This course will focus on the work of African Americans classified as “folk,” “self-taught,” & “outsider” artists.

Course material will address the African origins and American transformations of traditional arts and crafts (pottery, architecture, woodworking, basketry, iron work, festival costumes, & quilting), as well as the work of selected 20th & 21st century self-taught artists in media such as painting, sculpture, & assemblage.

Key concerns will include providing cultural/historical contexts for the artists & their works, as well as debates regarding issues of classification, collection, & modes of exhibition.