FAH 5 / REL 5: INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTS OF ASIA
Instructor: Prof. Ikumi Kaminishi
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Office hours: Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00 pm or by appointment

Fall Semester, 2014 Classroom: TISCH 316 Time: TU/THR 4:30-5:45 pm

Description of the Course:
This course explores visual arts and cultures of Asia (primarily from India, China, and Japan). Through the examinations of sculpture, painting, architecture, and ritual objects, the class will study the issues and themes of art and ritual, narratives and performance, and monumentality and cultural legacy. We also study the basic tenets of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism to understand associated artistic concepts.

Learning Objectives for Art History:

• To familiarize with visual arts and cultures of Asia
• To develop an ability to analyze, interpret, and write on visual works of art from Asia.
• To learn to contextualize cultural and historical significance of Asian artworks.
• Critical thinking ability in response to scholarly literature.

Requirements and policies:

• Two exams and two papers
• Discussion participation
• Mandatory class attendance (Let me know of your scheduled absence in advance. In case of emergency, provide me with the proper document after the missed class.)
• Late papers will be downgraded by a third of a full grade each day.
• No Internet browsing during lectures.
Distribution of Grading:

1. Two exams (Midterm 30%; Final 40%): Total 70%
These in-class essay exams will draw upon your understanding of the readings and lectures. You will need to know the works (their work titles, names, cultures, dates of production) shown in class for the slide identification portions of the exams.

2. A paper based on group discussion on subjects given as homework: 15%
Homework will be handed out in class. Write a one-page answer to homework, with a short bibliography list on a separate page that shows your research on the subject. Your answer will be discussed in class that is divided into few groups. Then write a two/three-page paper based on your assessment from the group discussion. You are to turn in both writings. You are encouraged to turn in the second report early to seek my comments for a chance of revision.

3. Museum paper with discussion section: 15%
We meet at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA) on October 23 at around 5pm. (FYI: There is a Tufts-MFA shuttle bus that leaves around 4:25 pm.) The visit is to give you an opportunity to study art from actual objects. We will discuss roles of museums as well as art collections. Your paper should also demonstrate your analytical skills of art objects the MFA collection.

Regarding papers:
• Papers must be double-spaced and checked for grammar and spelling errors.
• Unrevised papers will be downgraded.
• Late papers will be downgraded by a third of a full credit in every two days.
• Quality of writing and command of the English language counts toward your grade. I suggest you leave enough time to take your paper to Tufts Academic Writing Center prior to turning it in on the due date.

On Academic Honesty

Tufts University expects all students to adhere to the University’s code of conduct and policies. Any violation of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is not tolerated, and reported to the Judicial Affairs Officer in the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs.

Important online sources through TISCH Library online database

1. ARTSTOR (image database)
2. JSTOR (scholarly articles)
3. OXFORD ART ONLINE (art history dictionary/encyclopedia)
Other helpful external websites

1. Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC
   “South and Southeast Asia” and “East Asia”
   http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/world-regions/#/06/World-Map

2. “The John C. and Susan L. Huntington Photographic Archive of Buddhist and Asian Art”
   http://huntingtonarchive.osu.edu/index.php

   http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/index.htm

4. A to Z Photo Dictionary: Japanese Buddhist Statuary (You may look up this site but all the facts
   must be double-checked with academic sources before citing in papers)

Lecture slides: Available on TRUNK.Tufts.edu prior to each lecture.

Textbook and books on Tisch Reserve


The following books are on Tisch Library Reserve:

- N7340 .C59 1997 Clunas, Craig. Art in China
- *N7301 .C7 1997 Craven, Roy Indian Art
- NK7983.22 .N48 1980 Fong, Wen. The Great Bronze Age of China
- N7301 .A83 1981 Gray, Basil. The Arts of India
- BL2202 K5 Kitagawa, Joseph. Religion in Japanese History
- *N7350 .M26 1993 Mason, Penelope. History of Japanese Art
- *NX583.A1 T49 Thorp and Vinograd Chinese Art and Culture
SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Note: Read assigned sources before coming to class (except for the first day of the class)

9/2
Introduction:
Read: *Asian Art*: “Introduction”

PART 1—INDIA: BUDDHISM AND HINDUISM: Iconography

9/4
Lecture: Early visual expressions in Indus Valley region
  • Who build the ancient cities in Indus Valley?
  • What do images tell us about their culture?
  • What are basic Indo-Aryan traditions?
Read: *Asian Art*, pp. 3-9.

9/9
Lecture: Early Buddhist monasteries
  • What are the monastic architecture and styles?
  • How did early Indians visualize Buddha’s life in art?
      (Also helpful: Robert Fisher, *Buddhist Art and Architecture*, pp. 7-60. Tisch)

9/11
Lecture: Mahayana Buddhism, and Iconism vs. non-iconism
  • What are some characteristics of Mahayana Buddhism?
  • What is the bodhisattva?

