the '60's) (excerpts)

Music: a sampling of blues, jazz, and spirituals.

Video: Rosa Parks.

Week Nine: SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES
March 6-10

Week Ten: Growing Up Native American
March 13-17

Readings:

N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*

Week Eleven: Growing Up Native American (cont.)

March 20-24 **Readings:**

Vine Deloria, Jr., Custer Died for Your Sins, an Indian Manifesto
(excerpts)

Aguirre and Turner, American Ethnicity..., Ch. 5: "Native Americans"

Suggested reading:

Mary Louise Krimrine and Susan Claire Scotto, Art and the Native American: Perceptions, Reality and Influences (excerpts)

TAKE HOME EXAM #2

Week Twelve: The '70's and Beyond: Latinos

March 27-31

Readings:

Cockcroft, Pitman, and Cockcroft, Toward a People's Art (excerpts)

Eva Cockcroft and Holly Barnet-Sanchez, Signs from the Heart: California Chicano Murals (excerpts)

Week Thirteen: The '70's and Beyond: Latinos

April 3-7

Suggested Readings:

Esmeralda Santiago, When I Was Puerto Rican (excerpts)

or

Luis Alberto Urria, Across the Wire: Life and Hard Times on the Mexican Border (excerpts)

John Bodner, History of Ethnicity and Immigration (excerpts)

Required Readings:

Lucy Lippard, Mixed Blessings. New Art in Multicultural America
(Introduction and Chapter 1)

Week Fourteen: The '70's and Beyond: African-Americans

April 10-14

Required Readings:

Toni Morrison, *Sula*

Suggested Readings:

Bell Hooks, Where We Stand: Class Matters (excerpts) and
Killing Rage: Ending Racism (excerpts) (sociology)

**Leonard Steinhorn and Barbara Diggs-Brown, By the Color of Our Skin: The Illusion of Integration and the Reality of Race (excerpts)
(sociology)**

**Week Fifteen: The '70's and Beyond: Latinos
April 17-21**

Readings:

Victor Villasenor, Walking Stars (a selection of short stories)

Lucy Lippard, Mixed Blessings (Chapters 2 and 3)

Music: Latino music: Mexican, Cuban, and Puerto Rican

**Week Sixteen: The '70's and Beyond: Asian Americans
April 24-28**

Required Readings:

Lucy Lippard, Mixed Blessings (Chapters 4, 5 and postface)

Amy Tan, The Joy Luck Club (excerpt)

Aguirre and Turner, American Ethnicity..., Ch. 7: "Asian Americans"

Various materials on Asian American artists (no one source):

Nam June Paik, Maya Lin, Helen Oji, Bing Lee, Young Soon Min, etc.

Suggested Reading:

John Bodner, History of Ethnicity and Immigration (excerpt)

TAKE HOME EXAM #3

**Week Seventeen: Final Exam Week: SLIDE EXAM #3: May 1st, 3-5 p.m.
May 1-5**

The class will also have a few guest speakers, and there will be fieldtrips on even numbered years to the Biennial Fellowship Exhibition at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis.