

Common Course Outline

HUM 201

Artifacts of Culture: Ancient World and Third World

1 to 3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

### **Artifacts of Culture: Ancient World and Third World**

**Provides an intensive study of a single masterpiece, theme, or movement of world art, music, literature or architecture; focuses on topics drawn from cultures of the ancient world or from third world and indigenous cultures throughout human history.**

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. develop and apply critical and analytical skills to cultural studies
2. detail and analyze comparatively selected relevant cultural artifacts
3. analyze selected relevant cultural artifacts in their cultural contexts, synchronically and diachronically
4. recognize and describe the relevant influences that shape cultural production, including factors of race, class and gender
5. view cultural artifacts with a more sophisticated intellectual appreciation
6. analyze critically the formal qualities and characteristics of selected cultural artifacts
7. assess the different cross-currents of cultural influences that have shaped cultural production in different historical and geographical milieux
8. develop a greater openness to different cultural criteria of beauty and significance
9. produce a careful and thoughtful scholarly or creative project with written and oral components
10. recognize, analyze and assess the historical importance of selected relevant cultural artifacts
11. recognize and describe the impact and influences of ancient world and third world cultural production on contemporary American and world culture

Major Topics

Depending upon the specific modules offered

I. Evolution and development of literary forms in the given cultural context, in a comparative perspective.

II. Evolution and development of artistic and musical forms in the given

cultural context, in a comparative perspective.

III. Evolution and development of musical and theatrical forms in the given cultural context, in a comparative perspective.

IV. Formation and role of individuals or groups crucial to cultural production in a given context.

V. Relationship of selected relevant cultural artifacts to other manifestations of the given societal context: political, economic, religious, recreational.

VI. Concepts and vocabulary relevant to the academic study of a given cultural context.

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#### Course Requirements

1. Regular and punctual attendance and active participation in class
2. Written essay-style examinations
3. Reading and writing assignments
4. Annotated scholarly or creative project with written and oral components

#### Other Course Information

Artifacts of Culture modules are team-taught interdisciplinary courses in humanities, each devoted to the intensive study of a single masterpiece, theme or movement of world art, music, literature, or architecture. First implemented with the support of a National Endowment for the Humanities program grant, and subsequently selected as one of 13 nationally selected Exemplary Humanities Programs for Adults, Artifacts of Culture was named to the Honor Roll of Outstanding Ideas and Achievements (1987) by the Maryland State Board for Community Colleges, and selected as Distinguished Instructional Program by the Maryland Association for Higher Education (1992). The program is of special interest to those returning to college primarily for purposes of personal enrichment and intellectual stimulation

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in a growth of knowledge,

attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career, and as an informed and concerned citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect students to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending class, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities, and preparing for tests.

Artifacts of Culture: Ancient World and Third World  
HUM 201

A series of team-taught, interdisciplinary courses in humanities, each devoted to the intensive study of a single masterpiece, theme, or movement of world art, music, literature or architecture; the Humanities 201 sequence focusses on topics drawn from cultures of the ancient world or from third world and indigenous cultures throughout human history. Each semester different course modules may be offered, of from one to three semester hour credits, depending upon topic and duration of course module. Following is a sample course outline for a one credit module on "Native Cultures of the Southwest."

A survey of the indigenous cultures of what is now the Southwest of the United States, but was before that part of colonial New Spain and then Mexico, and prior to that the traditional homeland first of the prehistoric Pueblo peoples and, subsequently of the living Pueblo and Navajo cultures. The course begins with the basic geographical configurations of the region between the culture areas of Mesoamerica to the south and the great plains to the north. First the course deals with the prehistoric Pueblo peoples, as evidenced at such archaeological sites as Bandelier National Monument, Aztec Ruins National Monument, Mesa Verde National Park (including such specific sites as Cliff Palace, Long House and Spruce Tree House), Canyon de Chelly National Monument (White House ruins, Spider Rock), and Chaco Culture National Historic Park. Special attention will be devoted to the architectural ruins themselves, the design of secular and sacred ceremonial spaces, pottery and other evidences of material culture, and, especially the numerous petroglyphs which are windows into the belief systems of the Anasazi people and a significant form of expression by the ancient Pueblo peoples

which constitute a corpus of partially readable Native American "texts." The second half of the course will focus on the living traditions of the Pueblo and Navajo peoples, with study of such cultural artifacts as basketry and pottery and weaving, on those aspects of ceremonial permissible to be studied by outsiders to the community (dances, costume, sacred paraphernalia, sandpaintings, etc). Attention will be divided between examples drawn from Navajo tradition, and examples drawn from Pueblo cultures, such as the Hopi, the Zuni, the Acoma, and the Taos Pueblos.

Readings include Zolbrod's translation of the Navajo epic, *Dine Bahane*; Alfonso Ortiz, *The Tewa World* and selections from volume 9 of the *Handbook of North American Indians*, edited by Ortiz; Linda Cordell, *Southwestern Prehistory*; David Noble's *Houses Beneath the Rock*; Simon Ortiz' *Going for the Rain* and *Good Journey*; Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony* and *The Storyteller*; Emily Benedek's *The Wind Won't Know Me*; Stephen Trimble, *The People*. Readings focusing on the arts will include J. J. Brody, *Beauty from the Earth* and *Mimbres Painted Pottery*, and Carol Patterson-Rudolph's *Petroglyphs and Pueblo Myths of the Rio Grande*.