Reference & Instruction for African Visual Culture
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Denison in a Nutshell:

- Ca. 2000 undergraduate students
- Emphasis on small class size, intimate learning experience
- Art history classes have NO prerequisites
- Extensive “General Education” requirements
- Department of Art History
  - 4 faculty members
  - Approx. 36 declared majors (sophomore-senior)
  - Class size typically 18-25 students
African Art @ Denison

- 1 Africanist: Dr. Joanna Grabski
- Courses taught:
  - Africa on Film/African Cinema*
  - Visual Culture of African Cities* (taught as Honors course)
  - Art of Post-Colonial Africa*
  - Oceanic Art
  - 1 section of Western art survey*

* = courses with research instruction
Research Instruction: Art of Post-Colonial Africa

- City/country assignment = 1/2 class session
  - Pedagogical goal: “Africa is not a country”
  - Teach web-based tools, such as CIA World Factbook, UN Web site, web portals, online news sites

- Contemporary artist assignment = 1 session
  - Students must give mini-presentation on one contemporary African artist NOT covered in class

- Resources taught:
  - Grove Art Online
  - SIRIS Catalog (thanks, Janet!)
  - Library catalog
  - Art Abstracts
Research Instruction: Africa on Film

- Typically 3 sessions
  1. Brainstorming key terms & discipline-matching
  2. Resources, part I (reference & library catalog)
  3. Resources, part II (periodicals & databases)
- 1 large project: FILM PROPOSAL
- Students can research ANY topic relevant to Africa… some examples:
  - Female Genital Mutilation (female circumcision)
  - AIDS
  - Marriage rites/ceremonies
  - TV & its influence on African culture
  - Hunting & poaching
  - Diamond trade
Taught Fall 2005 as Honors course

2 assignments
1. City/Country assignment (again!)
2. Research paper on any topic relevant to Africa

5 sessions:
1. City/Country session
2. Brainstorming exercise & discipline-matching
3. Boolean logic & Library catalog
4. Databases
5. Evaluation of bibliographies/work & Q&A session

Research Instruction: Visual Culture of African Cities