

ARTD 3108: Art of Ancient China

To be conducted as SIMUL session with CORC 3206
CUNY-BC Study in China Program

Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Ball, Ph.D. (or, to be assigned)

Required Textbook:

Michael Sullivan, *Arts of China*, 5th Edition, UC Press, 2009

Recommended Textbook:

Valerie Hansen. (2012). *Silk Road: A New History*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Course Description:

Exploration of the art and architecture of China from ancient to contemporary times.

Objectives:

1. To identify major monuments and works of Chinese art and be able to discuss those works in oral and written work.
2. To engage in the historiography of the field and in critical thinking about the secondary source material.
3. To view original works of art in a museum or *in situ*

Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to:

1. identify the major works of Chinese Art and Architecture
2. critically discuss historiography and methods of the field in writing and orally
3. know the major sources for the field and use it in research
4. view and evaluate works of Chinese art in museums/archaeological or other sites

Course Approach and Schedule

This will be taught as a hybrid course, with Internet/WeChat APP-based activities (for sharing artifacts and discussion), mixed with some in-class discussions and many field trips to relevant sites in the Chinese cities for the program. Students will be placed into small groups to facilitate discussions in class, online and on-site visits.

The course will be conducted in two parts. The first part will combine readings on art of ancient China, with assignments based on those readings. This portion of the course can be regarded as a structured learning experience that should be completed, as much as possible, before we leave for China. The second portion of the course will combine close observations of ancient Chinese art in the cities and museums we visit during the program, and classroom discussions that evaluate art of ancient China.

As a lot of this course will be based on your observations while touring China, it will be a good idea to have a notebook and pencil with you all the time. Your notes will be useful when you are participating in class discussions, or completing the assignments.

It is in the nature of the study abroad program that it will be a little hard to anticipate the schedule of the class meetings in Nanjing. The specific schedule of visits and discussions probably won't be known until we arrive in Nanjing and may be subject to change, sometimes at short notice. The class may meet on weekend and evenings if necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make necessary adjustments in the class schedule and evaluation criteria in response to the changing circumstances during the course of the program in China.

Side Trip to Yangzhou

Students in this class should plan some additional fees for the side trip to Yangzhou (check the page of Side Trips for exact price of the trip at the program website). You are strongly encouraged to attend this side trip, if you can afford the extra cost. The Yangzhou Museums are a rich resource of ancient Chinese art and artifacts, as well as an invaluable locale to understand some core Chinese cultural values of Confucianism, Buddhism and Daoism, and China-West exchanges, which had, in many ways over those past centuries, informed artistic creations in ancient China.

Written Submissions

All written submissions must be typed and documented in accordance with the APA style requirements. Written submissions will be evaluated by the instructor for responsiveness to the assignment, theoretical sophistication, rigor, coherence, and ingenuity of the position developed, organization, and correctness as well as clarity of expression. As regards evaluation of the mechanics of expressive correctness, students are advised that for every ten errors in spelling, grammar (including capitalization and punctuation), and documentation, the overall evaluation of a submission will be lowered by one grade. All submissions are due as specified in the syllabus and late submissions will be penalized with one grade lowered for each day late.

Methods of Evaluation and Assessment:

1. Participation: 30% (class & program/class site visits)
1. 3-4-page Visual analysis of one artifact in its original context (to be done at any site in which objects are *in situ*) 20%
2. 3-page Review of any work or show of contemporary art (to be done at a gallery, museum with contemporary work, or with a work of public sculpture or street art seen during the trip) 20%
3. Final exam 30%

Participation includes meaningful contribution to the class discussions in class and online. Students will be asked to present on certain readings from the textbook.

Non-Brooklyn College students are required to keep a course portfolio of all work and assignment submissions for this course, to be evaluated by the appropriate office and committee for equivalent credits at the home institution.

As this course is part of the study abroad program, students are strongly advised that their behavior and attitude during the trip, including journal submissions via email, will affect their final grade for the course.

Course Outline

Unit 1 Funerary Art

An examination of tombs and grave goods. What can we learn from art made in service of the dead? How, if at all, do these art forms relate to the living? What do these cultures value?

Visit: Tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang and Terra Cotta Army Museum
Sullivan, ch. 1-4

Unit 2 Religious Expression: Buddhist Art

An examination of Buddhist shrines and works of art made in monastic settings. What makes space or a site 'sacred'? How do religious expression and artistic expression function together?

Visit: Jiming Buddhist Temple, Nanjing Museum, Yangzhou Museum
Sullivan, ch. 5-7

Unit 3 Silk Road

An examination of the development of the Silk Road, a network of trade routes that connected East Asia to Europe, and the objects and art forms that reflect the many cultures with which China came into contact via the Silk Road.

