

ARH2531 INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN ART
Spring 2023
Professor Rachel Silberstein

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Class Hours: M, 3-1.55pm / W, 3-3.50pm

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95812749380?pwd=LzRCNXI3b1NlLzFtYkkrcytONEsydz09>

Online Office Hours: M, 2-3pm, or by appointment

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4057542910>

Course Description

This course surveys the history of art across South and East Asia, from the Indus Valley civilization and the earliest bronzes of Shang dynasty China through to the floating world prints of Edo period Japan and modern photography in Calcutta. We will explore the major currents and trends of Asian art history, with a focus on how artistic styles have emerged from intellectual and religious beliefs, geographical locations, trade systems, and other historical contexts including colonialism and globalization. Class and readings provide a contextual framework for understanding the material and provide a deeper examination of key themes in Asian visual and material culture, including paintings, architecture, sculptures, textiles, and porcelain. Class discussions and assignments are intended to develop the skills of close looking, critical thinking, and talking/writing about the visual and material arts. This course is intended as an introductory survey, and no background is necessary for its successful completion.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify major works of art, architecture and archaeological sites from China, Korea, Japan, and India.
- Recognize major artistic movements and styles from different regions of Asia and situate them within specific cultural and historical contexts.
- Demonstrate a more detailed knowledge of some of the key artists and objects of the period.
- Describe works of art objectively and interpret them in both oral and written analysis.
- Understand the ways in which museums and collecting contexts inform our interpretation of works of art in the present day.

Required Textbook Reading

Dorinda Neave, Lara C.W. Blanchard, and Marika Sardar, eds., *Asian Art* (Pearson, 2015)

Rebecca M. Brown and Deborah S. Hutton, eds. *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies in Art History, No. 2) (2006)

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION (FURTHER DETAILS ON CANVAS)

1. Attendance & Participation (9%)
2. Quizzes x 3 (45%) (6th Feb, 6th March, 10th April)
3. Weekly Discussion Board Writings (16%) (8 x 2%)
4. Final Paper – Proposal Outline (10%)
5. Final Paper (20%)

There are no make-ups for quizzes.

Messages from the University:

Class Accommodation

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Attendance

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences>

UF Grading Policy

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Class Demeanor Policy

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

Academic Honesty Policy

The University's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at https://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/media/flexibleufl.edu/documents/uf_policy_student_conduct.pdf.

Note that that if I believe material submitted by a student was produced by A.I., the submission will be discarded and the student will be required instead to take an impromptu oral exam on the same material.

UF counseling and wellness services

University Counseling & Wellness Center

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/about/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1.

Mon 9th Jan.

Class 1. Introduction, Definitions, Geography, Writing about Visual and Material Culture

- Morgan Pitelka, "Introduction: Wrapping and Unwrapping Art" in *What's the Use of Art? Asian Visual and Material Culture in Context*, eds. Jan Mrázek and Morgan Pitelka (University of Hawai'i Press, 2008)

Discussion Board 1: Comparing Asian and Western Art

PART 1. INDIA

Wed 11th Jan.

Class 2. Indus Valley Civilizations and the Origins of Hinduism

- Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 1-9

Week 2

Mon 16th Jan. Holiday

Wed 18th Jan.

Class 3. Buddhism in India

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 9-23

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.1, "Ashokan Edicts"

Week 3

Mon 23rd Jan.

Class 4. The Art and Architecture of Buddhist and Hindu Temples

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 24-45

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 112-119

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.5, "Playful Ambiguity and Political Authority at the Large Relief at Mamallapuram"

Discussion Board 2: Comparing depictions of Indian goddesses

Wed 25th Jan.

Class 5. Islam and Indian Ocean Trade Networks

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 46-52 (and 71, and 120)

Week 4

Mon 30th Jan.

Class 6. Art and Architecture in Medieval & Mughal Imperial India

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 53-64

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 64-74

Archnet (MIT): Quwwat al-Islam: <https://archnet.org/sites/1583>

Archnet (MIT): Fatehpur Sikri, <https://archnet.org/sites/4761>

Archnet (MIT): Taj Mahal, <https://archnet.org/sites/1559>

Discussion Board 3: Medieval and Mughal Indian Architecture

Wed 2nd Feb.

