

Art 414: Asian Art



Colorado State University-Pueblo

Spring, 2007

AM 105 Monday 5:30-8:30

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Office Hours: 4:00-5:00 Mondays or arranged

Agreement:

As your instructor, I promise to teach this course to the best of my ability; to help each student with his or her individual needs; to practice fairness in grading; and to show tolerance for responsible alternative points-of-view. As a student, each of you promises to attend class meetings and activities; to be honest and truthful in the work you present as your own; to complete assignments on time to the best of your ability; and to make a genuine effort to learn something during this class.

Course Description:

This is an upper-division art history course that surveys the visual arts produced by major cultures of the Asian continent. Asia encompasses such an extensive and complex history, such diverse geographic regions, so many different languages and ethnic groups, and so many different varieties of culture it would be impossible to provide a detailed review of everything in this one

course. At most, we will view and come to understand some of the major art works and art historical developments of the continent. Our survey will highlight five major cultural/regional groups: Islamic Art of West and Central Asia; Art of India, Art of Southeast Asia; Art of China, and Art of Japan. We will look at two and three dimensional art in a wide variety of media, and sample art from ancient times up to the contemporary world. Much of the art we will look at is religious in nature, so some knowledge of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto will be most helpful. Some of the major issues we will explore are: the relationship between text and image; how religious beliefs are expressed aesthetically; and the process of globalization of art.

Learning Goals:

These are the specific learning outcomes each of you must achieve in a significant way in order to pass this course:

Goal 1: Each student will develop a greater knowledge and appreciation for the depth and variety of art from Asia.

Goal 2: Each student will become familiar with the key issues about Asian art, and the current discussions on those issues.

Goal 3: Each student will understand Asian art in historical, cultural, and religious contexts.

Goal 4: Each student will develop an appreciation for the distinct aesthetics of Asian art.

Goal 5: Each student will develop their ability to critically evaluate this art.

Student Responsibilities:

Attendance: To receive credit, you are expected to attend all class meetings for the full period. I understand there may be times when you are unable to attend, but no student should miss more than two class meetings during the semester. Each absence thereafter will lower your final grade point average one whole grade point (example: "B" becomes a "C")

Written Examinations:

There will be one midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam will consist of three or four essay questions. The final exam will basically cover information since the midterm. Students are expected to know equally the assigned readings and information presented in class. Bring a small bluebook for these exams. Each test is worth 33% of your final grade.

Research Project:

An important assignment for this class is that you write a research paper on a topic in the area of Asian art. You may choose a topic, but the instructor must approve it before it will be accepted. The final paper must be at least 10 pages of text and must include at least ten scholarly notes, and a bibliographic page. The paper must use correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling, and must follow a consistent style. Papers poorly written or lacking scholarly notes will be returned as incomplete for rewriting. The research paper is worth 33% of your final grade.

Resources:

The required text for this class is:

John D. LaPlante, *Asian Art*, 3rd Edition, McGraw-Hill, 1992. ISBN-13: 978-0697115911

However, a great deal of information in this class will come from other sources, especially the internet. The instructor will post resources at the blackboard site for this class, and there will be materials handed out in class. It is important that students do all readings and review web resources before attending class.

Students with Disabilities:

This university abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no students shall be denied the benefits of an education solely by reason of a handicap. If you have a documented disability that may impact your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see the instructor to make arrangements. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office, which is located in the Psychology Building, Room 232.

Evaluation:

Students in this class will be assessed on the five items listed under "goals" above. The essay questions on the tests will be geared toward these learning outcomes, and evidence of accomplishment on some of these goals is expected in your research project. Grading tests and assignments is largely subjective in this class, although I always strive to look for evidence you are answering the question in a correct and complete manner, and I always strive to be as fair as possible. Individual grades for each assignment will be on the 4 point scale (A=4.0; A-=3.75; B=3.0; etc.) If you are unsure of why you received a particular grade in this course, please see the instructor; the most important thing about any evaluation is that you learn from your mistakes. Each of the major assignments in this class is worth 1/3 the final grade. Also, keep in mind your final grade may be lowered if you were absent more than two times (see above)

Course Schedule:

January 14	A Panorama of Asian Art
January 21	Islam as Art
January 28	Divine Ornaments
February 4	Origins of Indian Art
February 11	No Class
February 18	Buddhist and Hindu Art in India
February 25	Islamic Art of Central Asia and India
March 3	Khmer Art of Southeast Asia
March 10	Midterm Exam
March 17	Chinese Art I
March 18	Chinese Art II

March 24	No Class; Spring Break
March 31	Chinese Art II
April 7	Japanese Art I
April 14	Ukiyo-e
April 21	Globalization and Contemporary Asian Art
April 28	Final Exam

