

FAAH 1100: Survey of Asian Art Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar describes this course as follows:

An introductory survey of the arts of India, China and Japan from prehistory to the present. May not be held for credit with the previous 054.247 or 054.248. No prerequisite.

The Survey of Asian art is a prerequisite to all further study in Asian art history. You do not need previous experience in either Western or Asian art to take this course.

This course highlights important works of art as well as their materials and processes. Students will explore the artistic achievements and aesthetics of India, China, and Japan while studying how religious, imperial, political, economic, and social climates have shaped the visual arts of Asia from its early civilizations to the modern era.

COURSE GOALS

Upon the successful completion of this course you should be able to:

- Specify the ways in which religion, government, politics, economics and the social climates of India, China, and Japan have impacted the art and architecture of their specific countries;
- Properly use a specific vocabulary of Asian art terms that relate to art and architecture;
- Discuss various materials and processes as well as the content that relate to the arts of Asia;
- Assess the influence of the art and architecture of one region on another; and
- Differentiate and compare various architectural structures.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required

Bookstore

The following required materials are available for purchase from the [University of Manitoba Bookstore](#). Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

Textbooks

- Steggles, M. and C. Martin (2014). *The Traditional and Religious Arts of Asia. A Brief Survey.*

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will give an overview of the major religious and traditional arts of Asia from the Vedic period of India to the end of the Mughal era in India, from the arrival of Buddhism in China to the end of the imperial era, and from the Neolithic era in Japan to the reinstatement of imperial rule in 1868. The interplay between Indian, Chinese, and Japanese religious and traditional arts will include architecture, sculpture, painting, and ceramics as well the decorative arts and textiles. In addition, the impact of these traditions on the art and architecture of Southeast Asia will be assessed.

Topics

Unit 1: India	Considers the impact of India's main religious faith, Hinduism, on the creation of art and architecture.
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Unit 2: India	Outlines how Buddhist beliefs were visualized in both art and architecture.
Unit 3: India	Describes how the Mughal rulers of India used art and architecture as emblems of earthly power.
Unit 4, Part 1: China	Looks at how the religious and philosophical beliefs of China influenced the development of art and architecture.
Unit 4, Part 2: China	Continues our study of the impact of religion and philosophy on the art and architecture of China.
Unit 5, Part 1: China	Summarizes the power behind the imperial throne of China and how it impacted architecture as well as other forms of art, including gardens and textiles.
Unit 5, Part 2: China	Continues our study of the impact of imperial politics on the art and architecture of China and its subsequent influence on the art and architecture of Vietnam.
Unit 6: Japan	Considers the impact of Shinto and Buddhism on the development of art and architecture.
Unit 7: Japan	Examines the impact of politics and various types of rule on architecture and art.
Unit 8: Japan	Studies in detail the materials, processes, and influences associated with Japanese ceramic traditions.
Unit 9: Japan	Looks at secular painting and the evolution of the woodblock print.

Learning activities

In this course you will have three major sources of information: the assigned textbooks, fellow students, and the synopsis material presented by your instructor on the course website. They are meant to be used together in the following fashion:

Knowledge building through individual activity:

You will be asked to complete a series of readings for each unit, this includes the following possible items: sections from the course texts, articles from the University of Manitoba Library collection, various websites and video material. You can complete these readings or viewings in any order, but they should all be reviewed at least tentatively before sharing your image for the unit.

Knowledge building through collaborative activity:

The discussion forum is where you will primarily build knowledge through collaboration. In selected units, you will be asked to find representative art works for your classmates to identify and discuss. More details on discussion forums can be found in the assignment folder. The discussions give you an opportunity to share your thoughts in relation to your classmates and build on the thoughts of one another in an academic discourse. Your instructor will not respond to every post in the discussion forum as this is your space to explore ideas, but he or she will check in occasionally to answer questions as needed.

Knowledge building through reflection:

In discussion forum posts you should be demonstrating not only your knowledge of the course content but how this information fits into your understanding as well as how your understanding has changed as the course progresses.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Distribution of marks

Evaluation	Percentage
Discussions	30%
Assignment 1: Short Paper	15%
Assignment 2: Interpretive Assignment	20%
Final Exam	35%

Total	100%
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Grading Scale

Letter grade	Percentage range	GPA	Description
A+	93 – 100	4.5	Exceptional
A	88 – 92.9	4.0	Excellent
B+	80– 87.9	3.5	Very Good
B	75-79.9	3.0	Good
C+	69-74.9	2.5	Satisfactory
C	60 – 68.9	2.0	Adequate
D	50 – 59.9	1.0	Marginal
F	Below 49.9	0	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Assignments

Note: Detailed instructions about the assignments are found in the assignment section in your course website.

ASSIGNMENT 1: SHORT PAPER

In this 1000 word paper you will contrast the art and architecture of the followers of Hinduism with those of Buddhism and explain what these works of architecture and art ultimately represent.

ASSIGNMENT 2: INTERPRETIVE ASSIGNMENT

In this assignment students will take on the role of a museum or gallery curator who is commissioned to create a proposal/interpretive tour for a region of your choice. You may choose between four distinct areas and your proposal may take a variety of forms.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Consult your course schedule and announcements for the specific assignment due dates.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam takes place online. It will be 2.5 hours in length and will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and 1 essay question.

Plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. Note: These policies are also located in your Distance and Online Education Student Handbook or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION (DE) STUDENT RESOURCES

In your course website there are links for the following:

- > Contacting Distance and Online Education Staff
- > Distance and Online Student Handbook
- > Distance and Online Education Website

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The University of Manitoba, Distance and Online Education

Syllabus