

## ARTH 382: Arts of India

**Prof. Robert DeCaroli**

Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-4:15

Arts Building 2003

### **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:** Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:00 and by appointment.  
**Robinson B 371D**

**Email:** rdecarol@gmu.edu

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

<b>Course Requirements:</b>	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	100-93%	C+	79-77%
A-	92-90%	C	76-70%
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 **IN 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.

Generally, I will not accept papers over email.

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 Thursday class session

**Week 1: ---- Introduction to South Asia and the Indus Civilization**

Aug 28-30

**Week 2: the Indus Valley Civilization and Vedic Period**

Sept 4-6

Read:

Dehejia 25-40

**Week 3: The Rise of the Mauryan Empire**

Sept 11-13

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 4: The Shunga Dynasty (Buddhism)**

Sept. 18-20

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 5: Later Regional Art and Narratives ---Quiz #1 (Thurs)**

Sept 25-27

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 6: The Kushan Empire**

Read: 2-4

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 7: ---- The Satavahana Empire- -----Paper Assigned (Thursday)**

Oct. 11

**Class cancelled Tuesday Oct 9th due to Columbus Day Holiday**

Read:

Dehejia 97-100

**Week 8: Midterm Exam ---- Thursday Oct. 18th**

Oct. 16 - 18

Read:

Dehejia 69-76 (for Tuesday)

**Week 9: The Gupta Empire (Hinduism)**

Oct. 23-25

Read:

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

**Week 10: Post Gupta Developments----- Possible Weekend Museum Visit -----**

Oct 30 - Nov 1

Read:

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

Dehejia 103-134

**Week 11: Medieval India**

Nov 6-8

Read:

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

Dehejia 155-182

**Week 12: Southern Kingdoms – Pallava and Chola ----- Quiz #2 (Thurs)**

Nov 13-15

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 13 The Rise of the Mughal Empire (Islam)**

Nov 20

**Class cancelled Thursday Nov. 22 due to Thanksgiving Day Holiday**

Read:

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

Dehejia 299-334

**Week 14: Mughal and Rajput Painting Traditions ----- Papers Due (Tuesday)**

Nov 27-29

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:---- Colonialism to Nationalism**

Dec. 4-6

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**

**Thurs. 12/13 --- 1:30 pm – 4:15 pm**