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Wayne County Community College District
Foundations of African American Art
Winter Semester - 2023

**The Significance of Art Within the African Diaspora:
A Focus on Brazil and the United States**

Introduction:

This semester, as part of our regular 16-Week Course, our class will focus on a research project which was researched during a Fulbright-Hays research trip to Brazil during the month of July 2022. The project, titled “The Significance of Art Within the African Diaspora: A Focus on Brazil and the United States” will comprise of 2 assignments as scheduled below:

Assignment #2, Week # 4: 02/07/2023, and
Assignment #3, Week # 6: 02/21/2023

The objective of this project is to introduce students to the history of the African Diaspora as viewed through the lens of Black artists in the Americas. More specifically, information about these Black artists, also called African American artists, will be drawn from

will be given throughout the semester to explain how Nascimento played such an important role in the development of the African Arts Movement in North America, South America and throughout the African Diaspora.

- 3.** How has African Artist of the Diaspora in both Brazil and the United States work been different and similar over the last 150 years?
- 4.** By the end of the class students will write a research paper that will include the art and artists who made contributions to the Human Rights of people from around the world.

Learning Objectives:

Students will develop papers that speak to their understanding of artists' roles in the United States and Brazil. The papers will describe why the students think the artists they choose should or should not be considered as ambassadors of culture and change.

Students will do the following:

- 1.** Write papers throughout the semester using the MLA style and the correct works cited format.
- 2.** Use research sources to define the artist's role in the African Diaspora as storytellers and humanitarians.
- 3.** Conduct research to find similarities in works created by Afro Brazilian and African American artists.
- 4.** Document the ways Abdias do Nascimento contributed to politics and Black Arts Movement in Brazil and throughout the Diaspora.

Essential Questions:

1. During the 20th century, what changes did African American artists in the U.S. and Brazil add to the humanitarian movement for Africans throughout the African Diaspora?
2. During the last century what changes have been made by Africans of the Diaspora? Students will choose at least 2-3 key points.
3. What has not changed for African people of the Diaspora since the end of Chattel Slavery?
Note:

Summary and Rationale of work for the semester:

1. During the past 150 years, since the end of Chattel Slavery, what have Africans in the Diaspora done in their fight for social justice?
2. As the key political, artistic, and impetus for the Black Arts Movement in Brazil and the Diaspora what role did Abdias do Nascimento play among African leaders who were artists, orators, and agents of change for all people of African heritage.
3. What role are artists today playing in the Human Rights Movement?
 - a. Is their work being used as instruments of change?
 - b. Are artists just making art for art's sake?
 - c. Are artists forgetting about their own people of the Diaspora and their plight as oppressed people?
4. Are artists today out just for money or are some still connected to and working for political and social change? Students will answer this and other questions regarding the character of artists producing artwork today.
5. Can African people tackle the tough question of why ask for acceptance and integration with a people that have shown during the past 500+ years they want to destroy African Culture, by continuing to create the type of psychological damage that is prevalent in

African Communities around the world especially among African people of the Diaspora, such as Brazil and the United States?

Lesson Plans:

Students will receive information at the beginning of the semester providing a foundation for lessons to come. They will watch videos and be given reading assignments that will prepare them for the semester.

Videos:

1. African American Art and Artist
2. African Diaspora

Text:

1. African American Art Past and Present, By Samella Lewis

Supplemental Text:

2. Nascimento, A. D., & Nascimento, E. L. (1992). *Africans in Brazil: A Pan-African Perspective*. African World Press.
3. Bearden, R., & Henderson, H. (1993). *A History of African-American Artists From 1972 to the Present* (Vol. 1). Pantheon Books.

Class Syllabus Provided

Works Cited:

Africandiasporadvd.com (2017). *Afro Brazilian Leaders* [DVD].
Brazil.

Bearden, R., & Henderson, H. (1993). *A History of African-
American Artists From 1972 to the Present* (Vol. 1). Pantheon
Books.

Cleveland, K. L. (2013). *Black Art in Brazil: Expressions of
Identity*. Univ. Press of Florida.

Lynch, S. (2018). Fulbright Hays Curriculum Project. *Black*