IFA 1105 Pre-Historic to Byzantine (core)

The history of art and evolution mankind. A study of the inter-relationship of fine arts/design from early times through the Byzantine. Introduction to the principles and ideologies of history of art. Relation of styles to cultural context, social, belief, economical and political developments.

Course Description

The course introduces learners to the language of history and appreciation of art. Its main content exposes them to the origins and developments of visual arts from the pre-historic period through the ancient civilizations up to the Byzantine era. It also helps them to create relationships between the art and culture of ancient civilizations elsewhere and that of their own region (East Africa in general and Uganda in Particular).

Course objectives:

- To expose students to the knowledge of the possible origins of man as an artist and the beginning of art of the world.
- To let students develop a sense of appreciation of the art of man from the prehistoric to the ancient civilizations.
- To enable students recognize the influence of ancient civilizations (Mesopotamia to Byzantine) on Africa's art in general and Uganda's art in particular.
- To equip them with useful skills that they can apply in their own artistic practices.

Course Outline:

Week1-2: Primary concepts in art history

- Art History definitions/meanings and the language of art appreciation
- Categories of art History
- Art aesthetics and art criticism,
- Art and society
- Art and the contemporary world

Week 3: Evolution of man and origin of art.

- Selected evolution theories
- From dinosaurs to Cro-Magnon man (his art forms).
- The origin of Man in East Africa.
- Aspects of East African rock art.

Week 4:

- Pre-historic man: Western Europe (Paleolithic period):Equipment, tools, materials and art
- Pre-historic man: Western Europe (Mesolithic period):Equipment, tools, materials and art
- Pre-historic man: Western Europe (Neolithic period):Equipment, tools, materials and art
- Pre-historic man East Africa) : Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods: Equipment, tools materials and art.

Week 5: Test one and Coursework one

Week 6: Ancient civilizations and Art:

- Introduction: (Meaning/Definitions and indicators of ancient civilizations).

- Mesopotamia: Chronology, Philosophy, institutions Architecture and other Arts
- (Sculpture, painting, pottery)
- Influence to Uganda's art practice

Week 7 Ancient civilizations and Art; Egypt

- Chronology, Philosophy, institutions Architecture and other Arts (sculpture, painting, pottery).
- **Influence to Uganda's art practice** Week 8: Ancient civilizations: Greece
- Chronology, Philosophy, institutions Architecture and other Arts (sculpture, painting, pottery).
- **Influence to Uganda's art practice** Week 9: Ancient civilizations and art: Rome
- Chronology, Philosophy, institutions Architecture and other Arts (sculpture, painting, pottery).
- Influence to Uganda's art practice **Week 10:**
- Ancient civilizations and Crafts: African Inter- lacustrine regions
- The Art and Craft of the ancient Buganda, Busoga, Luo, Bonyoro etc.
- Survey of the Uganda Museum crafts.
- Influence of this prehistoric art to the Uganda's contemporary art **Week 11: Test two and course work two**

Week 12: Early Christian art

- Chronology and events, World view.
- Christian art: during persecution,
- Christian art after persecution
- Christian art in Africa (Coptic art)
- Development of symbolism
- Christian art in Uganda.

Week 13: Byzantine art, Chronology and events

- World view and institutions
- Architecture and other Arts (sculpture, painting (Mosaic art).
- Influence on Uganda's art

Week 14:

- Art and Religion in Uganda
- From traditional to foreign religions.
- The art in Shrines, temples, churches and Mosques.

Week 15: Discussion Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, learners will be acquainted with the vocabulary of history and appreciation of art. They will be exposed to the origins and developments of visual arts from the pre-historic period through the ancient civilizations up to the Byzantine era. They will create

relationships between the art and culture of ancient civilizations elsewhere and that of their own region (East Africa in general and Uganda in Particular).

Method of instruction:

- Lecture method with questions and answers 15 minutes towards the end.
- Group discussions.
- Students individual and group researches that will partially contribute to coursework marks.
- Some of the lectures shall be enhanced with slide/video shows. **Mode of assessment**
- 2 Tests:.....@ 12% = 24%
- 2 Course works:.....@8% =16%
- Examination:..... 60%
- Total:..... 100%

Students' responsibility

- Attending ALL lectures in time
- Sitting all tests and exams.
- Handing in all course work in time.
- Carrying out individual/group research.

Reading List:

1. Gardner H (1996): Art Through the ages Ed 10. Brace and Company, Harcourt
2. Gombrich E.H (1995): The story of Art Ed 16. Phaid on Press London0
3. Janson H, W (1986): History of Art. Thames and Hudson London.
4. Mc Null B.E (1968) Western Civilization Their History and their Culture. WW Norton and Company Inc, New York
5. Gilbert R (2002) Living with art. Mc Graw Hill. New York
6. Osborn (1970) The Oxford Companion to art Oxford University press. Inc. New York.
7. Internet sources.
8. Encarta Dictionary.
9. Herschel. B. C, (1996): Theories of Modern Art, University of California Press, London
10. William. B, (1973): African Art in Cultural Perspective, Norton and Company New York
11. Read. H, (1964): Modern Sculpture, Thames and Hudson New York
12. Vansina. J, (1984): Art History in Africa, Longman London
13. Seggy. L, (1969): African Sculpture Speaks, ED 4 Ada Capo Paper Back
14. Angela .F, (1984): Africa Adorned, The Hartville Press London
15. Caroline K, (1998): Aesthetics the big Question, Blackwell Publishers
16. http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/CIVAFRCA/CONTENTS.HTM
17. http://www.homestead.com/wysinger/ancientafrica.html

http://www.archaeolink.com/ancient_african_civilizations.htm