

BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
FACULTY COUNCIL

Meeting of November 10, 2015

The Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements herewith submits its recommendations in Curriculum Document 377.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Members of Faculty Council with any questions are urged to contact Douglas Cohen at [dcohen@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:dcohen@brooklyn.cuny.edu) or (718) 951-5945 prior to the meeting.

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**SECTION A-III: CHANGES IN DEGREE PROGRAMS**

**Department of Art**

**B.A. degree program in art history**

HEGIS code 1003; SED program code 81408

The Art major is writing intensive.

**Program requirements** (~~29-30~~ 33-36 credits)

Art 1050 or Core Studies 2.1 or Core Curriculum 1120 or Art 1010 or, with permission of the chairperson, Art 1150.

Art 2210 and 3066.

Art 2211 or 2310.

Eighteen additional credits in art history courses, chosen from at least three of the following subject areas:

- a) Ancient and medieval art
- b) Early modern European art
- c) Modern European and American art
- d) Asian, African, and Oceanic art, and indigenous art of the Americas
- e) Architecture
- f) Special studies

Special topics and honors courses in the above subject areas can count toward the fulfillment of the subject-area requirement with permission of the instructor and the chairperson.

Art 4190

Foreign Language Requirement for the Major

Completion at the college's course-level 3 (the third semester of a language) of French, German, Italian, or Spanish or passing an examination demonstrating an equivalent proficiency in reading and writing the chosen language. Another language may be substituted with permission of the chairperson.

Admission to the college's course-level 3 may be gained by the completion of a course at course-level 2 (the second semester of a language) or two years of the language in secondary school. One year of the language in secondary school admits a student to course-level 2 while a student with no knowledge of the language must begin at course-level 1.

Exemptions from the foreign language requirements will be granted to students who have completed three years of the language in secondary school or passed the Regents level-3 examination or whose native language is other than English but who in the latter case must pass a Department of Modern Languages and Literatures proficiency examination.

**Rationale:** The Art Department wishes to add a Capstone Seminar in Art History to the major requirements. This seminar will expose all majors to a broad array of methods and theories in

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the field and help them make ideological connections between the specialized electives they are required to take. It will intensively develop their skills of writing and oral presentation, thus preparing them more effectively for graduate studies and/or professional opportunities after graduation. In addition, the department wishes to change the credit numbers for two of its current course offerings from 3 to 4 credits (ARTD 3164 and ARTD 4150). Students who elect to take both of those courses would have to complete a total of 36 credits for the major.

**Date of departmental approval:** September 8, 2015

**Effective date:** Fall 2016

## **SECTION A-IV: NEW COURSES**

### **Department of Art**

#### **ARTD 3128 The Arts of Western Africa**

3 hours; 3 credits

Examination of the visual arts and cultures of western Africa, with an emphasis on specific countries and their respective cultures, including Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, and Sierra Leone. The course will include both historical and contemporary art forms, such as masks and masquerades, textiles, wood carvings/sculptures, and architecture. Contemporary works of art will also be discussed, with an emphasis placed on artists who are influenced by historical forms of African art (such as El Anatsui and Yinka Shonibare).

**Prerequisite:** Art 1050 [1.3] or Core Studies 2.1 or Core Curriculum 1120 [1.2] or Art 1010.

**Contact hours:** 3

**Frequency of offering:** Every 3-4 semesters

**Projected enrollment:** 20-25 students

**Clearance:** Africana Studies

**Rationale:** This course functions as one of several courses that will ultimately provide students with a comprehensive, geographically-based survey of African art. This course focuses specifically on the Western region of Africa and will examine a diverse range of arts and cultures from the following countries: Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burkina Faso, and Senegal. By focusing on a specific geographic region, students will be able to better understand the arts of the aforementioned countries and how they are interrelated. Students will be further encouraged to examine how African cultures and their respective art forms have been represented by Western academics and the Western art historical canon.

Successful completion of this course will prepare students to enroll in other upper-division art history courses and will further enhance their knowledge of non-Western, and specifically African art. The course relies on primary and secondary sources to introduce various cultures and art forms to the students and to encapsulate some of the current issues facing the field of African art.

This course is aligned with other courses being offered in the department, particularly courses on non-Western art and the arts of First Nation Americans. It expands upon the department's strengths by offering an in-depth exploration of an African region. It will also create opportunities for students from other departments, such as Africana Studies, to engage with the Art Department, expanding our presence in the Brooklyn College community. Themes such as gender roles, hybridity, cultural exchange, and dynamic traditions will be addressed.

