

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

ARHS 32003 Art Outside the Western Tradition

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): HUMN 25603 Humanities through the Arts, or ARHS 20003 Art History Survey I, or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Surveys art created outside the Western tradition, including the art of the Americas, Asia, India, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and Middle East. Emphasizes the role played by historical, cultural, and religious factors in shaping the creation of art.

B. Additional Information

This course is required for the Minor in Art History and can also fulfill the requirement for an upper-level course for Studio Art and Graphic Design majors.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explore approaches to artistic creation in a wide variety of cultures outside of the Western tradition.
2. Analyze critical historical, cultural, and religious factors that contributed to shaping the appearance and function of art in the Americas, Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and Middle East.
3. Acquire a facility with technical vocabulary facilitating successful and accurate discussion of works of art.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will identify and evaluate works of art, and use this information in tandem with historical, religious, economic, sociological, anthropological, political, and geographical factors in order to interpret and analyze the artwork's meaning and value to its makers/patrons/audiences.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will effectively convey their analysis and interpretation of works of art through a variety of written forms. Students will acquire and use appropriate art historical vocabulary and will be able to successfully articulate their ideas and pertinent information through class discussion and oral presentations.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical-decision making processes. Students will explore ethical issues in art history, including art acquisition, sale, theft, restoration/conservation and installation, as well as art repatriation.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Reflecting upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures, students will analyze how works of art both reflect and influence the cultures that created them, including cultures outside the Western canon. In this class, all the art discussed is from non-Western traditions.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Art of Islam
- B. Art of Hinduism
- C. Art of Buddhism
- D. Art of China
- E. Art of Japan
- F. Art of Africa
- G. Art of the Pacific Islands
- H. Indigenous Art of the Americas