

Art History 270: South and Southeast Asian Visual Culture

Syllabus and Schedule - Spring 2006

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Course Description

This course explores the development of visual cultures on the Indian subcontinent and in Southeast Asia over the past four millennia. Within this vast expanse of visual representation, we will trace transformations brought on by successive waves of cultural influx and examine how those influences merged with pre-existing traditions within each culture. Weekly topics will focus on specific trends in painting, architecture, sculpture, and other media, as they relate to their religious, social, and cultural settings. As we progress through the term, we will visit and revisit certain thematic issues such as representation of the divine, transformation of styles across cultures, and construction of cultural identity through the arts.

Course Objectives

- Become familiar with Indian and Southeast Asian visual culture and the religious, social, and cultural environments within which it was created
- Explore culture from an art historical perspective
- Exercise critical thinking skills, which will help further your understanding of the course material as well as subject matter beyond the purview of this class

You can **achieve these objectives by** keeping up with the readings, attending class, and conscientiously preparing for exams. **Studying images** used in lecture is highly recommended as a way to review material from lecture and discussion. Images, study guides, and other materials will be available via **Blackboard** on the course website; access through <http://mywestern.wvu.edu>

Required Texts

Dehejia, Vidya. *Indian Art*. London: Phaidon, 1997.

Rawson, Philip. *The Art of Southeast Asia*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1990.

*also on reserve at the Library (the reserves are located next to Circulation)

Course Requirements

One exam on each section, for a total of three exams.

***NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN** without proof of emergency verified by the Student Health Center or the Office of the Dean of Students.*

Grade Scale

282-300=A	252-263=B	222-233=C	
270-281=A-	240-251=B-	210-221=C-	
264-269=B+	234-239=C+	178-209=D	177 and below=F

Lecture and Online Discussion Schedule (Reading Assignments)

For best results, do the readings BEFORE the class for which they are assigned.

W, 9/26:	Introduction
VISUAL CULTURE AND HINDUISM	
M, 10/1:	The Indus Civilization and the Rise of Vedic Culture, Dehejia, 4-top of page 40 (This reading includes an overall introduction to the course material.)

W, 10/3:	Introduction to Hinduism: Iconography and Underlying Concepts, Dehejia, 137-52, <i>Puja : Expressions of Hindu Devotion</i> (1996), 11 minutes
M, 10/8:	Situating worship: Hindu temple architecture, Dehejia, 124-34; 155-204
W, 10/10:	Embodiment of Darshan: Hindu Miniature Painting and Chola Bronzes, Dehejia, 218-20 (for Chola bronzes; no reading for miniature painting), Samuel Parker, <i>Dancing Fire: Hindu Image-Making and Image Consecration</i> (16 minutes)
M, 10/15:	Hindu Stories in Stone: Cambodia, Rawson, 73-118.
W, 10/17:	Contemporary Hindu arts and visual culture, Dehejia, 409-424 (Focus on background history and artists who will be discussed in class.)
M, 10/22:	Exam 1
VISUAL CULTURE AND BUDDHISM	
W, 10/24:	The Rise of Vedic Culture and the Birth of Buddhism, Dehejia, top of 40-top of 42
M, 10/29:	Emperor Ashoka and the Popularization of Buddhism, Dehejia, top of 42-76, Shyam Benegal, <i>Sanchi: Monument of the People</i> (1997), 24 minutes
W, 10/31:	The Body of the Buddha: the Kushan and Gupta periods, Dehejia, 79-100
M, 11/5:	"The Imprint of the Buddha": Borobudur on Java, Indonesia, Rawson, 227-240 (mid-page)

W, 11/7:	Vietnamese Visions of the Buddha
M, 11/12:	Veterans' Day Holiday
W, 11/14:	Exam 2
INDIGENOUS-SPIRITUAL AND ISLAMIC VISUAL CULTURE	
M, 11/19:	Early Southeast Asian Visual Culture: Ban Chiang and Dong-son, Reading on Dong-son: Rawson, 9-top of 17
W, 11/21:	Thanksgiving Holiday
M, 11/26:	Indonesian Fabric Figuring the Spirit World
T, 11/27	LECTURE by Dr. DONALD STADTNER, 4pm, SL 150, "Sacred Sites of Burma"
W, 11/28:	Indo-Islamic Culture, Dehejia, 249-72
M, 12/3:	Islamic Visual Culture in Malaysia
W, 12/5:	Revival and Re-creation of the Visual Arts across Southeast Asia
R, 12/13:	Exam 3, during the time of the scheduled final, 10:30am-12:30pm *This exam will NOT be cumulative.*