

ARTH-130: HISTORY OF ASIAN ART

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

11/07/2025

AS Approval

11/13/2025

BOT Approval

11/20/2025

COCI Approval

12/11/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications

Art History (Master's Degree)

And/Or

Subject Code

ARTH - Art History

Course Number

130

Department

Art History

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

History of Asian Art

Short Title

History of Asian Art

CB03 TOP Code

1002.00 - Art

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

Updating COR to align more closely with how the course is taught, specifically as related to equity and inclusion.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This is a survey of Asian art, looking specifically at India, China, Korea and Japan from the prehistoric period to the present. The course will focus on objects, images, and monuments and their role in the religious, political and social contexts in which they were made.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment**Open Entry/Open Exit**

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites**Advisory Prerequisite(s)**

Completion of ENGL-C1000 or ENGL-120B with a minimum grade of C or appropriate placement.

SECTION D - Course Standards**Is this course variable unit?**

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval**Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

| DE Modalities | Permanent or Emergency Only? |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hybrid | Permanent |
| Entirely Online | Permanent |
| Online with Proctored Exams | Permanent |

SECTION E - Course Content**Student Learning Outcomes**

| Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to: | |
|---|---|
| 1. | Recognize the formal characteristics of individual works of art from India, China, Korea, and Japan, as well as other Asian cultures. |
| 2. | Discern the ways in which specific historical, political, religious and philosophical contexts shape works of art. |

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify, examine, and assess representative works of art made in India, China, Korea and Japan.
2. Connect the formal and technical qualities of art to specific historic and cultural contexts.
3. Identify methods used in the creation of art works, including but not limited to: ceramics, textiles, freestanding and relief sculpture, architecture, painting, printmaking.
4. Recognize the role of museums, archaeological inquiry, and academia in the presentation and conservation of objects and monuments.
5. Use appropriate art history terminology in the discussion of objects, images, and structures.

Course Content

1. Identification and assessment of individual works of Asian art, architecture and design within their historical and cultural contexts
2. Comparisons and contrasts between the form, content, and context of Asian art
3. Development of Asian art in the following historical periods, regions, and cultures:
 - a. India
 - i. Indus Valley
 - ii. Early Buddhist and Hindu art in India and Southeast Asia
 1. Buddhist cave temples
 2. Aniconic images of Buddha
 3. Cult images of Buddha
 4. Hindu temple architecture
 5. Hindu Deities and their cult statues
 - iii. Later Indian Art
 1. Mughal art and architecture
 2. Rajput painting
 3. Contemporary art in India
 - b. China
 - i. Neolithic through Early Imperial China
 1. Art of the tomb
 2. Development of bronze and silk production
 - ii. Northern Wei through Tang Dynasties
 1. Buddhist art and architecture
 2. Calligraphy and poetry
 - iii. Later China through contemporary
 1. Landscape painting during Song Dynasties
 2. Porcelain production and the court
 3. Mongol influence during the Yuan Dynasty
 4. Expression of Imperial power in Ming and Xing
 5. 20c China
 - c. Korea
 - i. Neolithic through Iron Age art
 - ii. Three Kingdoms Art
 - iii. North-South States Art
 - iv. Unified Sill
 - v. Goryeo Dynasty
 - vi. Joseon Dynasty
 - d. Japan
 - i. Archaeological Japan through Heian
 1. Jomon, Yayoi, Kofun periods
 2. Shinto tradition
 3. Introduction of Buddhism
 4. Early court art
 - ii. Later Japan through contemporary
 1. Pure Land and Zen Buddhist art/architecture
 2. Shogunate art and architecture
 3. Palace patronage
 4. Art for the Market

- a. Ukiyo-e prints
- b. Porcelains and silks for western markets
- e. Contemporary Asian Art
- f. Vocabulary and terminology specific to the study of Asian art history

