

**Ikumi Kaminishi**

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**Office hours: Wednesday 2:00-4:00 p.m. or by appointment**

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**About the Course**

This course aims to facilitate students with the basic understanding of Buddhism through various forms of arts from Ancient India, medieval China, and modern Japan. Students are expected to learn artistic expressions that explain key concepts of Mahayana School of Buddhism, which include Huayan Buddhism, Tendai Buddhism, and Zen Buddhism. By investigating various visual media (architecture, painting, and sculpture), the class studies how abstract ideas are translated into visual modes in disseminating religious tenets.

**Course Design**

This course is designed as a survey of Buddhist arts from its origin in India to contemporary interpretations in Japanese popular art. This is a study of arts and visual culture associated with the Mahayana School of Buddhism that spread in China and Japan. We focus on the relationship between visual arts and theological doctrine of Buddhism in historical and sociological contexts. We will broadly investigate issues of iconism, iconoclasm, millennialism, nationalism, as well as social and cultural interactions between the religious and secular worlds. Twenty or more slides are used in each lecture, some of which will be posed on the Blackboard. Exams will include slide identifications, so review slides on the Blackboard regularly.

**Course requirements:** the final grade based on following assignments:

**Two in-class exams:** Mid-term (20%) and final (30%)

Questions, on the materials introduced and discussed in class, will be a combination of slide identifications and essays. You are responsible for the terms, names and dates of the images of monuments shown in class.

**Two short papers (3-5 pages each):** 25% x 2

Paper 1. Film analysis: *Little Buddha*

Paper 2. Research paper using an artwork from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (Details of paper instruction will be given in class)

**Policy on class attendance: Mandatory**

Missing three classes (except for emergency) will result in lower grades. Participation in class discussion highly recommended; all questions welcome.

**Policy on papers:**

- You are encouraged to submit your paper early for your revised final version that incorporates my editorial comments.
- A 1/3 of a full grade will be deducted each day after the due date.

### **Helpful survey books**

Craven, Roy. *Indian Art*  
Fisher, Robert. *Buddhist Art and Architecture*  
Leidy, Denise. *The Art of Buddhism*  
Lee, Sherman. *A History of Far Eastern Art*  
Rowland, Benjamin. *The Art and Architecture of India*  
Sickman & Soper. *The Art and Architecture of China*  
Paine, Robert et al. *The art and architecture of Japan*

### **Books on reserve at TISCH Library**

NX504 .B84 2004	Baas and Jacob, ed.	<i>Buddha Mind in Contemporary Art</i>
BQ286.G35 2006	Brancaccio & Behrendt	<i>Gandharan Buddhism</i>
N7310.72 G36 M48	Behrendt, Kurt	<i>The Art of Gandhara</i>
ND2071 .B37 1982	Barnet, Sylvan.	<i>Zen Ink Paintings</i>
ND2829 .A4 B44 1998	Behl, Benoy	<i>The Ajanta Caves</i>
BQ4570.S48 B83 1992	Cabazon, Jose	<i>Buddhism, Sexuality, and Gender</i>
N7301.C7 1997	Craven, Roy	<i>Indian art</i>
NA6009.S27 D42	Dhavalikar, M. K.	<i>Sanchi</i>
N7343 .A78	Dunhuang Institute	<i>The Art Treasures of Dunhuang</i>
N8193.A4 F57 1993	Fisher, Robert.	<i>Buddhist Art and Architecture</i>
BL1470 .F623	Foucher, Alfred	<i>The life of the Buddha</i>
N8193 .C6 K37 2002	Karetzky, Patricia	<i>Chinese Buddhist Art</i>
BL2202 .K5	Kitagawa, Joseph.	<i>Religion in Japanese History</i>
BL604.B64 R45 1995	Law, Jane, ed.	<i>Religious Reflections on the Human Body</i>
N7336 .L43 1994	Lee, Sherman.	<i>A History of Far Eastern Art</i>
N7350.M26 1993	Mason, Penelope	<i>History of Japanese Art</i>
N81933 .P86 J34	Nakano, Genzo	<i>Byodoin Hoodo</i>
N7350 .P3 1981	Paine, Robert et al.	<i>The art and architecture of Japan</i>
NX676.3 Z45 P36 1999	Parker, Joseph	<i>Zen Buddhist Landscape Arts</i>
N5899.K8 R6	Rosenfield, John	<i>The dynastic arts of the Kushans</i>
N8193.A5 A84 1975	Rowland, Benjamin.	<i>The Evolution of the Buddha Image</i>
N7301 .R68	Rowland, Benjamin	<i>The Art and Architecture of India</i>
PL726.112.B8 F56	Sanford, J. et al eds.	<i>Flowing Traces</i>
N7340 .S46 1971	Sickman & Soper	<i>The Art and Architecture of China</i>
N8193.A4 S413	Seckel, Dietrich	<i>The Art of Buddhism</i>
N8193.2.A4 I45 1978b	Snellgrove, D., ed.	<i>The Image of the Buddha</i>
ND2071 .T313	Tanaka, Ichimatsu.	<i>Japanese Ink Painting: Shubun to Sesshu</i>
BQ5125.M3 T46 1999	Ten Grotenhuis, E.	<i>Japanese mandalas</i>
BQ2212.E5 W66 1997	Watson, Burton, tr.	<i>The Vimalakirti Sutra</i>
N8193.C6 W478 2000	Whitfield, R. et. al.	<i>Cave Temples of Mogao</i>
N8193. C6 L38 1994	Weidner, Marsha, ed	<i>Latter Days of the Law</i>
BQ4570.W6 W55 1996	Wilson, Liz.	<i>Charming cadavers</i>

