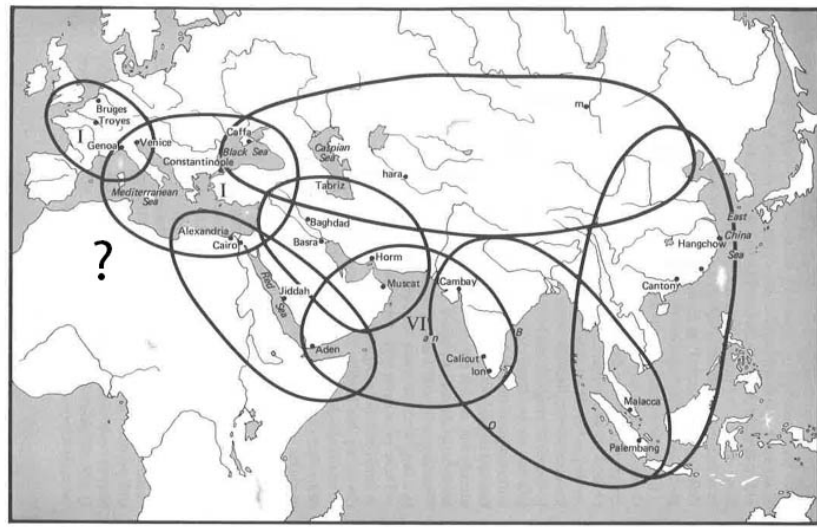


northwestern university
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Spring 2019	ART-HIST 420	T 1-3:50	Normore
Course Title		Degree/Distro Fulfillment	
Studies in Medieval Art: Africa and Medieval Art History			



In her seminal study of the medieval world system, Janet Abu-Lughod sidelined sub-Saharan Africa as a non-player in the intricate circulations of goods and people that spanned the medieval world. Drawing in part on the show “Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time” at the Block, this course will consider recent work—based largely in the material record—which has begun to refigure our understanding of the place of Africa in medieval studies. While the focus of class meetings will be on West Africa between the eighth and fifteenth centuries, students with interests in

other regions (whether within Africa or which engaged in contact with it) or the historical legacy of this era may pursue those concerns in their research projects. In attending to this new material, we will also grapple with the theoretical problems posed by the historical differences between the fields of sub-Saharan and medieval art history. Given the paucity of general resources currently available on this material and in order to help students hone their skills as teachers and public intellectuals, the final project for the course will be a group-produced website/open course rather than the traditional research paper.

Required Textbooks

François-Xavier Fauvelle, *The Golden Rhinoceros: Histories of the African Middle Ages*. Princeton University Press, 2018. 978-0691181264. Nehemia Levtzion and JFP Hopkins, *Corpus of Early Arabic Sources for West African History*. Markus Weiner, 2011. 978-1558762411.

Assessments

Classroom participation, short writing assignments, website prototyping