

ART 882 Seminar: Non-Western Art History

Syllabus

Seminar Meeting: Tuesday 8:00–8:50 am

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12:30 – 1:20 pm

Schmidt Foundation Center for Art and Design, Room 103

Instructor Information:

Erica S. Bittel, Ph.D.

Instructor, Department of Art and Design

Schmidt Foundation Center for Art and Design, Room 217

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Office Hours:

M / W / F: 8:30 – 11:00 am

Tuesday: 9:00 – 10:30 am

Appointments by request.

Course Information:

This course offers a visual encounter with the cultural and historical heritage of selected Non-Western societies from ancient times to the present. Non-Western cultures are those that are generally believed to have developed outside the realm of Western civilization and include East Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and the indigenous cultures of the Americas (pre-conquest and Native American). Students will examine historically significant works of art and architecture and seek to understand them based upon their social religious/spiritual, political, and cultural contexts.

Course Objectives:

- Recognize the styles, stylistic characteristics, and artists of Non-Western cultures.
- Assess the relationship between the development of the major art styles and the political, social, religious, and/or intellectual ideas of Non-Western cultures.
- Analyze and evaluate Non-Western visual material while employing descriptive, conceptual, and appropriate vocabulary.
- Develop a “global perspective” of art and examine how traditional art forms have been integrated with ideas from other cultures to create dynamic new art forms.
- Evaluate the various theories of art historians, critics, and philosophers concerning the artistic developments of the non-Western world.

Course Resources:

Art Beyond the West, 3rd edition

by Michael Hampen O’Riley

Publisher: Pearson Education, Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-205—88789-7

0-205-88789-9

Getty: <http://www.getty.edu>

Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history>

Metropolitan Museum of Art: <http://www.metmuseum.org>

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston: <http://www.mfa.org>

National Museum of African Art: <https://www.si.edu/museums/african-art-museum>

National Museum of the American Indian: <https://americanindian.si.edu/>

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: <https://nelson-atkins.org/>

Smarthistory: <https://smarthistory.org/>

Smithsonian: <http://www.si.edu>

UNESCO World Heritage: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/158/>

World Monument Fund: www.wmf.org

Evaluation and Grading:

All grades, including extra credit, will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading will be based on the accuracy of responses to examination questions, substance, clarity, and quality of written work, and the effort made to learn the material and contribute in a positive way to your personal success in the class. A variety of extra credit assignments will also be offered throughout the course of the semester.

An Incomplete (or “I”) grade will only be given in extreme cases and at the discretion of the instructor.

2 Exams (100 points each)	200 points
Discussion / Participation	100 points
Abstract Proposal	50 points
Annotated Bibliography	100 points
Research Paper Introduction	50 points
Research Paper	300 points
Final Exam	200 points

Total:	1000 points
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Grading Scale:

100 - 90 = A

89 - 80 = B

79 - 70 = C

69 - 60 = D

59 - 0 = U

Attendance:

This course meets once per week; therefore, because the study of art history requires familiarity with a large number of images and concepts, it is imperative that students follow the syllabus, keep up with readings from the textbook as well as the readings assigned on a weekly basis, and review the PowerPoint lectures (found on Bb) for images and key terminology.

Academic Honesty:

All assignments must be your own work! Visual and/or written plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to read FHSU's Academic Honesty Policy, which is found in the University Catalog and online at: https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/

Special Learning Conditions/Accommodations:

Fort Hays State University, in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, provides assistance and resources for students with disabilities. The Student Accessibility Services office is located within Health and Wellness Services in the Fischli-Wills Center for Student Success, Room 301, 785-628-4401.

This is the appropriate office for students, faculty or staff to contact to verify and notify the University of a student's documented disability. After verification of a documented disability, the Student Accessibility

Services office will initiate a request for services. Students should contact the instructor within the first two weeks of class if they require special accommodations for test taking, carrying out assignments, or any other need for assistance.

Title IX:

FHSU is committed to fostering a safe and productive learning environment. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex, gender, and gender identity are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. This includes all types of gender and relationship violence, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you wish to report an incident or have questions about school policies and procedures regarding Title IX issues, please contact Laurie Larrick, University Compliance Officer and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator, at lelarrick@fhsu.edu or (785) 628-4175. The Compliance Officer can help connect you to campus and outside resources, discuss all of your reporting options, and assist with any concerns you may have.

Student Support Services:

- FHSU Tiger Tech: <https://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/>
- Tebo Library: <http://www.fhsu.edu/library>
- Writing Center: <https://www.fhsu.edu/writingcenter/index>

Timeline of Readings and Assignments:

Timeline is subject to modification; review and exam dates will be decided as a class.

Week 1 (August 17):

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – The Islamic World

Week 2 (August 24):

Chapter 2 – The Islamic World, cont'd.

Chapter 3 – India and Southeast Asia

Week 3 (August 31):

Chapter 3 – India and Southeast Asia, cont'd.

Chapter 4 – China

Week 4 (September 7):

Chapter 4 – China, cont'd.

Week 5 (September 14):

Chapter 5 – Japan and Korea

Week 6 (September 21):

Chapter 5 – Japan and Korea, cont'd.

Week 7 (September 28):

Chapter 6 – The Pacific

Week 8 (October 5):

Chapter 6 – The Pacific, cont'd.

Abstract / Proposal due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, October 6, 2026

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Week 9 (October 12):

Chapter 7 – Africa

Week 10 (October 19):

Chapter 7 – Africa

Week 11 (October 26):

Chapter 7 – Africa, cont'd.

Annotated Bibliography due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Week 12 (November 2):

Chapter 8 – The Americas

Week 13 (November 9):

Chapter 8 – The Americas, cont'd.

Week 14 (November 16):

Chapter 9 – Art Without Boundaries

Research Paper Introduction due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Week 15 (November 23):

FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES

Week 16 (November 30):

Hard copy of research paper due at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Student Presentations

Week 17 (December 7):

FINALS WEEK