

ARTH 382: Arts of India

Prof. Robert DeCaroli

Monday and Wednesday 10:30 -11:45

Arts Building 2026

Course Description/Objectives:

From its cultural origins in the ancient civilization along the Indus River to the present, the complex culture of South Asia has given rise to some of the world's most remarkable artistic creations. This course will examine the various periods and styles of Indian art from the earliest archaeological evidence to the onset of colonialism. The lectures and discussions will examine the various artistic traditions and historical changes within the Indian subcontinent by tracing their changes over time. A goal of the course will be to understand the cultural, political and religious factors that gave rise to the creation of these works. Special emphasis will be given to the role of art in securing political and religious systems as well as on the role of trade in the exchange of ideas. The course will require a museum visit.

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:00-4:00 and by appointment in Robinson B 371D

Email: rdecarol@gmu.edu

See the course Blackboard site for Term Lists, Slide Reviews, and Course Readings

Course Requirements:	Participation	10%
	2 Quizzes	10%
	Midterm	25%
	Research Paper	25%
	Final	30%

The class meetings will consist of lecture-discussions on specific topics with occasional discussions based on the weekly readings. These meetings will form the core of the course material so it is strongly advised that you attend class consistently

The quizzes will be comprised of slide identification questions, short answer questions, and terms. The Midterm and Final will be longer versions of the quizzes and will also include Essay Questions.

The paper will be 5-7 pages in length and will be written in conjunction with a visit to the Sackler-Freer Museum. I will be happy to look at rough drafts.

I will be providing you with handouts detailing the writing assignment later in the term.

Grading Policies:

A+	100-99%	C+	79-77%
A	98-93%	C	76-73%
A-	92-90%	C-	72-70%
B+	89-87%	D	69-60%
B	86-83%	F	59% and lower
B-	82-80%		

Attendance is necessary; much of the material will only be presented in class lectures and discussions. You are responsible for keeping up with the material and for getting notes for missed classes.

A student's class participation grade will be evaluated not according to the amount of talking that student does, but rather according to whether that student contributes thoughtfully and constructively, based on a careful consideration of the class readings. Obviously, students cannot contribute to class discussion if they are absent; consequently, repeated unexcused absences will be reflected in their participation grade.

Make-up tests and extensions will be given **ONLY** in cases of emergencies or illnesses with proper documentation (doctor's note etc.) In all other cases (family obligations, religious holidays, disabilities etc.), extensions may be granted if I am informed well **BEFORE** the deadline.

Papers are due at the beginning of class on the day specified in the schedule. Late papers will be marked down five points (half a grade) for every weekday and ten points (a full grade) for every weekend they are late.

Papers will be handed back once in class. If you are not present on the day papers are handed back it is your responsibility to ask me for the graded assignment.

Adherence to codes of academic honesty is expected on all assignments and in all testing situations. I take the Honor Code (as stipulated in the university undergraduate catalog) very seriously. This code is a simple expression of respect for the course, your classmates and yourself. Cheating and Plagiarism are forbidden (obviously).

For those who do not know what Plagiarism is it can be defined as: presenting as one's own the words, work or opinions of someone else without giving them proper acknowledgment. Plagiarism can also refer to borrowing the sequence of ideas, arrangement of material, or pattern of thought of someone else without giving them proper credit. Plagiarism can be avoided by proper use of footnotes.

Museum Visit:

The class will be visiting the Sackler and Freer Galleries of the Smithsonian Institution. Information on the trip will be provided later in the term.

Texts:

- 1) Dehejia, Vidya. *Indian Art*. Art and Ideas Series (London: Phaidon Press, 1997).
- 2) Eck, Diana L. *Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*. Second revised Edition (Chambersberg, PA: Anima Press, 1981).
- 3) Course Reader (on Blackboard)

Readings and Lectures: (This schedule is subject to change)

---Readings need to be completed **BEFORE** the days under which they are listed---
Usually this will mean having them read by the **Wednesday** class session

Week 1:

Aug 29 **Introduction**

Aug 31 **The Indus Valley Civilization**

Read:

Dehejia 25-40

Week 2:

Sept 5 **No Class– Labor Day**

Sept 7 **The Vedic Period and the Rise of the Mauryan Empire**

Read:

The Rig Veda: An Anthology. Wendy Doniger O’Flaherty trans. (New York: Penguin Books, 1981) 57-8, 97-99, 119-121, 138-9, 148-151, 209, 217-218.