What happens to a culture when it connects with other cultures? How is knowledge and culture transmitted? How are the arts affected by economic and political forces?

Visit: Porcelain factory; Great Mosque in Xi'an; Yangzhou Museum
Sullivan, ch. 8

Unit 4 The Great Wall

The Great Wall of China was built over centuries, with some parts built as early as the 7th century BCE and the most recent building occurring during the Ming Dynasty. An in-depth study of the Great Wall highlights China's history with its neighbors, military advancements, and changes in building techniques. Additionally, the thousands of people who literally built the Wall and the dozens of foreign travelers in history who have commented on it represent other ways of understanding China.

Visit: The Great Wall

Unit 5 Imperial China

China experienced several 'Golden Ages', known commonly as the Great Dynasties: the Han, Tang, Yuan and Ming. These dynasties flourished financially, artistically, in literature and music, as well as sciences and other advancements. The arts of elites during these dynasties will be examined. What messages and values were conveyed through the arts?

Visit: The Forbidden City; Confucius Temple in Nanjing
Sullivan, ch. 9-10

Unit 6 China in the Global Art World

Where does China fit into the Global Art World? Are artists privileged who are taken up by Western audiences, such as Ai Wei Wei?

Visit: Art Galleries in Xi'an and Nanjing; Nanjing University Art Museum; Nanjing Normal University School of Art
Sullivan, ch. 11

Assignment of Keeping Journals

An important goal of the program is to enable each student to explore and experience China in his or her own individual ways, such that you can obtain maximum academic benefits from this China trip. Keeping a journal during the trip will help serve that purpose well.

You will be keeping a journal during the trip and submit the journal entries as part of the trip and course participation to their course instructor (with a copy to Prof. Lu, the program director); see the instructors' email addresses below. Here are some guidelines:

How to Write a Journal Entry

1. Describe a **specific, very meaningful, phenomenon or incident that** you observe or experience during the 2-3 days in a city, something that caught your attention and has an impact on you personally, culturally or intellectually, or something that has touched you deeply. Do not just list what you have done during the days (which will give you no credit). Tell us the story, with

descriptive details, of a meaningful **intercultural encounter/instance**. This should be the 1st paragraph.

2. Then, in the 2nd paragraph, analyze or reflect upon that. Write down your reflections and thoughts on that experience or observation from a cross-cultural or intercultural perspective. If you are in one of those non-language classes, try to tie that to what you have read in the textbook(s) or what we are discussing in class.
3. In the 3rd paragraph, summarize or conclude this journal entry by making connections to a larger picture of what you have read, heard and studied previously in other classes, or even what you have experienced back in America and/or other contexts.
4. Each entry should be about 3 paragraphs in length. However, you are free to organize your ideas in what you believe to be creative ways; it is not a good idea to write one journal entry in only one paragraph.

How and When to Submit

1. Write an entry about every 3 days; a total of 5 (FIVE) journals are expected of you during the trip:
 - a. ONE entry for visit to Beijing
-- To be submitted on the day when you arrive in 2nd city of Xi'an
 - b. ONE for visit to Xi'an
-- To be submitted on the day when you arrive in Nanjing
 - c. TWO entries during stay in Nanjing (including side trips if any)
-- To be submitted every 6 days
 - d. ONE final entry for visit to Suzhou and Shanghai
-- To be submitted no later than 10 pm on the eve of departure from Shanghai
-- This final journal entry should be a bit longer than the previous ones. You need have 2 additional paragraphs in which to reflect on the overall trip experience: your gains from the trip, the impact of the trip on you, your recommendations for the trip, etc.
2. Submit your journals via email to the instructor via email:
 - a. Email each entry to: ChinaJournals@yahoo.com
 - b. And, if you are taking a class with another professor, also copy that professor.
3. At the beginning of each journal, please clearly indicate:
 - a. the course #(s),
 - b. course title(s), &
 - c. the professor(s) of the course(s), if you are taking more than one course
4. Name each journal entry clearly, by making the subject of the message as Journal #1 (#2, #3, #4, etc.) from XXXX (your full name).
5. In one email message, only send one journal entry by way of **copy & paste** (Do not send it in attachment, please). Send each journal entry separately; Do NOT attempt to include more than one journal entry in one message.

Grade and Reward

1. The professor will read your journals and respond if needed. If your journals are well written, professors may use them to replace some assignment(s) of the course, at the professors' discretion.
2. If you are taking more than one course, you still only write a total of FIVE journal entries; be sure you email each entry to both instructors if you are taking two courses from two professors.
3. The journals are part of the trip and course participation grade.

If you have been doing an exceptionally good job with the journals, the professors will give you extra credit (as much as 10% of the grade) for the course(s), at the professors' discretion.