

ARTH 203: Survey of Asian Art

Spring 2012

Tues. & Thurs. 10:30-11:45am

Prof. Cheeyun Kwon

Office Hours: Tues. 1:30-3:00 pm, Robinson B 373C

ckwon4@gmu.edu

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. Objectives

- Familiarity with the major periods, regions, monuments and media of Asian Art
- Familiarity with basic principles of Asian religion and thought as they pertain to the visual arts
- Understanding the relationship between the history and culture of each region and its art
- Practice in describing, researching, analyzing and writing about art objects
- Introduction to Washington DC's major museums of Asian Art

3. 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.

Kwon Young-pil, *The Fragrance of Ink*, Korea University Museum, 1996

Wen C. Fong, "Chinese Calligraphy: Theory and History," *The Embodied Image*, Princeton University, 1999, pp. 29-84.

4. Course Requirements

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

Students will be responsible to do the assigned readings and discuss the topic's issues in class.

5. Course website on Blackboard: <http://courses.gmu.edu>

Check regularly for slide uploads, announcements, and schedules.

Mailbox in Robinson Hall B 359

6. Course Schedule

Jan. 24: Introduction

I. The Early Civilizations

Jan. 26: The Indus Valley Civilization

(Lee, 18-23)

Jan. 31: The Early Persian Culture

(last day to add classes)

Feb. 2: The Bronze Age in China: Shang and Zhou

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

Feb. 7: Art under Unified China: Qin and Han

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

Feb. 9: The Early Cultures of Korea and Japan

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

Feb. 14: ID QUIZ I (15%)

II. The International Influence of Buddhist Art

Feb. 16: Beginnings of Buddhism and Buddhist Art

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

Feb. 21: The International Gupta Style in India

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

Feb. 23: Buddhist Art in Tibet and South East Asia

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

Feb. 28: The Transmission of Buddhist Art to China: Six Dynasties

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

Mar. 1: The Tang International Style in China

(Lee, 171-185; Fisher, 99-114; Sullivan, 131-142)

Mar. 6: The Introduction and Efflorescence of Buddhist Art in Korea and Japan

(Lee, 186-188; Fisher, 127-133, 143-148)

Mar. 8: ID QUIZ II (20%)

Mar. 12-17: Spring Break

Mar. 20: Visit to the Freer/Sackler Galleries

III. The Art of Painting in East Asia

Mar. 22: Calligraphy

(Sullivan, 213-215; Fong, 29-84)

Mar. 27: Early Figure Painting: Admonitions, Deities, and Heroes

(Lee, 288-294; Sullivan, 105-110, 141-147)

Mar. 29: Court Paintings of Bird-and-Flowers, Horses, and Dragons

(Sullivan, 186-196; Lee, 371-378)

Apr. 3: The Height of Landscape Painting in the Song

(Sullivan, 175-183; Lee, 363-371)

Apr. 5: Literati Painting of the Yuan Dynasty

(Sullivan, 216-222; Lee, 378-382, 455-467)

Apr. 10: Literati Painting in Korea

(Kwon, 152-163)

Apr. 12: Japanese Narrative Painting

(Lee, 347-357)

Apr. 17: Ceramics of China

(Lee, 384-393)

Apr. 19: ID QUIZ III (20%)

Apr. 24: Visit to the Freer and Sackler Galleries

Apr. 26: Presentation (10%)

May 1: Presentation (10%)

May 3: Presentation (10%)

May 8: Final Paper due (20%)