



湖北工業大學
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Introduction to East Asian Art
Course Code	ARTH 1351
Semester	Summer 2025
Course Length	5 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to the artistic traditions of China, Korea, and Japan, from the prehistoric era to the present day. Following a chronological order, the course surveys important artworks that represent major developments in medium, style, and subject matter in the three cultures, while paying attention to the movement of objects and art techniques across the region. Key themes of the course include bronzes, lacquerware, ceramics, tomb building, Buddhist reliquaries, ink painting, wood-block printmaking, and timber frame architecture. Students will learn about the development of art and artisanal practices in East Asia, while gaining a broader understanding of the continuity and discontinuity of the local artistic traditions in relation to the region's history, politics, religion, and culture.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the course material within rich historical, social, religious, and political contexts;
- Learn the significance of artistic styles, forms, mediums, and materials we are studying;
- Develop eyes for observing images and analyze them in visually sensitive manners;
- Develop analytical tools and critical thinking for the writings of visual arts.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials Requirements:**Text:**

Dorinda Neave, Lara C.W. Blanchard, Marika Sardar. *Asian Art*. Pearson, 2015.

Supplementary Reading:

Barnet, Sylvan, ed. *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*. 11th ed. Pearson, 2015.

Course Requirements:**Participation and Engagement (10%)**

Active participation is essential for success in this course. Students are expected to contribute to class discussions, ask thoughtful questions, and engage in critical dialogue about the readings and artworks examined.

Open-Book Tests

There'll be 3 open-book tests throughout the semester. Each test will be composed of two parts: 1) a set of short questions that involve image identifications; 2) and short essays based on multiple images, readings, and lectures. All three tests have the identical format.

Visual Analysis Assignment (15%)

Students will select an East Asian artwork from a local museum collection or an online archive and conduct a formal visual analysis. This 1,500-word paper should focus on elements such as composition, color, line, and texture while considering historical and cultural contexts. The goal is to develop close-looking skills and an ability to articulate visual observations clearly. Proper citation of sources and comparison with related works will enhance the analysis.

Comparative Essay on Art and Cultural Exchange (15%)

This 2,000-word essay will examine cross-cultural influences within East Asian art. Students may choose topics such as the transmission of Buddhist iconography, the adaptation of Chinese calligraphy in Korea and Japan, or the impact of trade on ceramic design. The essay should include visual examples, primary source analysis, and engagement with scholarly literature. Clear argumentation and a well-structured thesis are required.

Midterm Exam (15%)

The midterm exam will cover lectures, readings, and key concepts discussed in the first half of the course. It will include a mix of identification questions, short essays,

and image comparisons, testing students' ability to analyze artworks within their historical and cultural contexts.

Final Exam (15%)

The final exam will be comprehensive, covering all course materials, including key artworks, architectural structures, artistic movements, and thematic discussions. The exam will consist of image identifications, comparative essays, and short analytical responses requiring students to apply critical frameworks to East Asian art.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Participation and Engagement	5%
Open-Book Tests (3)	15%
Visual Analysis Assignment	15%
Comparative Essay	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Percentage of available points	Grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
<60	F

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, and major ones provided in writing.

ARTH 1351 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Overview of the course Analyzing art: medium, composition, color, line; methods, materials, and cultural contexts	/
L2	Art, politics, philosophies, and indigenous religions in early East Asia Ancestor worship and bronze vessels in China	Ch. 6
L3	Early funerary culture Chinese concepts of the afterlife and the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang	Ch. 6
L4	Art and the beginnings of Daoism in China's Han dynasty and the Six Dynasties period	Ch. 7
L5	Confucian art in China's Han dynasty and the Six Dynasties period	Ch. 7
L6	Shamanism, early artifacts, and tombs in ancient Korea and Japan Test 1	Ch. 12
L7	Shinto shrines in Japan	Ch. 12
L8	Art and cross-cultural connections in East Asia The entry of Buddhism into China, Korea, and Japan	Ch. 11
L9	Artistic practice and patronage Calligraphy and painting in China's Six Dynasties and Tang dynasty	Ch. 7

L10	East Asian decorative arts from the 8th through 13th centuries	Ch. 8
L11	Art and politics in China's Song dynasty	Ch. 8
L12	Mongol rule and the arts in China's Yuan dynasty	Ch. 8
L13	Imperial patronage in Korea's Unified Silla period and Japan's Nara period	Ch. 11
	Midterm Exam	---
L14	Aristocratic patronage of Buddhist art and architecture in Japan's Heian period	Ch. 13
L15	Arts of Japan's Heian court Watch: film excerpts: <i>The Genji Scrolls Reborn</i>	Ch. 13
L16	Art and political upheaval in Japan's Kamakura period	Ch. 14
	Test 2	
L17	Zen Buddhism and artistic practice in Japan's Muromachi period	Ch. 14
L18	Aesthetics and architecture in China's Ming dynasty, Korea's Joseon dynasty, and Japan's Edo period	Ch. 9
	Visual Analysis Submission	
L19	Aesthetics and ceramics in China's Ming and Qing dynasties, Korea's Joseon dynasty, and Japan's Momoyama and Edo periods	Ch. 9
L20	Woodblock printmaking in China's Ming dynasty and Japan's Edo period	Ch. 9
L21	Professional painters in China's Ming and Qing dynasties and Korea's Joseon dynasty	Ch. 9
	Professional painters and textile workers in Japan's Edo period	
L22	International exchanges and movements in the modern period Interactions of European and Asian culture in the 18th and 19th century art and architecture	/
	Test 3	
L23	Modernity in early 20th-century East Asian art	/
L24	Art and revolution in mid-20th-century East Asia	/
L25	Globalization and tradition in contemporary East Asian art	/
	Comparative Essay Submission	
	Final Exam	---

Accommodation Statement

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional

qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:**Attendance and Expectations**

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.