BUDDHIST ART AND CULTURE

AH 387-01  (Tuesday)
AH 387-02  (Thursday)

SYLLABUS

Daphne Lange Rosenzweig, Instructor
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Office hours: By appointment

Class semester: Spring, 2006   Class time:  8:30 – 11:15 am
Class credit:  3   Class room:  Goldstein 6

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:
   a. Course Prerequisite:
      This course is open to any student, from any department, who has taken AH 191 and AH 192 or the equivalent.
   b. Course Description and Content:
      This upper-level course introduces the history, principles, art forms, and major personalities associated with Buddhism, from its inception in 6th century BCE India through contemporary practices around the world. The content, context and visual dynamics of Indian, Himalayan, Southeast and Northeast Asian Buddhist art will be introduced. The course concludes by examining modern, non-traditional, and non-Asian visual interpretations of Buddhist thought and practice.
   c. Course Goal:
      Ringling art history courses are designed to address issues of artistic context and artistic discernment. The goal of “Buddhist Art and Culture” is to enable the student to enter and explore the visual world of Buddhism, learning about its essential elements, regional variations, worldwide influence, and contemporary relevance.

2. WRITING AT RINGLING:
   In Liberal Arts Program courses at the Ringling School of Art and Design, all writing assignments (reports, quizzes, response papers, essays, essay questions on exams, research papers, etc.) are expected to be appropriately organized and coherent, and demonstrate a command of Standard English. Research should be consistently and appropriately documented in accordance with a prescribed format. For clarification of Standard English issues, and documentation formats, see Keys for Writers (Fourth Edition), by Ann Raimes.

3. COURSE CAUTIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS:
   a. Course Cautions:
      During the semester, there may be material discussed and/or illustrated which might be considered by some to have controversial, adult, or otherwise “politically incorrect” content. Art and ideas perceived as containing such content, however, are presented for their educational value, not for reasons of exploitation or confrontation.
b. Plagiarism Policy:

The intentional and/or unintentional use of another writer’s words, ideas, intellectual property or research, without showing proper credit (documentation of the source), is called plagiarism. Plagiarism is dishonest and illegal. Plagiarized assignments receive an F, and the guilty student could receive an F for the course. Writing Studio will cover the proper ways to document your work, giving credit where it is required, so you can avoid the crime (inadvertent or otherwise) of plagiarism.

c. Course Accommodations:

The Ringling School makes reasonable accommodations for qualified people with documented disabilities. If you have a learning disability, a chronic illness, or a physical or psychiatric disability that may have some impact on your work for this class and for which you may need accommodations, please notify the Director of Academic Resource Center (Virginia DeMers, Goldstein 3, 359-7627) preferably before the end of the drop/add period so that appropriate adjustments can be made. The specific document guidelines essential to complete this process appear at www.arc.rsad.edu. Ms. DeMers will examine the documentation provided and, as indicated therein, write a letter listing the accommodation(s) needed, for you to give your instructors.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Ringling School of Art and Design is committed to providing students, faculty, and staff with a safe and healthful learning and work environment and to comply with all applicable safety laws and regulations and safe work practices.

5. COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

a. There are two required texts, available in paperback, in the campus bookstore. Please bring both texts to each class.

NOTE: All assigned reading will come from these two texts or from specified websites.


Copies of the required text books are on reserve in the Library.

b. Other Materials:

Several books have been placed on Open Reserve in the Library. There also will be class handouts, website information, and recommended or required DVDs/videos available for overnight checkout from the reserve desk.

c. Assigned work for each class will be announced during the previous class period. Certain classes will require printing out website information. The printouts should be kept in a file folder, for use during class.
6. COURSE WORK AND GRADING POLICY:

a. Attendance:

Regular and timely class attendance is MANDATORY. Continual lateness will affect grade. Pick up your folder from the box when you enter the classroom, and hand it back at the end of class.

Class absences, for reasons other than health, family emergencies or legal requirements are disallowed, and a note from a doctor or the office of the Dean of Students is required to gain excused absences. There is only ONE unexcused absence allowed in this advanced class. Each additional unexcused absence may lower your final grade by one-half of a letter grade. Students are responsible for material presented in each class as well as any outside work required for each class.

b. Required Work:

1) Completion of all required readings, and meaningful class participation based on the readings and other material which will be introduced in certain classes.

2) There will be two quizzes. These are non-cumulative, and are in the form of standard art history quizzes. They may include identification of selected works of art, terms, styles, and iconographic material from your texts. SLD students may have tests read to them. The two quizzes are scheduled as follows:

   **Tue.** [AH387-01]: First quiz, 2/14 [week six]  Second quiz, 4/11 [week thirteen]
   **Thur.** [AH387-02]: First quiz, 2/16 [week six]  Second quiz, 4/13 [week thirteen]

3) One course project, to be discussed in class. You must hand in a two-page comprehensive description of your proposed final project before Spring break.

   **Tue.**  Project Prospectus, 2/28 [week eight, or earlier]  Completed project, 4/18 [week fourteen, or earlier]
   **Thur.**  Project Prospectus, 3/2 [week eight, or earlier]  Completed project, 4/20 [week fourteen, or earlier]

**PROJECTS MAY BE TURNED IN EARLY**

c. Course Grade:

1) Regular and timely class attendance and participation [10% of grade]

2) Two quizzes [25% each, total of 50% of grade]

3) Course project with preliminary description [40% of grade]

d. Class Effort:

CLASS PARTICIPATION is essential and expected of every student. Preparation for each class is therefore important.

Eating will not be allowed in the classroom. Please replace chairs to tables at the end of each class.
7. COURSE SCHEDULE [Tentative]:

WEEK ONE: Introduction
Tue. 1/10 Go over Syllabus.

WEEK TWO: “Early Days of the Buddha”
Tue. 1/17
Thur. 1/19

WEEK THREE: “From Enlightenment to Death”
Tue. 1/24
Thur. 1/26

WEEK FOUR: “Early Indian and Mahayana Buddhism”
Tue. 1/31
Thur. 2/2

WEEK FIVE: “Theravada or Southern Buddhism”
Tue. 2/7
Thur. 2/9

WEEK SIX: FIRST QUIZ [covering weeks one through five]
Tue. 2/14 Mandala discussion after quiz.
Thur. 2/16

WEEK SEVEN: “Buddhism in Tibet”
Tue. 2/21
Thur. 2/23

WEEK EIGHT: “Thangka: Style and Substance in Himalayan Religious Painting”
Tue. 2/28 PROJECT PROSPECTUS DUE
Thur. 3/2

WEEK NINE: “Buddhism in China”
Tue. 3/14
Thur. 3/16
WEEK TEN: “Buddhism in Japan I”
   Tue. 3/21
   Thur. 3/23

WEEK ELEVEN: There will be no formal class meeting.
   Work on project and assigned video/DVD's
   Tue. 3/28
   Thur. 3/30

WEEK TWELVE: “Buddhism in Japan II”
   Tue. 4/4
   Thur. 4/6

WEEK THIRTEEN: SECOND QUIZ [covering weeks seven through twelve]
   Tue. 4/11
   Thur. 4/13

WEEK FOURTEEN: “Buddhism Comes to the West”
   COMPLETED COURSE PROJECT DUE
   Tue. 4/18
   Thur. 4/20

WEEK FIFTEEN: Summary
   Tue. 4/25
   Thur. 4/27

THE END, OR IS IT.....