#### **Program/Department Goals Addressed by the Course:**

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This course fulfills two of the Art Department's program goals. Students will (1) "learn to analyze works of art critically from both a historical and an interpretative point of view; in addition, they will gain an understanding of the importance of cultural diversity through exposure to the arts of many different times and places"; and (2) "have extensive practice in articulating aesthetic judgments effectively in spoken and written form."

**Course Objectives:**

This course meets all of the learning objectives of the department, which are as follows: (1) "Recognize and analyze theories of art," (2) "Use terms of art historical analysis correctly and be able to apply them to unfamiliar work," (3) "Formulate and defend critical judgments about works of art in the context of classroom discussions and exams," (4) Write clearly and analytically, with papers including precise thesis statements, well-constructed arguments and thoughtful conclusions, cleanly written and error-free," and (5) "Visit museums and art exhibitions frequently in order to learn to appreciate a wide and varied range of works of art."

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to:

Understand the complexity of African cultures and the richness and diversity of their art forms.

Understand and recognize the similarities and differences of African artistic expressions throughout West Africa.

Identify major African artworks and cultures.

Critically discuss and analyze existing scholarship in the field of African art, particularly in regards to the potential biases of depicting "traditional" African art and culture.

Analyze artworks using a variety of methods and familiarize themselves with the major primary and secondary sources in the field of African art (and develop the skill to incorporate these sources in their research).

View African artworks in a museum and apply the knowledge they have learned in class to visually assess specific works.

**Date of departmental approval:** September 8, 2015

**Effective date:** Fall 2016

## **SECTION A-IV: NEW COURSES**

### **Department of Art**

#### **ARTD 3134 Subject, Creator, Consumer: Women and African Art**

3 hours; 3 credits

Examination of the visual arts and cultures of the African continent, with an emphasis on the importance of women as subjects, creators, and consumers of art. Consideration of historical and contemporary art forms, including masks and masquerades, beadwork, pottery, textiles, and contemporary works of art, as well as an exploration of the role of women in various African societies.

**Prerequisite:** Art 1050 [1.3] or Core Studies 2.1 or Core Curriculum 1120 [1.2] or Art 1010.

**Contact hours:** 3

**Frequency of offering:** Every 3-4 semesters

**Projected enrollment:** 20-25 students

**Clearance:** Africana Studies

**Rationale:** This course offers a thematic examination of African art with an emphasis on the importance of women, a group recognized for their influence on and creation of artistic forms, yet seldom the exclusive focus of academic inquiry. Students will examine a diverse range of visual art forms throughout the African continent, in both historical and contemporary contexts. Although the course is organized thematically, students will be encouraged to interrogate these categories, exploring how specific art forms can fit into multiple categories. The thematic structure will allow students to compare similar art forms from different African cultures, such as pottery and masquerades. Lastly, this course will encourage students to question academic sources for potential biases, particularly in regards to the representation of women.

Successful completion of this course will prepare students to enroll in other upper-division art history courses and will further enhance their knowledge of non-Western, and specifically African art. The course relies on primary and secondary sources to introduce various cultures and art forms to the students and to encapsulate some of the current issues facing the field of African art.

This course is aligned with other courses being offered in the department, particularly courses on non-Western art and the arts of First Nation Americans. It expands upon the department's strengths by offering an innovative approach to examining African art. It will also create opportunities for students from other departments, such as Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies, to engage with the Art Department, expanding our presence in the Brooklyn College community. Themes such as hybridity, cultural exchange, continuity and change, and gender will be addressed.

#### **Program/Department Goals Addressed by the Course:**

This course fulfills two of the Art Department's program goals. Students will (1) "learn to analyze works of art critically from both an historical and an interpretative point of view; in addition, they will gain an understanding of the importance of cultural diversity through exposure to the arts of

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many different times and places”; and (2) “have extensive practice in articulating aesthetic judgments effectively in spoken and written form.”

**Course Objectives:**

This course meets all of the learning objectives of the department, which are as follows: (1) “recognize and analyze theories of art,” (2) “Use terms of art historical analysis correctly and be able to apply them to unfamiliar work,” (3) “Formulate and defend critical judgments about works of art in the context of classroom discussions and exams,” (4) Write clearly and analytically, with papers including precise thesis statements, well-constructed arguments and thoughtful conclusions, cleanly written and error-free,” and (5) “Visit museums and art exhibitions frequently in order to learn to appreciate a wide and varied range of works of art.”

