

Cultural Aesthetics

Fall Semester 2009

Gretchen H. Lieberman

Class Website: http://staff.4j.lane.edu/~lieberman_g/

Office Hours: Omega days @ South Eugene 3:30-4:00 and by appointment

Course Description:

The study of art provides an excellent window into cultures' beliefs and values. The goal of this course is to learn more about world cultures (particularly those studied in the ninth grade geography and literature classes) through an exploration of art, music, dance and drama from each region. We will learn about the history, techniques, and interpretations of different art forms in parts of Africa, Europe and Asia. As we learn about other cultures, we will also develop our own personal artistic voices and sense of aesthetics. Throughout this course we will consider how our own cultural lens affects our interpretation of other cultures' art.

You can look forward to the following units and art opportunities:

- I. Introduction: What is beauty? What is art? Prehistoric art, body art...
- II. Oceania: Australian x-ray art, dot painting, and bird's eye view, Mauri haka...
- III. Africa: Adinkra stamps, Ndebele houses, love letter pins, music and dance....
- IV. Europe: European art movements, Vincent Van Gogh, triptiks...
- V. Asia:..... Shadow puppets, mandala, origami ...

Expectations:

This course is designed around student participation. In order to succeed, **you must be willing to participate in all activities.** We will be creating our own art in the forms of painting, drawing, handicrafts, theater, music, and dance. No one is expected to be an expert (or even be good) at all these things. Therefore, you will not be evaluated on your artistic ability. However, you are expected to always try your best and put forth as much effort as possible. Your grade will be affected by your effort and ability to follow directions.

In order to succeed in this class, you must do the following:

- o Arrive on time, every day.
- o Take risks and try new experiences with a positive attitude.
- o Respect everyone in the class, including yourself, fellow classmates and the teacher.
- o Use class materials appropriately (art supplies are expensive!)
- o Complete assignments on time—late work will be marked down.
- o Stay on task during work times.
- o Follow verbal and written directions carefully
- o Turn in only your own work—plagiarism will result in very strict consequences.
- o Make it YOUR responsibility to make up work if you are absent.
- o Leave food, drinks and cell phones OUTSIDE the classroom.

Homework:

Most of the work for this course will be done during class time. You can expect not to have much regular homework. However, you will be expected to finish assignments at home if you do not complete them during class, and you will occasionally need to study for a quiz, prepare for a speech or play, or work on a project outside of class.

Supplies:

All art supplies will be provided in class. You may not take these supplies home with you however, so you may want to have some essentials at home as well. I would suggest colored pencils, markers, glue, scissors, a ruler, a narrow black felt pen, and erasers. Watercolors and/or pastels may be helpful as well, but are not as necessary. *Remember, I cannot lend out art supplies, so please don't ask!* If you need to finish with supplies that are only available in class, you may stay after class.

Evaluation:

Though this class is focused on artistic expression, you will not be assessed based on your inherent artistic talent. Project and presentation grades are based on effort and adherence to each assignment's expectations. The key is to follow directions carefully! You will also be graded on written reflective work, small tests and quizzes, and your preparedness for and participation in class. If you are absent, you are still responsible for the work you've missed, including warm up questions. Late work, except when due to an excused absence, will result in a reduced grade. Your course grade for the semester will be comprised as follows:

A \geq 93%	C+ \geq 77%
A- \geq 90%	C \geq 73%
B+ \geq 87%	C- \geq 70%
B \geq 83%	D \geq 60%
B- \geq 80%	F < 60%

Appropriate modifications and accommodations will be made for students on IEP or 504 plans.

Class Website and Grade Checks:

I maintain a class website that you can check any time you are absent or forget what the homework is. The address is: http://staff.4j.lane.edu/~lieberman_g/. Please check the website *before* asking me what you missed. You can also grab copies of assignments from the Extra Copies binder in the classroom. I will post grades online every couple of weeks. If you have turned in late work or extra credit, your online grade might not be accurate until the next time I post. I won't repost grades just for individual changes.

Communication:

Please feel free to call or e-mail me with questions or concerns so that I may address them right away. I am looking forward to a year full of discovery, excitement, challenge, fun, and friendship. Also if any parents or students have any expertise in an art form from another culture, please let me know if you would be willing to share with students. I'm sure there are some of you out there, and your knowledge could be invaluable for our class!

Sincerely,

Gretchen H. Lieberman

Course Description Verification

Please sign that you have read the Cultural Aesthetics course description. Return it by next class, along with the following permission slip and questionnaire, for 5 pts.

Student name (print legibly)

Parent/Guardian name (print legibly)

Student signature

Parent/guardian signature

Student email

Parent/guardian email (or best way to contact)

Mehndi Permission Slip

Later this month, students will have an opportunity to participate in creating an ancient and traditional body art form known as mehndi.

Mehndi is created using a natural dye made from the henna plant. Applied to the skin while wet, the henna paste leaves a dye on the skin as it dries. The designs drawn on the skin can last a varying amount of time: from a day to several weeks. This depends on several factors, including how long the paste is left on the skin and the quality of the dye. In the past, most students' henna designs have disappeared within one week. Students will receive a participation grade for this in-class activity. An alternate assignment will be available for students who do not have permission to participate in this activity.

Please indicate below whether or not your student has your permission to participate:

- Yes, my student, _____, has my permission to participate.**
- No, my student, _____, does not have my permission to participate. Please allow him/her to complete an alternate assignment.**

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Introductory Questionnaire

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “art”?

2. What do you think are the personality characteristics of an artist?

3. Do you have a favorite artist, style, or period? If so, what?

4. Are there any artistic events that you attend?

5. What kind of art do you create? Can you think of something that you are proud of creating?

6. What artistic ability do you wish you had?

7. Do you have any special needs or concerns that I should be aware of? Do you have any suggestions for how I can help?

8. On a scale of 1-5, how do you feel about art (appreciating it, not doing it)?
 1. = I hate art!
 2. = I’m not into art
 3. = art’s fine, whatever
 4. = art’s pretty cool
 5. = art is my life!

9. On a scale of 1-5, how do you feel about creating art? (Yes, you personally.)
 1. = I hate doing or making art of any kind. I don’t think of myself as creative at all.
 2. = I get a little intimidated at the thought of personally doing art.
 3. = I don’t mind doing art, but it’s not that important to me.
 4. = I enjoy the opportunity to be artistic.
 5. = I am an artist. It’s my identity

10. Circle the statement that best describes your access to the internet outside of class. (This will help me design our class with your needs/abilities in mind.)
 - Don’t have it at home
 - We have it, but I don’t always get to use it (too slow or have to share with siblings/parents)
 - I have access whenever I need/want to use it.