

ARTH 203: Survey of Asian Art

Fall 2011, Mon. & Wed. 10:30-11:45am

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Survey of Asian Art

1. Course Description

This course will give an overview of the major currents and trends of the Arts of Asia, from the Indus Valley civilization to the nomadic art of the steppes, the brilliant Bronze Age in China, the early Buddhist culture and its spread across the Asian continent, and the rise of unique painting and ceramic traditions in East Asia. The interplay of various ideas and styles in architecture, painting, sculpture, and ceramics will reveal an active and selective process of transmission, appropriation, and localization of artistic styles and traditions through time and space.

2. Textbook

Sherman E. Lee, *A History of Far Eastern Art*, Prentice-Hall, 1994.

Supplementary reading:

Robert E. Fisher, *Buddhist Art and Architecture*, Thames & Hudson, 1993.

Michael Sullivan, *The Arts of China*, University of California Press, 2008.

Joan Stanley-Baker, *Japanese Art*, Thames & Hudson, 2000.

Kumja Paik Kim, *The Arts of Korea*, Asian Art Museum, 2003.

Yi Song-mi, *Korean Landscape Painting*, Hollym, 2006

Wen C. Fong, "Chinese Calligraphy: Theory and History," *The Embodied Image*, Princeton University, 1999.

3. Course Requirements

Attendance (15%), ID Quiz (15%-20%-20%), Presentation (10%), Final Paper (20%).

4. Course Schedule

Aug. 29: Introduction

I. The Early Civilizations

Aug. 31: The Indus Valley Civilization

(Lee, 18-23)

Sep. 5: No Class – Labor Day

(Sep. 6—last day to add classes)

Sep. 7: The Early Pottery Cultures of China, Korea, and Japan

(Lee, 23-28; Sullivan, 1-13; Stanley-Baker, 14-20)

Sep. 12: The Bronze Age in China: Shang and Zhou

(Lee, 29-44; Sullivan, 15-43)

Sep. 14: Art under Unified China: Qin and Han

(Lee, 57-72; Sullivan, 65-97)

Sep. 19: The Early Cultures of Korea and Japan

(Lee, 72-78; Kim, 64-85; Stanley-Baker, 20-23)

Sep. 21: ID QUIZ I (15%)

II. The International Influence of Buddhist Art

Sep. 26: Beginnings of Buddhism and Buddhist Art

(Lee, 80-109; Fisher, 29-54)

Sep. 28: The International Gupta Style in India

(Lee, 110-150; Fisher, 54-61)

Oct. 3: Buddhist Art in Tibet and South East Asia

(Lee, 129-150; Fisher, 66-85)

Oct. 5: The Transmission of Buddhist Art to China: Six Dynasties

(Lee, 156-163; Fisher, 86-98; Sullivan, 113-123)

Oct. 10: The Introduction of Buddhist Art to Korea and Japan

(Lee, 163-171; Fisher, 125-127, 138-141)

Oct. 12: The Tang International Style in China
(Lee, 171-185; Fisher, 99-114; Sullivan, 131-142)

Oct. 17: The Efflorescence of Buddhist Art in Korea and Japan: Unified Silla and Nara
(Lee, 186-188; Fisher, 127-133, 143-148)

Oct. 19: ID QUIZ II (20%)

Oct. 19: Visit to the Freer and Sackler Galleries

III. The Art of Painting in East Asia

Oct. 24: Early Figure Painting: Admonitions, Deities, and Heroes
(Lee, 288-294; Sullivan, 105-110, 141-147)

Oct. 26: Court Paintings of Bird-and-Flowers, Horses, and Dragons
(Sullivan, 186-196; Lee, 371-378)

Oct. 31: The Height of Landscape Painting in the Song
(Sullivan, 175-183; Lee, 363-371)

Nov. 2: Literati Painting of the Yuan Dynasty
(Sullivan, 216-222; Lee, 378-382, 455-467)

Nov. 7: Calligraphy
(Sullivan, 213-215; Fong, 29-84)

Nov. 9: Literati Painting in Korea
(Kim, 34-45, 184-189; Yi, 59-92)

Nov. 14: Japanese Narrative Painting
(Lee, 347-357)

Nov. 16: Japanese Screen Painting
(Lee, 510-541)

Nov. 21: ID QUIZ III (20%)

IV. The Art of Ceramics in East Asia

Nov. 28: Ceramics of China
(Lee, 384-393)

Nov. 30: Ceramics of Korea
(Lee, 393-396; 491-492; Kim, 88-143)

Dec. 5: Ceramics of Japan
(Lee, 445-449)

Dec. 7: Visit to the Freer and Sackler Galleries (presentation 10%)

Dec. 14: Final Paper due (20%)