

## **Art History 203 – Survey of Asian Art Buddhist Art in Asia**

**Prof. Robert DeCaroli**

**Tues and Thurs. 3:00-4:15**

**Robinson B 113**

### **Course Description/Objectives:**

From its inception in ancient India to the present, Buddhism has inspired some of the world's most astounding artistic creations. This course will provide an in-depth analysis of a few of these works, which have been selected from sites located in India, Southeast Asia, China, Japan and the Himalayas. The lectures will provide an understanding of the importance of each site or object through an analysis of the cultural, religious and political factors that surrounded its creation and use. Special attention will be given to the manner in which Buddhism has adapted and changed as a result of interaction with indigenous traditions throughout Asia and the way those differences are expressed through art. The course will require a museum visit.

**Office Hours: Office Hours: Monday 2:00-3:00, Tuesday 1:00-2:00, and by appointment in Robinson B 371D**

**Email: [rdecarol@gmu.edu](mailto:rdecarol@gmu.edu)**

<b>Course Requirements:</b>	Participation	15%
	2 Quizzes	10%
	Research proposal	10%
	Final Paper	25%
	Midterm	20%
	Final	20%

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 and Terms. The Midterm and Final will be longer versions of the quizzes and will also include Essay Questions.

Term Lists and Image Reviews will be available on the course Blackboard site accessible via MyMason

The paper/exhibition assignment will be written in conjunction with a visit to the Sackler-Freer Museum. I will be providing you with information detailing the writing assignments 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 legitimate cases (family obligations, religious holidays, disabilities etc.), extensions may be granted if I am informed well BEFORE the deadline.

I am happy to make necessary accommodations for students with documented disabilities. But, in order to properly accommodate you, I will need to see and sign the documentation from the Disabilities Resource Center well before the tests and assignments are given. It must be properly documented by the DRC Please contact them for more information.

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.

Papers will be handed back in class once. 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 easily be avoided by proper use of footnotes.

**Museum Visit:**

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

**Texts:**

1) Denise Patry Leidy. *The Art of Buddhism: An Introduction to its History and Meaning*. (Boston: Shambala Publications, 2008).

2) Course Readings - – Blackboard or JSTOR

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

---Readings need to be completed BEFORE the day under which they are listed---

**Week 1**

**Aug. 26: Introduction to Buddhist Art**

**Aug 29: Development of Buddhist Practices**

Pal, Pratapaditya. et al. *Light of Asia: Buddha Shakyamuni in Asian Art*. (Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1984) 17-21, 39-49.

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

Leidy 1-5.

**Week 2**

**Sept. 3: India: The Life of the Buddha**

*Asvaghosa's Buddhacarita or Acts of the Buddha*. E.H. Johnston trans. (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1936)  
(Begin on line 66)

Leidy 9-29

**Sept. 5: India: Early Buddhist Art and Jataka Tales**

*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

(Please, pay particular attention to #407 the Mahakapi Jataka)

**Week 3----- Writing Assignment Given**

**Sept. 10: India: Origin of the Buddha Image**

Leidy 31-55

**Sept. 12: India: Ajanta and Late Indian Buddhist Art**

Leidy 57-64, 127-139

(Yijing) I-tsing. *A Record of the Buddhist Religion as Practiced in India and the Malay Archipelago AD 671-695*. J Takakusu trans. (New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1966) 67-72 and 147-152.

(Start on pg 67 under the line and end before Ch XI begins. Then read Ch XXXI)

**Week 4**

**Sept. 17: Sri Lanka: Buddhism in Southeast Asia ----- Quiz #1**

Leidy 141-145, 163-169

**Sept. 19: Thailand: Dvaravati and Sukhothai**

Gosling, Betty. "Reflections on a Golden Age" *Archaeology*. 43. 4 (1990) 24-31.

Schedule Museum visit

**Week 5**

**Sept. 24: Thailand: Dvaravati and Sukhothai**

Leidy 263-275

**Sept. 26: Burma: The Kingdom of Pagan**

Brown, Robert L. "Bodh Gaya and Southeast Asia." In *Bodh Gaya: The Site of Enlightenment*. (Marg Publications: Bombay, 1988) 101-124

**Week 6**

**Oct. 1: Burma and Indonesia: ----- Research Proposal Due**

Leidy 169-187

**Oct.3: Class Cancelled**

**Week 7**

**Oct. 8: Midterm Exam**

**Oct. 10: Class Cancelled**

**Week 8**

**Monday Oct 14th – Possible date for Museum Visit – Freer/Sackler Galleries**

**Oct. 15: Classes cancelled – Monday classes moved to Tuesday**

**Oct. 17: Indonesia and Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the Silk Road**

Xuanzang. *Su-Yu-Ki Buddhist Records of the Western World*. S. Beal trans. 2 vols., 1884. 49-53.

Leidy 65-79

**Week 9**

**Oct. 22: China: The Western Caves, Central Asia, and the Silk Road**

Scharf, Robert H. "The Scripture on the Production of Buddha Images" in *Religions of China in Practice*. Donald Lopez, Jr. ed. (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1996) 261-67.

**Oct. 24: China: Influence of Daoism and Confucianism**

Orzech, Charles. "Saving the Burning-Mouth Hungry Ghost" in *Religions of China in Practice*. Donald Lopez, Jr. ed. (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1996) 278-283.

**Week 10**

**Oct 29: China: Pilgrims and Pure Land**

Leidy 81-99

**Oct 31: China: Buddhism and Painting**

Leidy 189-203

**Week 11**

**Nov 5: China: Buddhism and the State--- Quiz #2**

Leidy 277-289

**Nov 7: China: In-class debate ----- Hanyu vs Zanning**

Welter, Albert. "Buddhist Ritual and the State" in *Religions of China in Practice*. Donald Lopez, Jr. ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996) 390-396.

Hanyu "Memorial Discussing the Buddha's Bone." in *An Anthology of Chinese Literature*. S. Owen ed. (Norton Books: New York, 1997) 597-601.

(You can stop reading at page 601 even though the PDF file is longer.)

**Week 12**

**Nov 12: Korea**

Leidy 101-108, 205-207

**Nov 14: Korea and Japan: Introduction of Buddhism**

Leidy 108-125

Deal, William E. "Buddhism and the State in Early Japan" in *Buddhism in Practice*. Donald Lopez, Jr. ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995) 216-227.

**Week 13**

**Nov. 19: Japan: Post Heian**

Koshiro, Haga. "The Wabi Aesthetic through the Ages." in *Japanese Aesthetics and Culture: A Reader*. Nancy Hume ed. (New York: SUNY Press, 1995) 245-278.

Leidy 208-229

**Nov. 21: Japan: Zen Buddhism----- Final Paper Due**

*Zen Flesh, Zen Bones: A Collection of Zen and Pre-Zen Writings*. Paul Reys ed. (New York: Anchor Books, Doubleday, no date given) 5, 7-8, 12, 31, 50, 65-66, 89.

Leidy 295-303

**Week 14**

**Nov. 26: Himalayas: Nepal and Tibet**

Leidy 231-245

**Nov 29: Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class**

**Week 15**

**Dec 3: Himalayas: Nepal and Tibet**

Kapstein, Matthew. "The Royal Way of Supreme Compassion." in *Religions of Tibet in Practice*. D. Lopez ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997) 69-73

Leidy 247-261

**Dec. 7: Conclusions**

**Final Exam**

**Dec. 12 1:30-4:15**