

Common Course Outline
HUM 206
Artifacts of Culture: Twentieth Century Topics
1 to 3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Artifacts of Culture: Twentieth Century Topics

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 twentieth century.

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 mutual influences of twentieth century cultural production in a global frame of reference.

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.

Common Course Outline-- Artifacts of Culture: Twentieth Century Topics
page 2

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: Twentieth Century Topics
HUM 206

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 206 sequence focusses on topics drawn from cultures of the twentieth century. 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 "'Primitivism' and Modern Art"

A study of the rich inter-relationships between so-called primitive art (i.e., the art of non-industrialized and primarily non-literate third-world cultures) and the currents of modern art, particularly the appropriation by modern artists of themes, motifs, techniques and styles of such art and the self-conscious formulation of such appropriation as an art movement, i.e., "primitivism."

The course begins with an attempt to define primitivism as a self-conscious appropriation of themes, motifs, techniques or styles of so-called "primitive" (i.e., non-industrialized and primarily non-literate) cultures by modern Western artists, whether writers, musicians, painters, sculptors, architects or decorative artists. The course will look at early examples of primitivism in examples from the ancient, medieval and renaissance worlds of art, but will go on to focus on the emergence of distinctive schools of primitivism from the Romantic era of the early 19th century to the present, with emphasis on the primitivist movement of the early 20th century. Special attention will be given to the impact of exhibits of primitive art in the first decade of the 20th century in Paris and their impact on Picasso and his circle. A focal point for the course will be the Museum of Modern Art's recent major exhibition on Primitive and Modern Art

and its definitive catalogue, and the critical controversies that have emnated from both the exhibition and the catalogue.