Art 274  
Spring, 2015  
East Asian Art, 1300 to the Present

ONLINE COURSE PAGE: http://web.colby.edu/aweitz/east-asian-art-1300-present/  
(information on course webpage takes precedence over this paper syllabus)

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Office hours: Fridays, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the rich and varied arts and cultures of China, Korea, and Japan from about 1300 CE to the present day. Since this is an introductory art history course, due attention will be given to basic art-historical methods and techniques. Throughout the course we will explore questions of artistic style, technique, expression, subject matter, and iconography (the meanings encoded in visual signs), and patronage. Students learn about the history and beliefs of East Asia, including a review of Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Shamanism, and Shinto (all introduced in Art 273). At the same time, students enhance their visual literacy skills, including recognizing the cultural forces underlying viewing expectations and experiences. Students develop and demonstrate these skills through weekly quizzes, a paper, and two examinations.

Major questions we will ask during this course include: What materials did Chinese, Korean, and Japanese artists use, and why? How are beliefs encoded in the content and style of works of art? What relationship did artists have with the patrons or consumers of artwork? How do different physical environments affect the production and meaning of art? What limitations restrict our interpretation of Asian art?

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

1. VISUAL ANALYTICAL SKILLS: students will hone their skills of visual analysis by learning to use visual materials as “texts.” Students will learn the disciplinary tools of art history to analyze the choices that artists have made and to interpret the meanings of those choices.

2. CULTURAL LITERACY: students will become adept readers of East Asian visual materials through learning the cultural conventions, expectations, and technologies that govern the production of art in Asia. Thus, students will be expected to identify the functions and meanings of visual arts within the East Asian cultural context.

3. HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE: students will achieve a basic competency in modern East Asian history, including the development of religious beliefs, of political organization, and of social systems.

4. THEORETICAL APPROACHES: students learn about the role of political and social authority in the production and dissemination of art in East Asia. The theoretical emphasis in this course focuses on patronage systems and social theory.
REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Quizzes:** Weekly quizzes will be held each Monday at the beginning of class. The quizzes will be in two formats: slide identification OR short essay based upon a slide comparison. I will announce the format in class on Fridays. Images for the quizzes will be posted on the course website on Friday. No make-up quizzes will be held, nor will extra time be granted for students arriving late. The quizzes will count for **30%** of the final grade (about 3% each). **I will drop your lowest quiz score.**

2. **Exams:** This course will have two exams: a midterm on, and a final on the date scheduled for this class. The exams will include slide identifications, comparisons, and an essay. **Midterm: 20%; final: 20%.**

3. **One Paper:** **20%** of the final grade. Due date and guidelines will be handed out in class.

4. **Participation and Attendance:** Missed classes will not only affect your quiz grades, but also this portion of the grade. In terms of participation, quality counts more than quantity. If you must be absent because of illness or other dire circumstance, let the instructor know as soon as possible so that she may excuse you on that day. **Worth 10% of final grade.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY

I take academic honesty very seriously and am prepared to fail you on an assignment or for the entire course should I discover that you have engaged in any act of: plagiarism, cheating, copying from a classmate or other student, or reusing an assignment done for another class. If you have any questions regarding academic honesty, please feel free to ask me, refer to your **Student Handbook**, or read a short essay online at: [http://web.colby.edu/farnham-writerscenter/academic-honesty/](http://web.colby.edu/farnham-writerscenter/academic-honesty/)

TEXTS

2. Tsuneko S. Sadao and Stephanie Wada, *Discovering the Arts of Japan*.

**Note:** you may read the textbook before or after the lecture on that material. As we progress through the texts, I will add suggested pages for each lecture to the online schedule.

SCHEDULE, by week

1. Wed 2/4 Introduction; Foundations of Confucian Thought in East Asian Art  
   Fri 2/6 Foundations of Buddhist Thought and Practice in East Asian Art

2. Mon 2/9 Japan: Muromachi Period  
   Wed 2/11 Japan: Muromachi Period  
   Fri 2/13 China: Ming Dynasty

3. Mon 2/16 China: Ming Dynasty
Wed 2/18 China: Ming Dynasty  
Fri 2/20 Korea: Choson Period

4. Mon 2/23 Korea: Choson Period  
   Wed 2/25 Korea: Choson Period  
   Fri 2/27 Japan: Momoyama Period

5. Mon 3/2 Japan: Momoyama Period  
   Wed 3/4 China: Qing dynasty  
   Fri 3/6 China: Qing dynasty

6. Mon 3/9 China: Qing dynasty  
   Wed 3/11 Japan: Edo Period  
   Fri 3/13 Japan: Edo Period

7. Mon 3/16 Japan: Edo Period  
   Wed 3/18 Midterm Exam  
   Fri 3/20 No Class

   SPRING BREAK

8. Mon 3/30 China: Late Qing  
   Wed 4/1 Korea: Late Choson (Folk Art)  
   Fri 4/3 Korea: Late Choson (Folk Art)

9. Mon 4/6 Japan: Meiji Period  
   Wed 4/8 Japan: Meiji Period  
   Fri 4/10 Early 20th century (to 1937)

10. Mon 4/13 Early 20th century (to 1937)  
    Wed 4/15 Early 20th century (to 1937)  
    Fri 4/17 WWII and Immediate Aftermath (1937-1960)

    Wed 4/22 WWII and Immediate Aftermath (1937-1960)  
    Fri 4/24 Late 20th century

12. Mon 4/27 Late 20th century  
    Wed 4/29 Late 20th century  
    Fri 4/31 NO CLASS, because of CLAS

13. Mon 5/3 Contemporary Art  
    Wed 5/5 Contemporary Art  
    Fri 5/7 Contemporary Art

Final Exam: on date scheduled for this class