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to:

1. Understand the complexity of African cultures and the richness and diversity of their art forms.
2. Understand the importance of women in the creation and continuation of African art and visual culture.
3. Identify major African artworks and cultures.
4. Critically discuss and analyze existing scholarship in the field of African art, particularly in regards to the representation of women as creators/artists.
5. Analyze artworks using a variety of methods and familiarize themselves with the major primary and secondary sources in the field of African art (and develop the skill to incorporate these sources in their research).
6. View African artworks in a museum and apply the knowledge they have learned in class to visually assess specific works.

**Date of departmental approval:** September 8, 2015

**Effective date:** Fall 2016

## **SECTION A-IV: NEW COURSES**

### **Department of Art**

#### **ARTD 4190 Art History Capstone Seminar**

4 hours; 4 credits

Research, writing techniques, and methodologies essential to the field of art history. Class requires participation in a student-run daylong symposium at the end of the semester.

**Prerequisite:** Art 1050 [1.3] or Core Studies 2.1 or Core Curriculum 1120 [1.2] or Art 1010 and declared Art History major. Non-majors with permission.

**Contact hours:** 4

**Frequency of offering:** Every 3-4 semesters

**Projected enrollment:** 10 students

**Clearance:** none

**Rationale:** This class will serve two purposes: (1) to orient majors to the primary methods of the field of art history, both practical and theoretical and (2) to serve as a workshop for student research, especially written research. Critical theory will be introduced and exemplary journal articles from various fields in art history will be used as models. Written work will be intensively developed in the form of an extensive research paper that will be consistently reviewed over the course of the semester. Oral presentation skills will also be developed. The class will culminate in a daylong symposium organized by the students, where they will present their research and appraise each other's work as well.

#### **Program/Department Goals Addressed by the Course:**

This course addresses two of the Art Department's program goals. Students will (1) "learn to analyze works of art critically from both an historical and an interpretative point of view; in addition, they will gain an understanding of the importance of cultural diversity through exposure to the arts of many different times and places"; and (2) "have extensive practice in articulating aesthetic judgments effectively in spoken and written form."

#### **Course Objectives:**

This course meets four of the learning objectives of the department, which include having students (1) "recognize and analyze theories of art," (2) "Use terms of art historical analysis correctly and be able to apply them to unfamiliar work," (3) "Formulate and defend critical judgments about works of art in the context of classroom discussions and exams," and (4) "Write clearly and analytically, with papers including precise thesis statements, well-constructed arguments and thoughtful conclusions, cleanly written and error-free."

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

To engage in the historiography of the field and engage in critical thinking about the primary and secondary source material.

To develop skills of expository writing and analysis.

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To develop skills of visual analysis crucial to the study of art history.

To gain familiarity with resources necessary to conducting art historical research.

To develop skills of oral presentation.

**Date of departmental approval:** May 5, 2015

**Effective date:** Fall 2016

**SECTION A-IV: NEW COURSES**  
**Department of History**

**History 3419 Colonial North America to 1763**

3 hours; 3 credits

Explores the colonial origins of American society and shows how a broad array of peoples encountered one another in different regions of North America. Religion and power, warfare and slavery, civilization and wilderness, province and empire, with a particular focus on English-speaking settlements from the 1660s to the end of the Seven Years War in 1763. Examines the ways in which historians and historical actors have interpreted the events of the colonial period. Not available to students who have taken HIST 3490 in the spring, 2016 semester.

**Prerequisite:** English 1010 or permission of the department.

**Contact hours:** 3

**Frequency of offering:** Once every two years

**Projected enrollment:** 30 students

**Clearance:** None

**Rationale:** This course will introduce students to the late colonial history of the English-speaking American colonies, their neighbors, and their transatlantic connections. In their examination of both primary and secondary sources, students will develop not only their knowledge of the relevant history, but also their skills of historical analysis and writing. Moreover, this course will enhance and strengthen the History department's offerings, filling the gap between HIST 3323, "The Atlantic World, 1492–1713," and HIST 3420, "The Revolutionary Generation," which begins in 1763. The course satisfies all the major goals the department has established for B.A. students in history, detailed below.

