northwestern university DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

Quarter/Year Course Number Day/Time Instructor

Fall 2019 ART-HIST 222 MW 12:30-1:50 Thompson

Course Title

Art History and the African Diaspora

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

One of two required 200-level courses Distro: Hist., Interdisc., Lit & Fine Arts



This course examines the intersections between historical and political developments in the African diaspora and the history of art. It starts with a consideration of slavery and its visual representations and thereafter explores efforts by people of African descent to forge the contours of an internally complex diasporic community through visual means. Broader issues—such as modernity, race, capitalism, coloniality, syncretism, transnationalism and the limits of visibility—are productively complicated both historically and theoretically when examined through a consideration of visual arts in and representations of the African

diaspora. Readings in the course will include work by Robert Farris Thompson, Paul Gilroy, Saidiya Hartman, and Richard Powell.

Required Textbooks

Earl Lovelace, The Dragon Can't Dance. ISBN-10: 0892552727. Other readings are available as PDF files via Canvas.

Assessments

Attendance and Class Participation Midterm Exam Final Exam Research Paper