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

| Types | Examples of learning activities |
|-------------|--|
| Lecture | Image-based lectures used as foundation to discuss art works and their specific contexts. |
| Activity | In-class written assignments in which students, either individually or in groups, writes comparison/contrast essays. |
| Group Work | Students are asked to "pair share" their observations of a specific art work and report out to the class. |
| Field Trips | Class trip to view important, relevant exhibition of art works at a local San Francisco museum. |

Online Adaptation

| Types | Examples of learning activities |
|----------------------------|--|
| Discussion | Regular Course Discussions with prompts based on an article or video, often tying historic material to contemporary practices. For example, contemporary shamanism in Korea and how it compares to historic practices. |
| Lecture | Slide-based lectures with instructor voice over on specific objects or as context for art works covered that week. For example, the importance of celadon ware in Song Dynasty imperial circles. |
| Activity | Students are invited to create their own "art collections" based on a theme, such as "Silk" or "images of supernatural beings." |
| Individualized Instruction | Instructor meets one-on-one with students to clarify content or expectations for a particular assignment. |

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

| Types | Examples of classroom assessments |
|---------------|---|
| Quizzes | Quizzes offered every few weeks, objective format to ensure students have understanding of basic historic periods, facts about the art works. |
| Homework | Online articles and videos provide historic background and/ or analysis of objects to support students' understanding of content. |
| Essays/Papers | In class written essays ask students to synthesize information regarding the technique and style of certain objects and their significance in their particular culture. |

| | |
|----------|--|
| Projects | Students have option to create an art work for the final. These can be inspired by Chinese calligraphy, Mughal book illustration, or Han Dynasty landscapes. |
|----------|--|

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Selected readings from online resources such as Smarthistory, Metropolitan Museum of Art website, or Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, MAP academy website.

For example:

1. Read the Smarthistory article on Indus Valley Seals and come to class prepared to discuss the objects' role in the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.
2. Having read the article on MAP academy website on Christian imagery in Mughal painting, be prepared to discuss the cultural exchange during the Mughal empire.

Writing Assignments

Opportunities for writing, both short and longer-format essays.

For example:

1. In 250 words, discuss your example of a Chinese ritual bronze and its relationship to funerary practice, filial piety, and the significance of bronze in the Shang Dynasty.
2. In 500 words compare the rock-cut Hindu temple of Rajarajeshvara with the Longmen Caves in Wei Dynasty China, paying particular attention to the faithful's interactions with such spaces, the significance of the spaces, and the purpose of the sculpture.

Outside-of-Class Assignments

"Create museums" based on images of objects from Neolithic Japan. Student groups collect images of ceramics, tools, and haniwa figures to explain the characteristics of this period in Japan's history.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Open Educational Resource (OER)

Title

Smarthistory-articles and videos, vetted and presented by professional art historians

Material Type

Open Educational Resource (OER)

Author

Metropolitan Museum of Art website

Title

Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History

Material Type

Open Educational Resource (OER)

Author

British Museum website

Title

Asian Art Collection

Material Type

Textbook

Author

De-Nin D. Lee and Deborah Hutton

Title

History of Asian Art: A Global View

Publisher

Thames and Hudson

Year

2023

ISBN #

0500094160

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Dorinda Naeve, Lara Blanchard, Marika Sardar

Title

Asian Art

Edition/Version

1st

Publisher

Pearson

Year

2014

Rationale

This remains the standard text that is sufficiently broad to include India, China, Korea and Japan.

ISBN #

0205837638

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?

Content--semester begins with a discussion of art history as a western invention imposing structures on Asian art that don't always align with the material. Emphasized throughout the semester is the connection and interdependent nature of many of these cultures, which are often treated as hermetically sealed from one another. Also addressed is Filipino art and culture which is traditionally left out of surveys like this. Time is given for students, many of whom identify as Filipino, to explore the visual arts and how these relate (or not) to the traditions we've covered.

Pedagogy-a variety of assignments enable students to interact with and explore the content through writing, creating collections, drawing, and other artistic techniques.

Smaller-stakes, weekly assignments have replaced the older "slide identification" tests, since those disproportionately impacted certain populations.

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000522789

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No