

## SYLLABUS

*Contact Zones: Histories of Non Western Art*

Fall 2016, M periods 8-9 (3:00-4:55) & W period 8 (3:00-3:50) in FAC 127

**Instructor:** Eleanor Laughlin, PhD

**Office:** FAC 113

**Email:** [elaughlin@ufl.edu](mailto:elaughlin@ufl.edu)

**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, period 6 (12:50-1:40) or by appointment

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### *Course Description*

Have you ever wondered about ancient Chinese silk, the tiled mosques of Isfahan, or the great Aztec sculpture of Coatlicue? Non-Western art offers numerous histories that will take us on an epic journey across many regions and time periods from the ancient eras to the contemporary. This course will provide a foundational survey of the art and architecture of Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the Middle East, all of which are regions considered outside the realm of Western (European, Greco-Roman based) cultures. Further, readings will focus on artworks that highlight historical places and moments of cultural interaction and contact such as the Silk Roads and colonial marketplaces where members of different cultures met for trade, religious pilgrimage, and entertainment. Although the art we encounter will convey evidence of diverse traditions, we will also think about ways in which some artistic media or processes were shared and how cultures influenced each other across cultural and religious divides. Further, we will consider views about non-Western art history today as we examine methodological approaches, museum displays, and contemporary artistic practices.

This course will address both broadly-based questions of representation and those that require detailed analysis of objects. What were the dominant artistic forms of each era and region? How did they rise to prominence? What influences played a role in forming the primary visual modes of expression? Did cultural contact modify artistic traditions? If so, how? In the present day, how has non-Western art been displayed and in what contexts? What roles have historic masterpieces or artistic traditions played in contemporary artistic expression in similar regions? Elsewhere?

### *Required Readings & Reserves (Electronic and otherwise)*

Readings will be available in a variety of forms. TWO books require purchase:

Marilyn Stokstad and Michael Cothren, *Art History Portable Edition*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (New York: Prentice Hall, 2013).

- Book 3: A View of the World: Part 1
- Book 5: A View of the World: Part 2

Some articles/chapters will be available online via electronic reserve (ARES)

(<https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/>), and/or through UF's Canvas interface. Some readings may also be on reserve in the Fine Arts Library.

### ***Course Format***

Our time together will be spent in a variety of ways. There will be a traditional lecture component during which I will introduce new images that enhance or further extend ideas presented in your book. There will also be small as well as large group discussions of the assigned readings and selected images. It is essential that students keep up with the assigned readings in order to participate appropriately in both the lecture and discussion segments.

### ***Requirements:***

This course has information available through UF's e-learning website, Canvas. The syllabus, handouts, assignments, and images for exams will be available through this link: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>. A passing grade requires completion all of the requirements of the course listed below. The final grade is comprised of the following elements:

Attendance and Participation	15%
Article Responses (3)	15%
Object Response (1)	10%
Quizzes (2)	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

### ***Attendance***

In this course, emphasis is placed on participation and discussion of readings, and therefore attendance is required and worth a significant percentage of your grade (15%). You will be asked to sign in at each session. After two unexcused absences, your final grade will be dropped with each additional absence. Students are expected to complete assigned readings by the class date listed.

### ***Article Responses (15% total, 5% each response)***

Each student should write a two-paged, double-spaced response to three of the “readings for discussion” assigned to the class during the semester (NOT readings from the Stokstad textbook, and NOT the Frances Wood reading). The responses should identify the author’s thesis statement, which material (textual/visual/other arguments) he/she uses to support the thesis, and any questions that the student has about the ideas presented, or ideas not presented, that might counter the argument. The response should show that the student has critically engaged with the article.

**Article responses are due the day of your chosen article’s discussion, prior to the discussion.**

### ***Object Response (10%)***

Each student should find an opportunity to visit the Harn Museum on campus and select an object or image from the parameters of this course (non-Western) for analysis and response. The student will write a three-paged, double-spaced response that includes a title page and a photograph of the object. The response should consist of a description of the object that includes but extends beyond the information presented on the museum’s placard, a “best guess” (NO research) as to the meaning or function of the selected object and what visual/course evidence leads you to this conclusion, and the student’s emotional response or reason for choosing the object (not necessarily in that order). Points will be granted for content, format, and writing “style” (syntax, subject-verb agreement, etc.).

**Object responses are due by November 21<sup>st</sup> (last day of class before the Thanksgiving Break).**

***Quizzes (10% total; 5% each quiz)***

The quizzes are comprised of slide identifications. An image will be shown on the screen for two minutes. During that time, students will be required to list the basic information about the image: who created the artwork (culture/artist), what the artwork is (medium/title), when it was created (exact date), and where it is from (city/country).

***Midterm (20%) and Final Examinations (30%)***

Students will take one essay exam in class in the middle of the semester and one at the end of the semester. The midterm and the final will have the same format. They will consist of TWO sections: 1) a series of comparisons (a short essay comparing two or three slides), and 2) a longer essay question for which students will be required to recall from memory their own examples among those discussed in class, the textbook, or articles to best respond to the question. Exam images will be drawn from readings, subject matter, and examples discussed in class. A study guide will be provided one week prior to the exam.

***Grading Scale***

A 100-93	C+ 79-77
A- 92-90	C 76-73
B+ 89-87	C- 72-70
B 86-83	D+ 69-67
B- 82-80	D 66-60
	F 59-0

***Dates***

September 5: NO SCHOOL  
September 21: Yoga Practice on the lawn  
October 17: Quiz  
October 19: Midterm Exam  
November 23: NO SCHOOL  
November 28: NO CLASS  
December 7: Quiz  
December 12: Final Exam

***Additional information***

Students with special needs applicable to the requirements for this course should notify me as soon as possible either after class or via email. The student must also be registered with the Office for Student Services, P202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261, in order to determine appropriate accommodations.

If you find yourself experiencing a high degree of stress or struggling with personal issues, please be aware that counseling services are available on campus:

University Counseling Services/ Counseling Center - Phone: 352-392-1575  
301 Peabody Hall  
P.O. Box 114100, University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611-4100  
Web: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu>

*Words of Caution*

Papers turned in late will be marked down one letter grade for each day, unless I have approved – in advance – your extenuating circumstance. Plagiarism will be referred to the proper authorities and may result in a failing grade.

*Course Schedule*

Week 1: Introductions and Course Overview

August 22

August 24

Week 2: Islamic Art

August 29

August 31

Week 3: South and Southeast Asian Art before 1200

September 5: NO SCHOOL

September 7

Week 4: South and Southeast Asian Art before 1200

September 12

September 14

Week 5: South and Southeast Asian Art

September 19

September 21:

Week 6: China and Korea Before 1279

October 3

October 5

Week 7: China and Korea before 1279

October 10

October 12

Week 8: Testing Week

October 17

October 19

Week 9: China and Korea after 1279

October 24

October 26

Week 10: Early Japanese Art before 1333

October 31

November 2

Week 11: Japanese Art and the Art of the Americas before 1300

November 7

November 9

Week 12: Art of the Americas

November 14

November 16

Week 13: Art of the Americas

November 21

November 23: Thanksgiving Break

**Week 14: Early African Art**

November 28

November 30

**Week 15: Art of Africa in the Modern Era**

December 5

December 7

December 12: 12:30-2:30: FINAL EXAM in room FAC 127