FAH/REL: 11  BUDDHIST ART
Instructor: Prof. Ikumi Kaminishi
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Contact: (617) 627-2424 or ikumi.kaminishi@tufts.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 pm or by appointment

Fall Semester, 2015  Classroom: Aidekman 13  Time: T/Th. 12:00-1:15 pm

Description of the Course:
This course aims to facilitate students with the basic understanding of Buddhism through various forms of arts from Ancient India, medieval China and Japan. Students are expected to lean artistic expressions that explain key concepts of Mahayana School of Buddhism, which include Huayan Buddhism, Pure Land Buddhism, and Zen Buddhism. By investigating various visual media (architecture, painting, and sculpture), the class studies how abstract ideas are translated into visual modes in disseminating religious tenets.

Course Design
This course is designed as a survey of Buddhist arts from its origin in India to contemporary interpretations in Japanese popular art. This is a study of arts and visual culture associated with the Mahayana School of Buddhism that spread in East Asia. We focus on the relationship between visual arts and theological doctrine of Buddhism in historical and sociological contexts. We will broadly investigate issues of iconism, iconoclasm, millennialism, nationalism, as well as social and cultural interactions between the religious and secular worlds. Twenty or more slides are used in each lecture, some of which will be posed on the Blackboard. Exams will include slide identifications, so review slides on the Blackboard regularly.

Learning Objectives for Art History:

- To familiarize with the basic history of Buddhism.
- To develop an ability to analyze, interpret, and write on visual works.
- To learn to contextualize religious and historical significance of art.
- Critical thinking ability in response to scholarly literature.
**Course requirements:** the final grade based on the following assignments:

**Two in-class exams:** 50% (Mid-term, 25%; and Final, 25%)
Questions, on the materials introduced and discussed in class, will be a combination of slide identifications and essays. You are responsible for the terms, names and dates of the images of monuments shown in class.

**A short paper (3-4 pages):** 25%
Paper is based on the homework assignment and classroom discussion on the topic of Vessantara’s story.

**A group project (visual presentation and a group paper):** 25%
What are the Buddha’s teachings? Create a visual presentation (slides, video-recording, clip) with a written statement on a subject of the Buddha’s life or teaching. (Instructions will be given in class.)

**Policy on class attendance:** Mandatory
Missing three classes (except for emergency) will result in lower grades. Participation in class discussion highly recommended; all questions welcome.

**Policy on papers:**
- You are encouraged to submit your paper early for your revised final version that incorporates my editorial comments.
- A 1/3 of a full grade will be deducted each day after the due date.

**Online visual database and sources**
1. Oxford Art Online (Grove Art Online) through Tisch catalogue: http://www.oxfordartonline.com/subscriber/advanced_search
2. ARTSOR
http://www.artstor.org/index.shtml
http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/index.htm
4. Dictionary of Japanese art historical and architectural terminology
Japanese Architecture and Art Net Users System (JAANUS)
http://www.aisf.or.jp/~jaanus/
5. TRUNK.Tufts.edu: Lecture slides will be posted in the Resource Folder.

**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.
**Survey books**
Craven, Roy. *Indian Art*
Fisher, Robert. *Buddhist Art and Architecture*
Leidy, Denise. *The Art of Buddhism*
Lee, Sherman. *A History of Far Eastern Art*
Rowland, Benjamin. *The Art and Architecture of India*
Sickman & Soper. *The Art and Architecture of China*
Paine, Robert et al. *The art and architecture of Japan*