Class 7. Art of the Indian Court and the British Raj

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 74-79

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 80-91

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.12. "Timeless Symbols: Royal Portraits from Rajasthan 17th-19th Centuries"

Week 5.

Mon 6th Feb.

Class 8. Quiz 1

PART 2. CHINA

Wed 8th Feb

Class 9. Neolithic / Bronze Age China

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 124-137

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.20. Shang and Zhou Bronze inscriptions

Week 6

Mon 13th Feb.

Class 10. Qin and Han Art of the Afterlife / Early Figural and Pictorial Art

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 138-145

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 146-149

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.21. "A Magic Army for the Emperor"

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.23. "The Six Laws of Xie He"

Discussion Board 4: Nymph of the Luo River

Wed 15th Feb

Class 11. Buddhist Cave Sites in China

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 150-154, 163-167

Week 7

Mon 20th Feb.

Class 12. Court Art of Tang China / Landscapes in Northern and Southern Song China

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 157-172

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 173-185

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.28. Guo Xi's writings on landscape painting

Discussion Board 5: Formal Analysis of Landscapes

Wed 22nd Feb.

Class 13. Art of Calligraphy

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 155-157, 178-182

Qianshen Bai, "Calligraphy," in *A Companion to Chinese Art*, eds. Katherine Tsiang and Martin Powers (Wiley, 2015)

Week 8

Mon 27th Feb

Class 14. Imperial Art & Architecture of the Yuan and Ming Dynasties

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 186-193

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 194-199

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.34. Excerpts from *Chinese Imperial City Planning*: Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt.

Discussion Board 6: The Forbidden City

Wed 1st March.

Class 15. Gentleman and Professional Painters of the Ming

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 202-210

Week 9

Mon 6th March.

Class 16. Quiz 2

Wed 8th March.

Class 17. Film Viewing: *Down the Grand Canal with the Emperor of China*

Week 10

Mon 13th March. Spring Break

Wed 15th March. Spring Break

PART 3. JAPAN AND KOREA

Week 11

Mon 20th March.

Class 18. Early Korea and Japan and Buddhism

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 242-250

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 276-297

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.26, "Proclamation of the Emperor Shomu on the Erection of the Great Buddha Image"

Discussion Board 7: Rulers, Tombs, and Power

Wed 22nd March.

Class 19. Heian Japan and the Tale of Genji

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 298-323

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.30. "The Oak Tree," from *The Tale of Genji*.

Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji* (New York: Viking, 2001), chapter 36 "The Oak Tree."

Week 12

Mon 27th March.

Class 20. The Art of Zen and the Floating World

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 324-353

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 353-371

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.38. Timon Screech, "The Meaning of Western Perspective in Edo Popular Culture"

Discussion Board 8: The Artist in Japan

Wed 29th March.

Class 21. Joseon Dynasty Art

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 256-266

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.37. Yi Song-mi, "Artistic Tradition and the Depiction of Reality: True-View Landscape Painting of the Choson Dynasty"

Week 13

Mon 3rd April.

Class 22. Foreign Influence and Female Artists in East Asian Art

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 213

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 210-213, 265, 370

Wed 5th April.

Class 23. Porcelain in East Asia

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 200, 252, 259

Week 14

Mon 10th April.

Class 24. Quiz 3

PART 4. MODERN ASIA AND CONCLUSIONS

Wed 12th April.

Class 25. Textile Arts in East Asia

Week 15

Mon 17th April. Final Paper Proposals due

Class 26. 19th Century Art and Photography in Asia

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 214-217, 372-374

Wed 19th April.

Class 27. Modern Japan & Korea

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 266-276, 374-381

Week 16

Mon 24th April.

Class 28. Modern China & India

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 92-100

Neave, Blanchard, & Sardar, *Asian Art*, 220-239

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.40. Excerpts from *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung*

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.41. *Icons of Power: Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution*

Wed 27th April.

Class 29. Conclusions: Collecting Asian Art, Framing Asian Art

Brown & Hutton eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwell Anthologies), no.13. "Indian Images Collected"

Wed 3rd May: Final Papers due