

Art History 271: Visual Culture in East Asia (China, Korea, Japan)

Syllabus and Schedule - Spring 2008 Julia Sapin

Course Description

This course explores visual cultures in China, Korea, and Japan 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. The course will proceed chronologically (for the most part) in each cultural area, which will help give you a sense of cultural developments within individual cultures and understand the ways in which these developments built on one another, within each culture and from one culture to the next. 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 course, 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 visual representation. You will also get a sense for some of the different career paths and activities in the field of art history through discussion-board "scenarios" introduced in each section.

Course Objectives

- Familiarize yourself with East Asian visual cultures and some understanding of the religious, social, and cultural environments within which they were created
- Practice visual analysis, which will help further your understanding of the field of visual culture studies
- Get a glimpse of career options and professional activities in the field of art history
- Develop critical thinking and writing 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** 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**, which can be accessed through <http://mywestern.wvu.edu>

Course Requirements

Three exams (China, Korea, Japan), each 100 points, for a total of 300 points. Exams will be multiple choice and essay format. Participation in **online discussions**, which will help prepare you for the essay question on each exam, will count for 10 of each exam's 100 points (more info in class).

Readings will be posted electronically on the Western Library online site.

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

Lecture Schedule

For best results, do the readings before class.

Tues., April 1:	Introduction
Thurs., April 3:	Chinese Ritual Arts: Shang and Zhou Bronzes Read: Craig Clunas, "Art in the Tomb," in <i>Art in China</i>
Tues., April 8: Discussion texts	Qin and Han Funerary Arts: Burials Fit for Kings and Queens Read: <i>The Analects of Confucius</i> , trans. Arthur Waley <i>The Way of Life</i> or <i>Dao De Jing</i> (Tao Te Ching) of Laozi (Lao Tzu), trans. Stephen Addiss and Stanley Lombardo, available through Google Books (Google "Tao Te Ching Addiss"); focus on texts not introduction Suggested (not required) background on Confucianism and Daoism: http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/CHPHIL/CHPHIL.HTM
Thurs., April 10: Post 1 due	The Rise of Buddhist Arts Read: Richard Robinson et al., <i>The Buddhist Religions: A Historical Introduction</i>
Tues., April 15:	Early Chinese Painting and Calligraphy (Tang-Song): Mountain Meditations Read: Chiang Yee, "The Styles," in <i>Chinese Calligraphy: An Introduction to Its Aesthetic and Technique</i>
Thurs., April 17: Post 2 due	Later Chinese Painting and Calligraphy (Yuan-Qing): Painting and Politics Read: Michael Sullivan, "Achievement and Crisis in Scholarly Painting: The Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644," in <i>Symbols of Eternity: The Art of Landscape Painting in China</i>
Tues., April 22:	Contemporary Chinese Art
Thurs., April 24:	Exam I: China
Tues., April 29: Discussion text	Contemporary Korean arts Read all about Do-ho Suh: http://www.pbs.org/art21/artists/suh/index.html

Thurs., May 1: Post 1 due	Korean Cultural Origins: Neolithic to Iron-Age Ceramics and Bronzes Read: Andrew C. Nahm, "Early Korea," in <i>A Panorama of 5000 Years: Korean History</i>
Tues., May 6:	Courtly Trappings of the Three Kingdoms and the Rise of Buddhist Arts
Thurs., May 8: Post 2 due	Celadons and Sutras of the Unified Silla and Koryo (Goryeo) Dynasties Read: Jane Portal, "Koryo Period," in <i>Korea: Art and Archaeology</i>
Tues., May 13:	Interior and Exterior Landscapes of the Choson (Joseon) Dynasty Read: from the Metropolitan Museum website: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mowa/hd_mowa.htm http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/yang/hd_yang.htm
Thurs., May 15: Exam II: Korea	
Tues., May 20:	Japanese Beginnings: Jomon, Yayoi and Kofun ceramics; Ise Shrine Discussion text: Read a selection of poems from Kenneth Rexroth, <i>One Hundred Poems from the Japanese</i> , available through Google Books
Thurs., May 22: Post 1 due	Japanese Buddhist Arts of the Asuka, Hakuho, and Nara periods Read: Penelope Mason, "Encounter with China and Buddhism," in <i>History of Japanese Art</i>
Tues., May 27:	Skirmishes of Love and War: Handscrolls of the Heian and Kamakura periods Read: Murasaki Shikibu, "The Oak Tree (Kashiwagi)," in <i>The Tale of Genji</i> , trans. Edward Seidensticker
Thurs., May 29: Post 2 due	Japanese Arts of the Muromachi and Momoyama periods: Zen Aesthetics Read: Paul Varley, "The Canons of Medieval Taste," in <i>Japanese Culture</i> ; in particular, note references to <i>waka</i> poetry and Zen

Tues., June 3:	The Burgeoning of Popular Culture: The Edo Period Read: Christine Guth, "Mapping the Artistic Landscape," in Art of Edo Japan: The Artist and the City, 1615-1868
Thurs., June 7:	Contemporary Japan: Art in the "Global Image Stream"
Thurs., June 12, 1-3 pm:	Exam III: Japan (during scheduled final time, but NOT cumulative)