



# HAA 0020: Introduction to Asian Art

Spring 2018, Tues. 6-8:30 PM, 203 Frick Fine Arts Bldg.

## Instructor

Elizabeth Self

## Email

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## Office Location & Hours

221 Frick Fine Arts, Tuesdays  
and Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 PM or  
by appointment

## Class Description

### Objectives

HAA 0020 is a general introduction to the Arts of Asia (India, China, Korea, and Japan). The works of art we will study are important in their own context and our first objective will be to learn what they reveal about the cultures from which they originate. However, we must also keep in mind that these artworks are comparable to that of other cultures as well, either because their creation was in response to similar needs, as with the art of early cultures or with a religion such as Buddhism, or because of actual interaction that took place between different cultural groups. Seen in this way the artworks may seem more readily understandable, more sympathetic, and more human.

### Expectations and Goals

After finishing this course, students will be able to:

- Visually analyze a range of materials, from paintings to architecture, and understand why and how they look the way they do
- Understand the historical, social, and religious context of artworks in Asia, from the pre-historical to the modern period

- Think critically about and make connections between works of art from a wide variety of times and places
- Understand and criticize scholarly arguments

## Class Structure

This class is arranged both chronologically and thematically. We will not look at each country and culture separately, but instead look at the different way that each area approached one of these themes, comparing and contrasting these approaches. The purpose in each section of the course is to learn, with increasing skill, to read the works and to interpret them in their historical context.

The course will combine several methods of instruction. New information will be delivered in lecture format, and we will deepen our understanding of this material through in-class discussions and writing assignments. Because this class only meets once a week, attendance and participation are very important (20% of grade.) In particular, attendance at Art Lab days will be vital (10%). I understand that life happens, and two absences will be excused for everyone. Other absences will be excused on a case-by-case basis, in the event of a medical or life emergency. Unlike traditional classes, there will be no comprehensive exams. Instead, there will be a number of low-stakes in-class quizzes which will test your ability to memorize information about these objects (20%), and two in-depth writing assignments, composed of 2-3 page essays, which will test your art historical analytical skills. Each essay will involve multiple steps and revisions (25% each).

## Course Materials

### Required Materials

Please purchase and bring with you to class a set of 3" x 5" note cards - a 100 pack should be plenty. You can buy these at any drugstore, the University bookstore, or from an online retailer. **These will be used to participate in daily activities and record your attendance and participation grade. You must bring them to every class.**

### Required Text

The principle book used in this class is *Asian Art* (2015 edition, Neave, Blanchard, and Sardar). You can choose to purchase it, or you can use the copy on reserve in the Frick Fine Arts library. This is a general, non-specialized textbook that is useful for studying for exams and gaining greater knowledge of the historical and cultural background of the areas we will be studying.

*Complete citation:* Neave, Dorinda, Lara C. W. Blanchard, and Marika Sardar. *Asian Art*. Boston, MA: Pearson, 2015.

In addition, we will read a number of essays from Blackwell's *Asian Art* anthology (please note that this is a different book from the class textbook, although it has the same title). The necessary excerpts will be posted on Courseweb as PDFs; however, you may also choose to purchase this book or view it on reserve in the Frick Fine Arts library. **All materials on the Coursweb site are for your educational purposes in this class only. Materials may not be posted on the Internet or shared electronically with others outside the class.**

*Complete citation:* Brown, Rebecca M., and Deborah S. Hutton. *Asian Art*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

## Optional Materials

There are many excellent online resources available online, completely free. Be careful with using online sources and use your discretion. For example, it is acceptable to cite James Cahill (a respected Chinese artist historian), or the Metropolitan Museum's website, but you should not cite Wikipedia. Please talk to me if you have any questions.

Some useful websites:

- The Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History (Metropolitan Museum). The Met's timeline provides useful dates, and also many excellent essays and images. <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/>
- Smarthistory. This is a collection of articles about different objects, time periods, and artists, written by professional art historians. It also provides great bibliographies and images. <http://www.smarthistory.org>
- James Cahill's lecture series on Chinese landscape painting, *A Pure and Remote View* (video and lecture notes). <http://ieas.berkeley.edu/publications/aparv.html>

## Grading

The term grade is based on the following components:

→ **20%:** Attendance and In-Class Short Writing Assignments

Attendance is an important component of this class. Each day, we will have a short writing assignment (brainstorming, comparison, quick-write, etc.), which will be graded on a pass/fail basis. This will form the bulk of your attendance and participation grade. Two absences per semester are forgiven by default; beyond that, absences can only be made up with a documented excuse for medical or family emergencies.

