

ARTH 384 Arts of China

Prof. Robert DeCaroli

Mon-Wed 1:30-2:45

Art & Design Building L008

Course Description/Objectives:

With a long history that reaches from the Neolithic era to the modern age, the civilizations in what is now China have given rise to some of the world's most remarkable artistic and architectural creations. This course explores the complex and dynamic history of China by examining the ways in which social, religious, and political shifts gave rise to new traditions and new forms of material culture. Emphasis will be placed on the arts of the court and temple cultures in Chinese history as well as on the role of trade in the development of new influences and new ideas. This is a lecture style course and will include one museum visit to the National Museum of Asian Art in Washington D.C.

Office Hours: Office Hours: Monday 12:00-1:00 and by appointment in Horizon Hall 3139

Email: rdecarol@gmu.edu

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

Mason Core: Global Understanding

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 Image 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 are available on the course Blackboard site accessible via MyMason.

The research assignment will be written in conjunction with a visit to the National Museum of Asian Art. 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 in cases of emergencies or illnesses with proper documentation. In all other legitimate cases, extensions may be granted if I am informed well before the deadline.

Papers are due on the day specified in the schedule. They are to be submitted over Blackboard. Late papers will be marked down five points (half a grade) for every day they are late.

Quizzes and Tests will be handed back 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.

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.

Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities, in accordance with law and university policies. Students requiring accommodations must register with the University's Disability Services and produce documentation <http://ds.gmu.edu/documentation/> . Please do this well before the first test or presentation in case alternate arrangements need to be made.

Other important resources:

- Diversity
 - Mason values diversity; through the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME), Mason seeks to create and sustain inclusive learning environments where all are welcomed, valued, and supported
- Religious holidays
 - University Life religious holiday calendar <http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/> it is the obligation of students, within the first two weeks of the semester, to provide faculty members with the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent due to religious observances
- Student privacy
 - student privacy and student rights under FERPA <http://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/>
- Student services
 - Online Education Services, University Libraries <http://library.gmu.edu/for/online>
 - Writing Center <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Museum Visit:

The class will require a visit the National Museum of Asian Art of the Smithsonian Institution. Information on the trip will be provided later in the term.

Texts:

- 1) Tregear, Mary, *Chinese Art*. (New York: Thames and Hudson, 1997)
- 2) Course Reader on Blackboard

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

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

Week 1

8/21 – Course Introduction

Geography and Language -- Neolithic to Bronze Age (7000-2000 BCE)

8/23 – Early Bronze Age (2000-500 BCE)– New Archaeological Finds

Read: Robert W. Bagley, “Ornament, Representation, and Imaginary Animals in Bronze Age China.” *Arts Asiatiques* 61 (2006), 17–29

Tregear: Introduction and Ch. 1

Week 2

8/28 – Shang Dynasty – Oracle Bones and Ritual Bronzes (1600-1050 BCE)

Read: Tregear: Ch 2

8/30 – Zhou Dynasty (1050-221 BCE) – Important Ideologies Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism

Read: Tregear: Ch. 3

Martin Powers, "The figure in the carpet: reflections on the discourse of ornament in Zhou China." *Monumenta Serica* 43 (1995) 211-233.

Week 3

9/4 – Labor Day – no class

9/6 – Zhou Dynasty – Burials and Bureaucracy.

Read: Laozi. Selections from the *Dao De Jing*, trans. Robert Eno. 2010.

Kongzi. Selections from *The Analects*, trans. Lun Yu. 2009.

Week 4

9/11 – Warring States (480-221 BCE) and Qin (221-206 BCE) First Empire – Quiz #1

Read: Guolong Lai, "Presenting the Invisible," Chapter 3, *Excavating the Afterlife: The Archaeology of Early Chinese Religion* (Seattle: The University of Washington Press, 2015).

9/13 – Qin and Han (206 BCE – 220 CE) Art of the Tomb - Terracotta Soldiers

Read: Tregear: Ch. 4

Week 5

9/18 – Han Dyn – Buddhism and the Silk Road

Read: Wu Hung, "Art in its Ritual Context: Rethinking Mawangdui," *Early China* 17 (1992), 111-45.

9/20 - The Silk Road – Central Asia

Read: Tregear: Ch 5

Week 6 -----Museum Visit?

9/25 – Disunion (3 kingdoms 6 Dynasties) and the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534)

Read: Valerie Hanson. *Silk Road: A New History*. Oxford University Press, 2012. 2-24.

9/27 - Sui (581-618) and Tang (618-907) – Reconsolidation and Trade

Read: Tregear: Ch. 6

Week 7

10/2 – Columbus Day Holiday

10/4 – – Midterm Exam

Week 8

Monday classes meet on Tuesday

10/10 – The Tang Dyn. and Foreign Ideas

Read: Han Yu. “Memorial Discussing the Buddha’s Bone.” in *An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911*. S. Owen ed and trans. (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1996) 597-601.

10/11 5 Dynasties (907-960) and the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) – Economics

Read: Tregear: Ch. 7

Week 9 -----Research Proposals Due

10/16 — The Jin and the Southern Song (1127-1279) – Painting and Ceramics

10/18 – Painting, Perspective, Poetry, and Aesthetics

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

Week 10

10/23 – The Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) Mongol Rule: Tradition and Compromise

Read: Julia K. Murray. “What is ‘Chinese Narrative Illustration’?” *The Art Bulletin* 80.4 (1998), 602-615.

10/25 – Religious Art of the Yuan – Tibetan influence

Read: Tregear: Ch. 8

Week 11

10/30 – Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) – Court Arts

Read: Tregear: Ch. 9

Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt, *Chinese Imperial City Planning*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1990, pp. 1-28, 161-178.

11/1 - Ming: Turning Inward: The Great Wall ----- Quiz # 2

Week 12

11/6 – Ming Dynasty: The Forbidden City and Urban Planning

Read: Tregear: Ch. 10

11/8 – The Rise of the Qing (1644-1912) Manchus at Court

Read: James Hevia, “Looting Beijing: 1860-1900” in *Tokens of Exchange: The Problem of Translation in Global Circulations*. Lydia H. Liu ed. (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999) 192-213.

Week 13

11/13 – Qing Imperial Art and the Fall of the Empire

Read: Tregear: Ch. 11

11/15 – The People's Republic – Mao Years----- Research Paper Due

Read: Geremie Barme, *Shades of Mao: The Posthumous Cult of the Great Leader*. Armonk NY: ME Sharpe, 1996, 3-73.

Week 14

11/20 – Minority Cultures in the PRC – Tibetans and Uyghurs

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

11/22 – Thanksgiving Holiday (Nov 22-Nov 24)

Week 15

11/27 – Modern art in the PRC

Read: William A. Callahan, "Citizen Ai: Warrior, Jester, and Middleman," *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 73, No. 4, pp. 899-920.

11/29 – Conclusions

Read: Tregear: Ch 12

Week 16

Final Exam: Tuesday Dec. 6th -- 1:30am -4:15pm