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, 2016 Classroom: Jackson 5 Time: TU/THR 12:00-1:15 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:

• Midterm exam, Take-home final exam, MFA visit, Video-making group project
• 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. Midterm exam: 25%
The exam will be a combination of slide image identifications and essays. Questions will be based on the readings and lectures. You will need to know the works (their work titles, names, cultures, dates of production) shown in class.

2. Short paper based on group discussion on subjects given as homework: 20%
A homework will be handed out in class. Write a one-page response for yourself; this should be modified in your final draft after a class discussion. Final draft should be a three-page paper based on your assessment from the group discussion. You will also require further research to complete the paper. Submit the paper online.

3. Group project of video making that introduces MFA: 20%
Using 6 artworks from the MFA, create a 4-minute video that introduces key concepts and traditions from Asian arts and cultures. The grade reflects: 1) teamwork, 2) organization, 3) conceptualization, 4) analyses, and 5) articulation. You are encouraged to turn in your storyboard for the accuracy of the information. Submit your individual assessment (a questionnaire will be handed out in class).

4. Presentation of your video in class: 5%
Each group presents the video (dates and order will be determined later). The grade reflects: 1) teamwork, 2) speech, 3) time-management, and 4) Q&A. At the end of all presentations, the class votes the best video for the content. The winning group gets a bonus of extra 2 points. Do not skip others’ presentations. Your Q&A are counted toward the grade.

5. Final Take-home exam:
Instead of an in-class final exam, we have a take-home paper. Submit the paper online. Due on Dec. 8.

**Regarding papers:**
- Use WORD document, and submit it online: TRUNK’s Turnitin
- Use Times Roman font, size 12 with 1-inch margin
- Double-spaced
- Check and eliminate grammatical, syntactical, and spelling errors.
- Unrevised papers will be downgraded.
- Late papers will be downgraded by a third of a full grade for each day.
- 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:

ND1043 .C28    Cahill, James. Chinese Painting
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
N7301 .R68 1977    Rowland, Benjamin. The Art and Architecture of India
N8193.2.A4 I45 1978b    Snellgrove, David, ed. The Image of the Buddha
SCHEDULE (subject to change)

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

Tu. 9/6  Introduction:
   Read: Asian Art: “Introduction”

PART 1—INDIA: BUDDHISM AND HINDUISM: Iconography

Th. 9/8  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.

Tu. 9/13 Lecture: Early Buddhist monasteries
   • What are the monastic architecture and styles?
   • How did early Indians visualize Buddha’s life in art?
   2. Leidy, Denise. The Art of Buddhism, p. 9-29. [Tisch reserve]
      (Also helpful: Robert Fisher, Buddhist Art and Architecture, pp. 7-60. Tisch)

Th. 9/15 Lecture: Mahayana Buddhism, and Iconism vs. non-iconism
   • What are some characteristics of Mahayana Buddhism?
   • What is the bodhisattva?

Tu. 9/20 Lecture: Indian Art of Visual Narration
   • Narrative formats
   • Two art centers: Mathura and Sarnarth
Th. 9/22  (Homework 1 in preparation for the class discussion be handed out in class)
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.

Tu. 9/27  **Group discussion (based on the homework 1)**
Lecture: Rock-cut monuments

Th. 9/29  Lecture: God Shiva
  • How do visual arts solve the problem of a god’s multiple powers?

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

Tu. 10/4  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.

Th. 10/6  **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.

Tu. 10/11  Lecture: Buddhist Caves in China
  • How is Buddhism transmitted from South Asia?
  • How did Buddhism infiltrated into Chinese upper class?

**Th. 10/13**    Buddhist Caves in China continued, and review for the midterm exam

**Tu. 10/18**    Mid-term Examination

**Th. 10/20**    Class will be held at Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Boston:
- Sign up for either 10:30 -11:45 am session or 12:15-1:30 pm session
- These schedules may change due to low attendance

**Tu. 10/25**    Lecture: Song Dynasty Painting Tradition
- What do “landscape paintings” mean in the Song Dynasty?
- Who are the Academy painters? Literati painters?
  Recommended: Cahill, James. *Chinese Painting*.

**Th. 10/27**    Lecture: Yan and Ming Dynasties Painting Tradition
- What does “Northern vs Southern School theory” mean?
- Who are the Academy painters? Literati painters?

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

**Tu. 11/1**    Lecture: Early Religious Arts in Japan
- What is “Shinto”?
- What are early Buddhist Images in Japan?
  Read: *Asian Art*, Chapter 12

**Th. 11/3**    Lecture: Buddhism as Power
- Japan’s most Chinese century
- Diverse materials for sculptures
  Read: *Asian Art*, 298-314.
(Tu. 11/8) No class—Friday schedule

Th. 11/10 Lecture: Heian court life and Literary Women
   • Social signification and gender
   • Literature and art

Tu. 11/15 Lecture: Buddhist Millennialism and Salvation
   • Hells in Buddhism?
   • What is Pure Land Buddhism? Who is Amida?
Read: 1. *Arts of Asia*, pp. 325-353.

Th. 11/17 Lecture: Samurai culture, Zen and Tea
   • What are *wabi* and *sabi*?
Read: 1. *Arts of Asia*, pp. 343-353.

Tu. 11/22 Lecture: Floating World
   • What does “ukiyo” mean in Buddhist and hedonistic senses?
   • What do courtesan pictures have to do with the floating world?

Th. 11/24 No Class: Thanksgiving Day; University closed

Tu. 11/29 Take-home final questions will be handed out in class
Lecture: Modern Japan

Th. 12/1 Presentations 1

Tu. 12/6 Presentations 2

Th. 12/8 Presentations 3
Take-home exam due (instead of the Univ. scheduled exam on Dec. 20)
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<td>185-72 B.C.E.</td>
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