Survey of Asian Art

ART 2411, Spring 2009
MWF 9:40-10:30, 104 Audubon Hall

Professor Michelle C. Wang
Office hours: M 1:45-3:00, 415 Design Building
Email address: mwang@lsu.edu

Course Description:
This course is a chronological survey of the art and architecture of India and Southeast Asia, China, and Japan from the prehistoric to early modern period. Each geographical region will constitute a separate unit of the course. We will focus primarily on painting, sculpture, ceramics, and architecture, with some discussion of calligraphy, lacquer, and woodblock prints. The goal of this course is to consider the interrelationship between the visual properties of art objects and their materials, techniques, and the social and cultural contexts of their production, as well as interregional exchange within Asia. There are no prerequisites for this course, which fulfills the General Education requirement for Art.

Requirements and Grading:
Attendance at all lectures is mandatory, and a sign-in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Late arrivals to or early departures from class will affect the attendance grade negatively. Cell phone use in the classroom is not permitted. Students are asked to prepare for class by completing the assigned readings before lecture. The class participation grade is based upon class attendance as well as participation in informal class discussions. The written assignment consists of one visual analysis paper (4-5 pp.) which is a comparison of two artworks of the student’s choice. The artworks may be chosen from material covered in class, or from material not covered in class. Three unit exams will be based upon assigned readings, lectures, class handouts, and study images which will be available on the course website. The last unit exam will be held during finals week. Late papers will not be accepted and missed examinations will not be rescheduled. Accommodation letters from the Office of Disability Services must be submitted at the beginning of the semester, and Examination Requests should be processed by the deadlines of the ODS. Any instances of plagiarism on papers or exams will be immediately reported to the Dean of Students.

The grading distribution for this course is as follows:
Class participation 15%
Comparison paper 25%
Unit exams 60%

Readings and Resources:
PART ONE: INDIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Week One - 1/12, 1/14, 1/16
Introduction, Indus Valley Civilization and the Beginnings of Buddhism
Reading: A History of Far Eastern Art, 18-23, 80-86

Week Two - 1/19 (no class, holiday), 1/21, 1/23
Buddhist Art of the Shunga to Kushan Periods
Reading: A History of Far Eastern Art, 86-109

Week Three - 1/26, 1/28, 1/30
Buddhist and Hindu Art of the Gupta Period and its Legacy

Week Four - 2/2, 2/4, 2/6
Himalayan Art, Angkor Vat and Borobudur
Reading: A History of Far Eastern Art, 129-137, 146-149, 263-284

Week Five - 2/9, 2/11, 2/13
Later Architecture, Mughal and Rajput Painting
Reading: A History of Far Eastern Art, 238-262
2/13 (F) UNIT EXAM

PART TWO: CHINA

Week Six - 2/16, 2/18, 2/20
Mortuary Art of Early China
Reading: A History of Far Eastern Art, 23-60

Week Seven - 2/23-25 (no class, holiday), 2/27 (away for CAA conference, alternate activity)

Week Eight - 3/2, 3/4, 3/6
The Pictorial and Sculptural Traditions of the Han to Northern and Southern Dynasties
Reading: A History of Far Eastern Art, 60-70, 286-287, 156-163

Week Nine - 3/9, 3/11, 3/13
The Capital City Chang’an, Painting of the Tang to Five Dynasties
Reading: A History of Far Eastern Art, 171-172, 175, 181-182, 296-306; (reserve) Chinese Art and Culture, 185-190

Week Ten - 3/16, 3/18, 3/20
Mid-Imperial Material Culture and Painting
Reading: A History of Far Eastern Art, 358-382, 455-467, 476-491

Week Eleven - 3/23, 3/25 (continued below)
The Forbidden City
Reading: A History of Far Eastern Art, 468-471, 503-505
3/25 (W) UNIT EXAM
PART THREE: JAPAN

Week Eleven – 3/27
Early Japan
Reading: *A History of Far Eastern Art*, 74-78

Week Twelve – 3/30, 4/1, 4/3
Shinto and Buddhist Art
4/3 (F) PAPER TOPICS DUE

SPRING BREAK – no classes 4/6-12

Week Thirteen – 4/13, 4/15, 4/17
Painting of the Heian to Kamakura Periods
Reading: *A History of Far Eastern Art*, 323-328, 345-357

Week Fourteen – 4/20, 4/22, 4/24
Art of the Kamakura to Edo Periods
4/24 (F) PAPERS DUE

Week Fifteen – 4/27, 4/29, 5/1
Edo Period Painting and Prints, Encounters with Western-Style Painting

UNIT EXAM: TBA