**Program/Department Goals Addressed by the Course:**

1. Acquisition of knowledge about key historical terminology, concepts, actors and events and their significance across a reasonably broad distribution of fields (as determined by the department's distribution requirements).
2. Acquisition of specific historical skills including ability to articulate a clear problem; identify appropriate theories and/or research methodologies; locate primary and secondary sources; formulate a thorough bibliography, and employ proper practices of citation.
3. Ability to comprehend and analyze historiography.
4. Ability to analyze primary sources.
5. Ability to apply historical skills in writing.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To gain an introduction to the major themes, problems, events, and actors in North America from the 1660s to 1763
2. To examine critically this period of American history
3. To interpret primary and secondary sources that relate to this subject

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4. To understand the ways in which early American history informs the present
5. To better express ideas verbally and in writing

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course students will have:

1. Shown familiarity, both orally and in writing, with late colonial American history
2. Gathered and presented in written form evidence to support broader assertions about relevant historical developments during this period
3. Evaluated critically both primary and secondary sources
4. Shown the ability to make verbal and written arguments that present clearly and concisely their supporting evidence and their conclusions.

**Date of departmental approval:** October 13, 2015

**Effective date:** Fall 2016

**SECTION A-V: CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES**

**Department of Art**

Change in credit hours

**FROM:**

**ARTD 3164 Architecture and Urban Design in New York City**

3 hours; 3 credits

Study of New York City's monuments and infrastructure. Contextualization of the city's built environment within architectural discourse

Prerequisite: Art 1050 [1.3] or Core Studies 2.1 or Core Curriculum 1120 [1.2] or Art 1010.

**TO:**

**ARTD 3164 Architecture and Urban Design in New York City**

4 hours; 4 credits

Study of New York City's monuments and infrastructure. Contextualization of the city's built environment within architectural discourse

Prerequisite: Art 1050 [1.3] or Core Studies 2.1 or Core Curriculum 1120 [1.2] or Art 1010.

**Rationale:** This course relies heavily on site visits, and the current time allotted is not sufficient for in-depth visits and discussions. Site visits often run over the allotted class time, and students have expressed the desire for longer visits. Additionally, due to time restrictions that result in limited travel time, site visits must generally be limited to places near Brooklyn College. An extra hour would benefit students by allowing them to tour a wider variety of sites across the city and to study those sites more carefully. The extra time devoted to site visits would better fulfill one of the program goals of the Art History major, namely that "students on campus will connect with the architectural resources of New York City." Furthermore, the higher workload expectations demanded by an extra credit would allow for a more innovative, more work-intensive final project, possibly involving architectural mapping and new digital technologies. Such an assignment would better fulfill the department's goals of having students "develop skills of visual literacy," and having students "develop skills of visual and verbal communication."

**Date of department approval:** September 8, 2015

**Effective date:** Fall 2016

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**SECTION A-V: CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES**

**Department of Art**

Changes in credit hours and course description

**FROM:**

**ARTD 4150 Seminar: Methods in Art History**

~~3~~ hours; ~~3~~ credits

Applicable art historical methodologies will be used for an in-depth study of a topic or an individual artist. Student participation in, and presentation of, research. ~~Students may take this course for credit twice, but may not repeat topics.~~

Prerequisite: Art 1050 [1.3] or Core Studies 2.1 or Core Curriculum 1120 [1.2] or Art 1010 and three additional credits in art history courses.

**TO:**

**ARTD 4150 Seminar: Methods in Art History**

4 hours; 4 credits

Applicable art historical methodologies will be used for an in-depth study of a topic or an individual artist. Student participation in, and presentation of, research.

Prerequisite: Art 1050 [1.3] or Core Studies 2.1 or Core Curriculum 1120 [1.2] or Art 1010 and three additional credits in art history courses

**Rationale:** 3 credit hours are not sufficient to explore a topic in depth as intended for this seminar course. An additional credit would provide the time necessary to explore specialized topics, and would also enable the instructor to assign a more comprehensive and work intensive final project. The extra time spent on course material and assignments would better fulfill the following program goals: “Course will prepare majors for careers in art and art history,” “Students will develop skills of visual literacy,” and “Students will develop skills of visual and verbal communication.”

Students will no longer have the option of taking this course twice because the topics offered are too similar to take more than once.

**Date of department approval:** September 8, 2015

**Effective date:** Fall 2016

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## APPENDIX

**Special Topics:** The committee has approved the following special topics for the term indicated and informed the Provost of the committee's approval. These items do not require Faculty Council action and are announced here for information only.

***The Special Topics listed below are first offerings in Spring 2016 with the approval of the Committee:***

**HIST 3090** Special Topics in Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern European History: *Death and Afterlife in the Ancient World*

**HIST 3390** Special Topics in Transnational and Comparative History: *The Shaping of the Islamic World: From Origins to Modernity*

**HIST 3490** Special Topics in American History: *Colonial North America to 1763*

**RELG 3060** Special Topics in Religion: *The Shaping of the Islamic World: From Origins to Modernity*