9/16
First Homework will be handed out in class
Lecture: Indian Art of Visual Narration
  • Narrative formats
  • Two art centers: Mathura and Sarnarth

9/18 Lecture: Hindu Art
• Who are Hindu gods? What makes the images Buddhist deities or Hindu gods?
• What do Hindu temples signify?
Read: 1. Asian Art, pp. 24-34.

9/23 First Homework discussion in class
Lecture: Rock-cut monuments

9/25 Lecture: God Shiva
• How do visual arts solve the problem of a god’s multiple powers?
Read: 1. Asian Art, pp. 34-43.

PART 2—CHINA: CONFUCIANISM AND LANDSCAPE: Order of Things

9/30 Lecture: China: Art for the Dead—ritual bronze vessels
• What is taotie pattern?
• How do bronze art help us understand Chinese ancient culture?
Read: Asian Art, pp. 124-137.

10/2 Paper due in class
Lecture: China: Immortalized Elites in Tombs
• Who was the First Emperor of China and how did he envision his power?
• How is Confucius’ ideas revealed in art?
Read: Asian Art, pp. 138-150.

10/7, 9 Lecture: Buddhist Caves in China, and Review for the mid-term
• How is Buddhism transmitted from South Asia?
• How did Buddhism infiltrated into Chinese upper class?
10/14  Mid-term Examination

10/16, 21  Lecture: Song-Yuan Dynasties Painting Tradition
   • What do “landscape paintings” mean in the Song Dynasty?
   • What does “Northern vs Southern School theory” mean?
   • Who are the Academy painters? Literati painters?
   Read: Asian Art, 171-193.
   Recommended: Cahill, James. Chinese Painting.

10/23  Lecture: The Push for Modernization
   Read: Asian Art, pp. 221-239.

10/28  Lecture: Early Buddhist Art in Japan
   Read: Asian Art, pp. 288-305.

PART 3—JAPAN: COURT, SAMURAI, & COMMONERS: Nature and Culture

10/30  Class will be held at Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Boston: starts at 5:30 pm
   Second Homework question will be given at the Museum

11/4  Lecture: Heian court life and women’s literature
   • Social signification and gender

11/6  Homework discussion in class
   Lecture: Religious Art and Military Power
   • Lords and castles
   • Who is Amida?
   • What are wabi and sabi?
   Read: 1. Arts of Asia, pp. 325-353.
11/11  No class (Veterans Day)

11/13, 20  Lecture: Floating World
   • What does “ukiyo” mean in Buddhist and hedonistic senses?
   • What do courtesan pictures have to do with the floating world?

11/25  Second Paper Due
Lecture: Modern Japan
Read:  1. Asian Art., 372-381.

11/27  No Class: Thanksgiving Day; University closed

12/2  Review

12/4  Final Exam (instead of the Univ. scheduled exam on Dec. 18)

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<th>CHRONOLOGY—INDIA</th>
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<tr>
<td>ca. 2500-1500 B.C.E.</td>
<td>Indus Valley Period</td>
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<td>1500-800 B.C.E.</td>
<td>Vedic Period</td>
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<td>322-185 B.C.E.</td>
<td>Maurya Dynasty</td>
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<td>185-72 B.C.E.</td>
<td>Shunga Dynasty</td>
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<td>ca. 70 B.C.E.- ca. C.E. 320</td>
<td>Andhra Dynasty</td>
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<td>ca., C.E. 50-320</td>
<td>Kushan Dynasty (in north-west, till 7th cent.)</td>
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<td>Gupta Dynasty</td>
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<td>1523-256 B.C.E.</td>
<td>Shang and Zhou Dynasties</td>
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<td>221-221 C.E.</td>
<td>Qin and Han Dynasties</td>
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<td>220-589</td>
<td>SIX DYNASTIES PERIOD (Wei Dynasty)</td>
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<td>581-907</td>
<td>Sui and Tang Dynasties</td>
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<td>960-1179</td>
<td>Song Dynasty</td>
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<td>1260-1368</td>
<td>Yuan Dynasty</td>
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<td>1368-1912</td>
<td>Ming and Ching Dynasties</td>
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<td>1912-</td>
<td>People's Republic of China</td>
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<td>10,500-300 C.E.</td>
<td>Jomon and Yayoi Periods</td>
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<td>552 - 1185</td>
<td>Asuka, Nara, and Heian Periods</td>
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<td>1185 - 1333</td>
<td>Kamakura Period</td>
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<td>1333 - 1615</td>
<td>Muromachi and Momoyama Period</td>
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<td>1615 - 1868</td>
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<td>1868 - 1912</td>
<td>Meiji Period</td>
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<td>1912 – 1926</td>
<td>Taisho Period</td>
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<td>1926 - present</td>
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