

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Art History

Fall 2008

ARTH 103Z: Survey of Asian Art

Lower Division

Faculty Name: Lawrence E. Butler

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the arts and monuments of India, Southeast Asia, China, Korea, Japan and the Pacific islands. The first part of the course will be preparatory, with introductions to the major religious and cultural traditions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Daoism and Islam. Students will also learn basic technical aspects of arts such as textile, building and ceramics which can be studied in the earlier ports of the voyage. In the second part of the course, students will be introduced to the arts of India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Korea and Japan through classroom and field study of major monuments. The course will include a look at the arts of the Pacific Islands, and will include student presentations based upon fieldwork done in the Asian ports. Fieldwork will include port study of monuments and museums chosen by the students in accordance with my guidelines. This course is introductory, with no prerequisites .

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through lectures, discussion, fieldwork and research, the student will:

- Become familiar with the major monuments of the major Asian cultures;
- Learn the belief systems that underlie the art and architecture;
- Recognize major stylistic, technical and conceptual characteristics of the art and architecture of the cultures we study;
- Learn the basic analytical vocabulary for discussing art, architecture and material culture;
- Learn life-long habits of looking and analyzing when encountering new things, whether in museums or in active use.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Background to the study of Art History:

- Introduction to the course: maps and destinations

- Elements of art: form, iconography and context

- Elements of architecture: plan, structure, layout, decoration, and function

First field report assigned: looking at art/architecture in Brazil and Southern Africa

The Indian tradition:

- India: Archeology of the Indus valley

- India: Early Buddhism

- India: Hindu temples and sculpture of South India

- Art and architecture of Islam

- Islam in North India: The Mughal monuments

The Indian Ocean and world trade:

- Trade routes in antiquity: Rome, Africa and India

- Indigenous traditions in Southeast Asia

- The Indianized states of Southeast Asia: Cham & Java

- Angkor Wat and the Khmer

- Modern Malaysia

- Later Vietnamese art and architecture

The Confucian Tradition in China

- The Chinese Bronze Age: Emperor and Ancestor

- Qin and Han

- Buddhist art in China

- Tang Dynasty arts: the Silk Road

- Literati arts of the Song and Yuan

- Ming luxury arts and world trade

- Arts of modern China

Japan:

- The indigenous traditions: Shinto

- Nara and Buddhism

- Heian: Art, court and poetry

- Daimyo culture

- City life in later Imperial Japan

- Modern Japanese architecture and design

Pacific Oceanic traditions

Asian art in the contemporary world art scene

FIELD COMPONENT

Students will be required to write five 2-page field reports, based on their own observations of the architecture, museums, religious sites or craft factories they encounter. These may be based on FDP's, independent practica, or my informal museum and site tours. The first field report will be a museum or architecture practice paper based on visits in Brazil, Namibia or South Africa. The other four will be written based on field experiences in India, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, Japan or Hawaii.

Students should plan to participate in at least two of my FDP's or informal port/museum tours. Students should plan a mix of visits, to include at least one museum, one temple, and one palace/domestic structure.

Guidelines for the field reports will be presented and discussed in class. Individual projects not on the list below will require my prior approval. Monuments, museums or cities marked with an asterisk* are highly recommended for this course.

SUGGESTED PRACTICA

- BRAZIL:** *Baroque art and architecture of the Pelourinho district (FDP); Cachoeira Museu de Arte Sacra or Museu Afro-Brasileiro (IND); Individual monuments in the World Heritage zone (IND)
- NAMIBIA:** Swakopmund architecture (IND or tour); Luderitz architecture (IND or tour)
- SOUTH AFRICA:** Iziko South African National Gallery; Iziko South African Museum; Major historic buildings: Parliament, St. George's Cathedral or Groote Kerk; Cultural History Museum (all tour or IND); *Art in contemporary South Africa (FDP)
- INDIA:** *Kanchipuram & Mahabalipuram (tour); *Mughal monuments of Delhi & Agra (tour); *Varanasi & Sanchi (tour); Madurai and Cochin monuments (tour); A Hindu temple, Sikh or Jain temple (IND); Government Museum, Chennai (IND)
- MALAYSIA:** *Straits Chinese neighborhoods in Penang (FDP); *Kek Lok Si or other Buddhist or Hindu temples (tour or IND); Penang Museum and Art Gallery (IND); *Malacca museums: Baba-Nonya, Malay Palace, & Malacca Museums (IND or tour); *Kuala Lumpur National Museum; Museum of Asian Arts (IND); Singapore Art Museum; Singapore Peranakan Museum; Singapore Asian Civilizations Museum
- VIET NAM:** *Ho Chi Minh City History Museum; *Fine Arts Museum (IND or my tour); *Danang: *Cham Museum (tour or IND); *Citadel, Nguyen Dynasty tombs, Thien Mu Pagoda (tour); *Hanoi Fine Arts Museum, Temple of Literature (IND); *Hoi An: clan temples, museums (tour or IND); Other Buddhist temples (pagodas); Craft manufacturing (IND); *Angkor, as a World Heritage site; Phnom Penh: *National Museum
- CHINA:** *Hong Kong Art Museum (IND); Man Mo Temple (IND); *Shanghai Museum, Shanghai Art Museum, Yu Yuan Gardens (IND)| *Suzhou gardens (tour); *Beijing: Imperial monuments (tour); *Xi'an: Terracotta army; *Shaanxi Province Museum; Great Wild Goose Pagoda (tour)
- JAPAN:** Walking tour of Kobe (FDP), including the Ikuta Shrine, Sorakuen Gardens, Takenaka; Carpentry Tools Museum (my FDP or IND); *Kyoto: Temples,

*Nijo Palace, *gardens, National Museum (tours or IND); *Himeji Castle (Tour or IND); *Nara: Todaiji, *Horyuji (Tour or IND); Osaka Castle & museum (IND); Tokyo: *National Museum, other art museums, Meiji Shrine gardens (IND); Other great shrine complexes are fine: Ise, Kamakura, etc.

HAWAII: *Honolulu Academy of Art and Shangri-la mansion (IND); Bishop Museum (IND); Byodo-in Temple

METHODS OF EVALUATION

The five port essays will comprise 50% of the grade. Each of the three tests, combining slide questions and essays, will count 10%. The final 20% of the grade will be based on class discussion and an oral presentation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Fred S. Kleiner

TITLE: Gardner's Art Through the Ages: Non-Western Perspectives

PUBLISHER: Thomson Wadsworth

ISBN #: 0495003654

DATE/EDITION: 12th ed, 2006

COST: \$82.95

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

1. *Silk Roads, China Ships, An Exhibition of East-West Trade*, exhibition catalogue, edited by Vollmer, Keall & Nagai-Bergthrong. Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum, 1983.
2. *Asian Art: An Anthology*, ed. Rebecca Brown & Deborah Hutton. Blackwell Publishing, 2006. ISBN 1405122412 .
3. Fiona Kerlogue, *Arts of Southeast Asia* (World of Art series). Thames & Hudson, 2004. ISBN 0500203814,
4. Jonathan Tucker, *The Silk Road: Art and History*. Chicago: Art Media Resources, 2003. ISBN 1588860221.
5. Nassir Khalili, *Islamic Art and Culture: A Visual History*. Overlook, 2006. ISBN 1585678392