

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

Prof. Robert DeCaroli

Mon and Wed. 10:30-11:45

Music Theater Building 1005

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 way Buddhism has adapted and changed because 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 12:00-1:00 and by appointment in Horizon Hall 3139

Email: rdecarol@gmu.edu

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

This course fulfills requirements for **Arts** in the Mason Core.

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 paper/exhibition 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.

Make-up tests and extensions will be given in cases of emergencies or illnesses extensions may be granted if I am informed before the deadline.

Papers are due on the day specified in the schedule. Late papers will be marked down five points for every day they are late.

Quizzes and Tests will be handed back in class. If you are not present on the day the tests are handed back it is your responsibility to ask me for the graded assignment. Material submitted over Blackboard will be graded and returned over Blackboard.

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.

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

2) Course Readings - – 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

Jan 17 --- Class Cancelled (I'll be retuning from India)

Please read the syllabus on Blackboard

Week 2

Jan. 22: Introduction to Buddhist Art

Jan 24: 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 3

Jan 29: 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

Jan 31: 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 4

Feb. 5: India: Origin of the Buddha Image

Leidy 31-55

Feb. 7: India: Ajanta and Late Indian Buddhist Art

----- Writing Assignment Given

Leidy 57-64, 127-139

(Yijing) I-tsing. *A Record of the Buddhist Religion as Practiced in India and the Maylay 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 5

Feb. 12: Sri Lanka: Buddhism in Southeast Asia –

---- Quiz #1

Leidy 141-145, 163-169

Feb. 14: Thailand: Dvaravati and Sukhothai

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

Schedule Museum visit

Week 6

Feb. 19: Thailand: Dvaravati and Sukhothai

Leidy 263-275

Feb. 21: 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 7

Feb. 26: Burma and Indonesia:

Leidy 169-187

Feb. 28: Midterm Exam

Week 8

Mar. 4: Spring Break

Mar. 6: Spring Break

Week 9

----- Possible Museum Visit Week

Mar. 11: Later Indonesia

Leidy 65-79

Mar. 13: 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

Week 10

Mar 18: 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.

Mar. 20: 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 11

-- Paper Topic Proposal Due

Mar. 25: China: Pilgrims and Pure Land

Leidy 81-99

Mar. 27: China: Buddhism and Painting

Leidy 189-203

Week 12

Apr. 1: China: Buddhism and the State

--- Quiz #2

Leidy 277-289

Apr. 3: 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 13

Apr. 8: Korea

Leidy 101-108, 205-207

Apr. 10: 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 14

Apr. 15: 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

Apr. 17: Japan: Zen Buddhism

----- Final Research Paper Due

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.

Leidy 295-303

Week 15

Apr. 22: Japan and Himalayas (Tantra)

Apr. 24: Himalayas: Nepal and Tibet

Leidy 231-245

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

Week 16

Apr 29: Himalayas: Nepal and Tibet

Final Exam

May 1: 10:30-1:15