

SPRING SEMESTER 2010

■ ARHS 535: African American Art

Heather Shirey

Mondays, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

This course will investigate African American art in the United States from the early colonial period to the present. Focusing on art forms as diverse as painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, performance, installation, film, textiles and hairstyling, we will study the visual arts in their shifting historical contexts. The course will proceed chronologically, examining the political and social dimensions of issues such as artistic training and patronage in relation to the development of African American art traditions, taking into consideration as well the intersections of gender and race. A central theme of the course will be the position of the visual arts in the creation of racial and ethnic identities, and with this the active role that African American artists have played in challenging the dominant ideologies.

This course can be used to fulfill the Non-Western or the Modern requirement for students who entered the program prior to fall 2009. You should choose which requirement you wish to meet upon registration; Instructor will work with you to tailor your research project to address the requirement you choose in the most appropriate manner.

This course fulfills the Non-Western/Non-European requirement for those beginning in fall 2009 and beyond.

Background reading:

Lisa Farrington, *Creating Their Own Image: The History of African-American Women Artists*.
Oxford University Press, 2005.

Nell Irvin Painter. *Creating Black Americans* (Oxford University Press, 2006)

Sharon Patton, *African American Art* (Oxford University Press, 1998)

Richard J. Powell, *Black Art and Culture in the 20th Century* (Thames and Hudson, 1997).