→ **10%:** Art Lab Participation and Worksheets

In addition to the attendance above, we will have three days which are designated as Art Labs. These are very important not to miss. These days will involve seeing art up-close, in person, and **cannot be made up**. Please look at the schedule and if

you have any reason to believe you will have to miss an Art Lab day, you should make other arrangements (take a different class or accept losing the points).

→ **20%: Quizzes**

Quizzes will focus on your knowledge and comprehension skills. We will have a total of four quizzes in this class. The lowest score will be dropped. These quizzes will be based around memorization of certain facts for key works of art (title of work, artist name, if any, materials, and location). This information will all be posted in Courseweb under the Weekly Schedule heading. Quizzes will be composed of **image identification** (I will show you an unlabeled image and you must identify it with the above information) or **quick questions related to content**, such as **short answer questions** (write as much as you remember about this work) or **definitions** (what does *sancai* mean? etc.)

→ **50% (25% each): Essay 1—visual analysis and Essay 2—comparison**

While quizzes will test your basic knowledge and memorization, these short essays will focus on your ability to apply, analyze, and synthesize information. For the first essay, each student will choose one object to analyze in relationship to a certain question. You will first choose an object and thesis statement, turn in a rough draft, and then, after revisions, a final draft. For essay 2, you will choose two objects to compare, create an outline, turn in a rough draft, and then revise. Because these are take home, open book essays, a high standard of thoughtfulness and quality is expected. However, they are *not* research essays. **You will not be asked to do outside research for this course.**

More information will be given about assignments in later handouts; this information will also be posted on the Courseweb site. **Late assignments will be penalized with a lowering of the grade by half a point for every day they are late:** for instance, a 10 out of 10 (A+) grade on an assignment that is turned in a day late will become an 9.5 (A). If the assignment or essay is more than one week late, it will not be accepted, unless prior arrangements have been made (in case of emergency.) No make-ups are allowed on quizzes, **but the lowest grade (out of 4) will be dropped automatically.**

Finally, no extra credit is given for this course.

The grading scale for the class is as follows:

98-100 A+	94-97 A	90-93 A-
87-89 B+	84-86 B	80-83 B-
77-79 C+	74-76 C	70-73 C-
67-69 D+	64-66 D	60-63 D-
Below 60 F		

# Class Policies

## Academic Integrity Policy

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or exam will not be tolerated. Simply said, plagiarism is using someone else's words as if they are your own. If you use someone else's text word for word in your own writing, you must enclose those words in quotation marks and cite the source; if you paraphrase from a source, you must cite the source as well.

If you try to pass off someone else's writing or research as your own in any exam or assignment, or otherwise cheat in the course, you will receive a zero grade for that exam or assignment and you will be reported to the dean's office for disciplinary action pursuant to the School's Academic Integrity Code (see <http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity>.) I cannot emphasize this strongly enough: **if you copy and paste from a website, I will know it, and you will receive a zero on the assignment.** If you do it again, you may fail the class.

## Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be tracked via regular in-class activities; one absence will be forgiven. However, doing the readings will not be sufficient to receive a good grade. If you miss class, you cannot make up the activity, and I do not give out my Powerpoints. I encourage you to find someone to provide them with their notes for the class. If you feel uncomfortable asking a classmate, I will ask for you in class. I do not provide notes for missed classes myself.

## Disability Services Policy

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you must contact the instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services [216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890; (412) 383-7355 (TTY)] early in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

If you have a disability accommodation, please contact me about any accommodations. I am very willing to work with you, but I cannot help if you do not talk to me. I understand that sometimes things come up and this does not necessarily happen on an academic schedule. However, please try to send me an email as soon as possible if something does happen.

## Email Policy

Students' official Pitt e-mail address (yourname@pitt.edu) will be used by the instructor for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve you from knowing and complying with the content of the communications

I encourage you to email me with questions, comments, and thoughts at any time ([efs22@pitt.edu](mailto:efs22@pitt.edu)). I answer emails during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9-5.) In some cases, I may answer emails after that time period, but it is not guaranteed. Generally, I am committed to responding to emails within two business days. If my response is delayed past that, you should send me a reminder email. In other words, if you have questions about an assignment or quiz, **make sure to ask them well in advance of the due date.**

## Technology Policy

Use technology respectfully. You are welcome to use laptops during class time, for the purpose of taking notes or looking up information or images relevant to class content. If you use phones or laptops to watch videos, make calls, listen to music, or otherwise disrupt class, you will be asked to leave class.

Many of the assignments in this class will require you to be familiar with the Courseweb site for the class and to upload your assignments or essays, etc. there. **It is your responsibility to ensure that these have been successfully uploaded before the due date and in a format accessible by the instructor.** I will discuss guidelines for how to do this during. In general, I encourage you to double-check or even triple-check that your assignments have uploaded successfully.

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, you may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.