**Books on reserve at TISCH Library**

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<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>NX504 .B84 2004</td>
<td>Baas and Jacob, ed.</td>
<td><em>Buddha Mind in Contemporary Art</em></td>
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<td>BQ286.G35 2006</td>
<td>Brancaccio &amp; Behrendt</td>
<td><em>Gandharan Buddhism</em></td>
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<td>Behl, Benoy</td>
<td><em>The Ajanta Caves</em></td>
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<td>ND2829 .A4 B44 1998</td>
<td>Cabezon, Jose</td>
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<td>Dhavalikar, M. K.</td>
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<td>Dunhuang Institute</td>
<td><em>The Art Treasures of Dunhuang</em></td>
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<td>N8193 .C6 K37 2002</td>
<td>Karetzky, Patricia</td>
<td><em>Chinese Buddhist Art</em></td>
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<td>N7350.M26 1993</td>
<td>Mason, Penelope</td>
<td><em>History of Japanese Art</em></td>
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<td>N81933 .P86 J34 1981</td>
<td>Nakano, Genzo</td>
<td><em>Byodoin Hoodo</em></td>
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<td>NX676.3 Z45 P36 1999</td>
<td>Parker, Joseph</td>
<td><em>Zen Buddhist Landscape Arts</em></td>
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<td>N5899.K8 R6</td>
<td>Rosenfield, John</td>
<td><em>The dynamic arts of the Kushans</em></td>
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<td>N7301 .R68</td>
<td>Rowland, Benjamin</td>
<td><em>The Art and Architecture of India</em></td>
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<td>PL726.112.B8 F56</td>
<td>Sanford, J. et al eds.</td>
<td><em>Flowing Traces</em></td>
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<td>Sickman &amp; Soper</td>
<td><em>The Art and Architecture of China</em></td>
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<td>Tanaka, Ichimatsu.</td>
<td><em>Japanese Ink Painting: Shubun to Sesshu</em></td>
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<td>Ten Grotenhuis, E.</td>
<td><em>Japanese mandalas</em></td>
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<td>BQ2212.E5 W66 1997</td>
<td>Watson, Burton, tr.</td>
<td><em>The Vimalakirti Sutra</em></td>
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<td>N8193.C6 W478 2000</td>
<td>Whitfield, R. et. al.</td>
<td><em>Cave Temples of Mogao</em></td>
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<td>BQ4570.W6 W55 1996</td>
<td>Wilson, Liz.</td>
<td><em>Charming cadavers</em></td>
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Schedule (subject to change)

You can access Oxford Art Online through Tufts library online.
http://www.oxfordartonline.com.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/subscriber/

Week 1: 9/8, 10  Introduction to the course and Indus Valley Culture:
- Who is the Buddha?
- How is the Buddha artistically represented?
- What’s art history got to do with religion?
Read:
1) “Indian subcontinent,” in Oxford Art Online: “Introduction”; “History: Pre-and protohistory (to 7th century BC)”; and “Iconography—Hindu: early forms”

Week 2: 9/15, 17  The Lives and Teachings of the Historical Buddha
- Teachings of the Buddha
- What is samsara?
- What are the Four Noble Truths? What makes it so characteristic of Buddhism?
Read:
1) “Buddhism: 1. The historical Buddha,” in Oxford Art Online

Week 3: 9/22, 24  Early Indian Visual Arts
- Ashokan Pillars
- Cave temples
- Stupas, chaityas at Sanchi Monastery
Read:
1) “Indian subcontinent, §III, 3: Architecture, 6th century BC–3rd century AD” in Oxford Art Online
2) “Indian subcontinent, §V, 4: Sculpture, 2nd–1st centuries BC,” in Oxford Art Online

Week 4: 9/29, 10/1  Visualizing the Buddha’s previous lives
- 9/29: Paper instruction and homework handed out in class
  10/1: Homework discussion (the discussion should help your paper assignment)
- What are jataka stories?
- Who is Vessantara and what does his actions mean in Buddhism?
Read
Special event on 9/29, 5:30 PM @ Tisch 307  Prof. Yukio Lippit Lecture

Week 5:  10/6, 8  Figural Representations of the Buddha

10/6  Vessantara jataka paper due
10/8  Form groups for the final project

• Mahayana Buddhism
• Bodhisattva path
• Iconography; iconism vs. aniconism
• Who is Mara? Is Mara evil?

Read:

Recommended:

Week 6:  10/13, 15  Painted caves of Ajanta

• Painted fresco walls
• Viharas
• History of caves
* Form groups for the final project.