Romila Thapar, “Asoka and Buddhism as Reflected in the Asokan Edicts.” In King Asoka and Buddhism: Historical and Literary Studies. Anuradha Seneviratna ed. (Kandy, Sri Lanka: Buddhist Publication Society, 1994) 11-26

Week 3:

Sept 12 **Early Buddhist Art**

Sept 14 **The Mauryan Empire**

Read:

Richard Gombrich. “Introduction, The Buddhist Way.” in The World of Buddhism: Buddhist Monks and Nuns in Society and Culture. (London: Thames and Hudson, 1984) 9-14.

Ettienne Lamotte. “Chapter 1: The Buddha, His Teachings and His Sangha.” in The World of Buddhism: Buddhist Monks and Nuns in Society and Culture. (London: Thames and Hudson, 1984) 41-58.

Dehejia 41-48

Week 4:

Sept 19 **The Shunga Period**

Sept 21 **Later Regional Art and Narrative**

Read:

The Jataka or Stories of the Buddha's Former Births: E.B. Cowell trans. 6 volumes bound as 3 (Cambridge, Cambridge UP, 1851) (reprinted Motilal Banarsidass: Delhi, 1994) vol. 2: 106-107, 262-263; vol. 3: 34-37, 225-227; vol. 4: 161-166.

Dehejia 51-68

Week 5: ---

Sept 26 **The Kushan Empire (pt. 1)**
Quiz #1

Sept 28 **The Kushan Empire (pt. 2)**

Read:

Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy. Yakéas: Essays in the Water Cosmology. P. Schroeder ed., New Edition, Oxford, 1993. 90-94.

Benjamin Rowland. The Art and Architecture of India: Buddhist, Hindu, Jain. (New York: 1953, reprint New York: 1984) 121-148.

Dehejia 79-96

Week 6: –

Oct 3 **Developments in the South**
Paper Assigned

Oct 5 **The Satavahana Empire**

Read:

Dehejia 69-76

Week 7: -----

Oct 10 – Columbus Day – Monday classes moved to Tuesday

Oct 11 **The Gupta Dynasty (pt. 1)**

Oct 12 **The Art of Hinduism**

Read:

Eck, Diana L. Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India. Second revised Edition (Chambersberg, PA: Anima Press, 1981).

Week 8:

Oct 17 **Midterm Exam**

Oct 19 **The Gupta Dynasty (pt. 2)**

Read:

Dehejia 97-100

Week 9:

----- Possible Weekend Museum Visit -----

Oct 24 **Post Gupta Developments**

Oct 26 **The Vakataka Dynasty**

Read:

Walter Spink. "The Archaeology of Ajanta." Ars Orientalis. vol. 21. 67-94.

Dehejia 103-134

Week 10:

Oct 31 **Medieval India – Khajuraho**

Nov 2 **Medieval India - Nalanda**

Read:

I-tsing. A Record of the Buddhist Religion as Practised in India and the Malay Archipelago AD 671-695. J Takakusu trans. (New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1966) 71-78, 139-166.

Dehejia 155-182

Week 11:

Nov 7 **Southern Kingdoms – Pallava**

Nov 9 **Southern Kingdoms –Chola**

Read:

Padma Kaimal. "Shiva Nataraja: Shifting Meanings of an Icon." The Art Bulletin. vol. 81 no. 3. (Sept. 1999) 390-419. – (on JSTOR)

Dehejia 185-228

Week 12:

Nov 14 **The Later Chola Empire**
Quiz #2

Nov 16 **The Rise of the Mughal Empire (Islam)**

Read:

Francis Watson. A Concise History of India. (New York: Thames and Hudson, 1979) 105-119.

Dehejia 299-334

Week 13

Nov 21 **The Mughal Empire
Papers Due**

Nov 23 --- No Class -- Thanksgiving

Week 14:

Nov 28 **Mughal and Rajput Painting**

Nov 30 **Rajput Palaces**

Read:

B.N. Goswamy. Essence of Indian Art. (San Francisco: Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, 1986) 17-30, 272-273.

Dehejia 337-362

Week 15:

Dec 5 **The Colonial Period (the Raj)**

Dec 7 **Colonialism to Nationalism**

Read:

Dehejia 379-277

Partha Mitter. Much Maligned Monsters: A History of European Reactions to Indian Art (Chicago: Chicago UP, 1977) 252-286.

Week 16: - Final Exam

Dec. 14 10:30-1:15