

Common Course Outline
NAST 107
Native American Art and Artifacts
3 Semester Hours

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

NAST 107 - 3 Credits – Native American Art and Artifacts provides an overview of principal art styles of Native peoples in North America. The course examines Native art in a cultural context looking at the usefulness of art objects in everyday life and the relationships between art, technology, and utility. Additionally, the course examines the uses of art as educational tools, memory aids, and religious devices and how art can be used as historical documents. Attention will be given to the importance of tradition and innovation and the role of contemporary art in Native American societies.

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. trace the history of Native American cultures;
2. evaluate the impact of European settlers upon Native American art and artifacts;
3. identify the major changes in the evolution of Native American weaving and examine the value of the changes to Native peoples;
4. evaluate the various techniques in producing Native American pottery;
5. evaluate the major changes in the evolution of Native American pottery;
6. evaluate the various techniques and materials used in Native American basketry;
7. evaluate the cultural origin of various Native American baskets;
8. differentiate between the act of decoration, the creation of objects intended as spiritual and art for art's sake;
9. interpret the federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 and evaluate the impact of the federal law on modern Native American artisans; and
10. analyze practices of the collection, curation, exhibition and repatriation of Native American art and artifacts.

Major Topics

- I. Prehistoric and primitive art and artifacts
 - A. Petroglyphs and cave drawings
 - B. Stone implements
 - C. Ceremonial artifacts

- II. Native American cultures pre-contact
- III. Native American art and artifacts at the time of first contact
 - A. The impact of European settlers
 - B. Changes in art and decoration
- IV. Art as historical document
- V. Native American clothing
- VI. Native American pottery
 - A. Mimbres
 - B. Hopewell
 - C. Hohokam
 - D. Anasazi
 - E. Production techniques
 - F. Move from utility to art objects
- VII. Native American basketry
 - A. Function
 - B. Materials
 - C. Decoration
 - D. Tourism
- VIII. Native American weaving
 - A. Blankets
 - B. Rugs
 - C. The Pendleton effect
- IX. Native American jewelry
 - A. Prehistoric
 - B. Pawn jewelry
 - C. Modern jewelers
- X. Art and artifacts of the Northwest Coast
- XI. Modern Native American art and artisans
 - A. The Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990
 - B. Carvings and sculpture
 - C. Trinkets to treasures

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

1. Regular attendance and class participation in discussions/activities.
2. At least two in-class exams/quizzes.
3. Analyzing a variety of primary and secondary texts. This is a writing assignment.
4. In class presentations and/or group work.

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments. The course will include at least one significant writing/research assignment or several smaller writing assignments equaling at least a total of five pages. In completing the writing assignment, students will utilize academic sources appropriate to the discipline.

Other Course Information

This course is an elective course in the Native American Studies Program.