Read:
1) “Ajanta,” in *Oxford Art Online*
2) “Indian subcontinent, §VI, 3: Painting, 1st century BC–16th century AD” in *Oxford Art Online*

Week 7:  10/ 20  Mid-term Exam

10/ 22  Iconophobia and Iconoclasm

• Largest statues
• Bamiyan Buddhas, Taliban
• Central Asia

Read:
**Week 8: 10/27, 29**  
**Buddhism and Patronage in China**
- Caves and Grottos
- Sinicization
- Chinese patrons of Buddhism
- Huayan Buddhism
- Tiandai Buddhism

**Read:**
2) “Yungang,” in *Oxford Art Online*  

**Week 9: 11/3, 5**  
**First Buddhist Patronage and Architecture in Japan**
- Prince Shōtoku and Hōryū-ji
- Post and lintel structure
- Bay system of construction

**Read:**
1) “Horyuji,” in *Oxford Art Online*
2) “Nara,” in *Oxford Art Online*

**11/10 No Class (Tufts “Wednesday”)**

**Week 10: 11/12**  
**Buddhist millennialism**
- End of the Buddhist Law
- mappo
- How does Buddhist salvation differ from Judeo-Christian salvation?
- What/who are oni? Demons?

**Read:**

**WEEK 11: 11/17, 19**  
**Group presentations**
Week 12: 11/24  **Buddhism and Miracles**
- Illustrated handscrolls (*emakimono*)
- *engi*: stories that tell the origin of a Buddhist temple, or Shinto shrine, or a person
- Women and Buddhism
- Pure Land Buddhism
- Amida Buddha and Kannon Bodhisattva

Read:
2) “Byōdōin (Phoenix Hall),” in *Oxford Art Online*

11/26  No class (Thanksgiving Day)

Week 13: 12/1, 3  **Paradox of Zen Buddhism**
- 12/1  Group project statement (paper portion) due
- Zen Buddhism
- Immortalized founder of Zen Buddhism—Bodhidharma
- *shigajiku*,

Read:
1) “Rankei Dōryū,” in *Oxford Art Online*.
2) “Josetsu,” in *Oxford Art Online*.


Week 14: 12/8  **Independent Monk-painter**
- Daitokuji Monastery, Kyoto
- Sesshu

Read:
1) “Tōyō Sesshū,” in *Oxford Art Online*.

12/10  Final exam
## CHRONOLOGY—INDIA

- **ca. 2500-1500 B.C.E.**  Indus Valley Civ. (Aryan Invasions: 2000-1500 B.C.E.)
- **1500-800 B.C.E.**  Vedic Period
- **642-322 B.C.E.**  Shaishunaga-Nanda Period
- **322-185 B.C.E.**  Maurya Dynasty
- **187–75 B.C.E.**  Shunga Dynasty
- **ca. 70 B.C.E.- ca. C.E. 50**  Early Andhra Dynasty
- **ca. C.E. 50-320**  Later Andhra Dynasty (in northern subcontinent India)
- **320-600**  Kushan Dynasty (in present-day Afghanistan/Pakistan, till 7th cent.)
- **642-322 B.C.E.**  Shaishunaga-Nanda Period
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## CHRONOLOGY—CHINA

- **206 B.C.E.- C.E. 9**  Western Han Dynasty
- **25 C.E.-221**  Eastern Han Dynasty
- **220-589**  SIX DYNASTIES PERIOD
  - Northern Wei (386-535)
  - Northern Qi (550-557)
  - Western Wei (535-557)
- **581-618**  Sui Dynasty
- **618-907**  Tang Dynasty
- **907-960**  FIVE DYNASTIES PERIOD
  - Northern and Southern Song Dynasty
    - Liao in north (907-1125)
    - Jin in north (1115-1234)
- **1260-1368**  Yuan Dynasty
- **1368-1644**  Ming Dynasty
- **1644-1912**  Qing Dynasty
- **1912-**  People's Republic of China

## CHRONOLOGY—JAPAN

- **552 - 645**  Asuka Period
- **645 - 794**  Nara Period
- **794 - 1185**  Heian Period
- **1185 - 1333**  Kamakura Period
- **1333 - 1573**  Muromachi Period
- **1573 - 1615**  Momoyama Period
- **1615 - 1868**  Edo Period
- **1868 - 1912**  Meiji Period
- **1912 - 1926**  Taishô Period
- **1926 - 1989**  Shôwa Period
- **1989 - present**  Heisei Period