



HAA 0620: Art of China

Fall 2017, 9:30-10:45 AM, 203 Frick Fine Arts Bldg.

Instructor

Elizabeth Self

Email

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Office Location & Hours

Room 213, Frick Fine Arts Building, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2 pm or by appointment

Class Description

Objectives

This course will introduce the visual artistic traditions of China, including painting, architecture, and sculpture, and will demonstrate the basic tools of analysis by which one may learn why artifacts look the way they do. In order to deal with the large amount of material necessary in the short time of this class, we will focus our discussions around the central theme of 'Art and Authority.' How did individuals use the production of visual material to gain power and authority? This tactic could range from an emperor commissioning the terracotta warriors to show off his wealth and power to a wealthy merchant participating in literati culture in order to demonstrate his artistic sophistication and membership in an elite class. Art was also made for many other reasons, but by focusing on the overall theme of art and authority we will discover new connections between varying media in different time periods.

Expectations and Goals

After finishing this course, students will be able to:

- Understanding the meaning of the most important monuments of Chinese art, from Neolithic to contemporary times
- Interpret Chinese art in the context of Chinese history and culture
- Think critically about and make connections between works of art in China from a wide variety of times and places

→ Analyze and understand scholarly arguments

Class Structure

This class is divided into three general themes: 1) The Development of Social Hierarchy, 2) The Roots of Chinese Traditions, and 3) Art and Empire. 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. Unlike traditional classes, there will be no comprehensive exams. Instead, there will be a large number of low-stakes in-class quizzes (memorization required), and three short (1-2 page) take-home essays, one after each section. These will practice different writing skills. In addition, there will be a final Virtual Exhibition writing project, which will develop your visual literacy, critical thinking, writing, and research skills.

Course Materials

Required Text

The principle books used in this class are as follows:

- Clunas, Craig. *Art in China*. Oxford, UK: Oxford Univ. Press, 2009 (AIC).
- Thorp, Robert L., and Richard Vinograd. *Chinese Art & Culture*. Upper Saddle River, N.J: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006 (CA&C).
- Sullivan, Michael. *The Arts of China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009 (AOC).

The acronyms that follow these titles are used in the class schedule, also posted on Blackboard. These books are available on Amazon.com, and they will also be available on reserve in the FFA Library in FKART. They are all general, non-specialized textbooks, useful for studying for exams and gaining greater knowledge of the historical and cultural background of China. Most the readings for the class are assigned from these volumes.

Other readings will be posted on Courseweb (organized by day) and will be listed on the syllabus. In addition, we will be reading and discussing primary materials (materials that were created in the time period that they discuss). All materials on the Courseweb 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.

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), or the Metropolitan Museum's website, but you should not cite Wikipedia directly. 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/>
- James Cahill's Notes and Video Lectures on Landscape Painting.
<http://ieas.berkeley.edu/publications/aparv.html>
- Smart History's section on Chinese art history.
<https://smarthistory.org/tag/china/>

Grading

10%: Attendance and participation

15%: 3 short quizzes (in-class; memorization-based)

40%: Three short essays (take-home; analysis and writing prioritized)

35%: Virtual exhibition project

You will be provided with more information about course 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 letter grade for every day they are late:** for instance, an A grade on an assignment that is turned in a day late will become an A-. 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 exam or assignment will not be tolerated. Simply put, plagiarism is using someone else's words as if they are your own. If you ever 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 it 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>.)

Attendance Policy

Students 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 a student misses class, they cannot make up the activity, and I do not give out my Powerpoints. I encourage students to find someone to provide them with their notes for the class. If a student feels uncomfortable asking a classmate, I will ask for them in class. I do not provide notes for missed classes myself.

Disability Services Policy

If a student has a disability for which they are or may be requesting an accommodation, the student must contact the instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (<http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/welcome>, 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890) within the first two to three weeks of the term. DRS will verify the students' disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Email Policy

My personal email policy: I encourage students to email me with questions, comments, and thoughts at any time (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, students may send me a reminder email. In other words, if you have a question about an assignment or quiz, make sure to ask it well in advance of the due date.

Student email policy: Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address will be used by the University 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 the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their email via other service providers (e.g. Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html.)

Technology Policy

Use technology respectfully. Students 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 students use phones or laptops to watch videos, make calls, listen to music, or otherwise disrupt class, they will be asked to leave class.

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students 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.