Film: *Little Buddha* [on TISCH media reserve]

**Schedule (subject to change)** **Note:** Read the assigned material before coming to class.

## 1. Foundation of Buddhism

- Jan. 21 Introduction to the course:
- Who is the Buddha?
  - How is the Buddha artistically represented?
  - Why are there so many different Buddha's appearances?
  - What's art history got to do with religion?
- Jan. 26 The Lives and Teachings of the Historical Buddha  
Topics: Indus Valley Culture; Hinduism  
Read: 1) Robert Thurman, "Buddhist Hermeneutics," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. 46, No. 1 (1978): 19-39 [JSTOR]  
2) Roy Craven, *Indian Art*, 9-49
- Jan. 28 Early Indian Visual Arts  
Topics: Ashokan Pillars; Stupas; Cave temples  
Read: 1) Denise Leidy, "Chapter 1 Pillars and Stupas"  
2) Roy, "Justice in the Jatakas," *Social Scientist*," Vol. 24, No. 4/6 (1996): 23-40 [JSTOR]  
3) Robert Fisher, *Buddhist Art and Architecture*, 29-41
- Feb. 2, 4, 9 Non-figural Representations of the Buddha in Visual Narration  
Topics: Aniconism, symbolic representations  
Read: 1) Susan Huntington, "Early Buddhist Art and the Theory of Aniconism" *Art Journal*, Vol. 49, No. 4 (1990): 401-408 [JSTOR]  
2) Vidya Dehejia, "Aniconism and the Multivalence of Emblems," *Ars Orientalis*, V. 21 (1991): 45-66 [JSTOR]  
3) Vidya Dehejia, "On Modes of Visual Narration in Early Buddhist Art," *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 72, No. 3 (1990): 374-392 [JSTOR]

## 2. Mahayana School of Buddhism

- Feb. 11 Figural Representations of the Buddha  
Topics: Mahayana Buddhism; Bodhisattva; iconography  
Read: Leidy, "Chapter 2 The Buddha Image"
- Feb. 16 Class cancelled—Make-up class on Sat. March 13, at MFA**
- Feb. 18 No class (Monday schedule)**

Feb. 23, 25

**Paper Due on Feb. 25**

Figural Representations of the Buddha, continued

Topics: Ideal body, Helenism

Read: 1) Fisher, *Buddhist Art and Architecture*, pp. 41-52

2) Ji-Hyung Rhi, "From Bodhisattva to Buddha," *Artibus Asiae*,  
vol. 54, No ¾ (1994): 207-225 [JSTOR]

Additional reading: Alfred Foucher, *The life of the Buddha* [Tisch Reserve];  
and Anada Coomaraswamy, "The Origin of the Buddha Image," *The Art  
Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (1927): 287-329 [JSTOR]

Mar. 2

Caves as Art Display and Pilgrimages

Read: 1) Fisher, 52-61

2) Leidy, "Chapter 3 Caves and Caravans"

Mar. 4

Iconism and Iconoclasm:

Topics: Bamiyan Buddhas, Taliban

Read: Finbarr Barry Flood, "Between Cult and Culture: Bamiyan, Islamic  
Iconoclasm, and the Museum," *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 84, No. 4  
(2002): 641-659 [JSTOR]

3. Chinese Buddhism, Patron and Art

Mar. 9

Northern Wei Dynasty, China

Topics: Sinicization

Read: 1) Leidy, "Chapter 4 China"

2) Fisher, 86-98

3) Katherine Tsiang, "Changing Pattern of Divinity and Reform in the  
Late Northern Wei," *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 84, No. 2 (2002): 222-245 [JSTOR]

Mar. 11

**Midterm Exam**

**\*Sat. Mar. 13**

**MFA, Boston (Make-up class of Feb. 16)**

Mar. 16, 18

Chinese Buddhism and Patronage

Topics: Huayan Buddhism, Tiandai Buddhism

Read: 1) Fisher, 115-108

2) Stanley Abe, "Provenance, Patronage, and Desire," *Ars Orientalis*,  
Vol. 31 (2001): 1-30 [JSTOR]

3) Amy McNair, "Early Tang Imperial Patronage at Longmen,"  
*Ars Orientalis*, Vol. 24 (1994): 65-81 [JSTOR]

Mar. 23, 25

**No class (Spring recess)**

### 3. Salvation through Miracles and Self-power

- Mar. 30, Apr. 1    End of the Buddhist Law  
Topics: Millennialism, *mappo*  
Read: 1) Fisher, 148-166  
2) Leidy, "Chapter 10 Aristocrats and Warriors in Korea and Japan"  
3) A. Bloom, "The sense of Sin and Guilt and the Last Age in Chinese and Japanese Buddhism," *Numen*, v.14, no. 2 (1967): 144-149.
- Apr. 6, 8            Japanese Narrative Scrolls  
Topics: Illustrated handscrolls (*emakimono*), *oni*  
Read: 1) Karen Brock, "The Making and Remaking of *Miraculous Origins of Mt. Shigi*," *Archives of Asian Art*, Vol. 45 (1992): 42-71 [JSTOR]  
2) Rajyashree Pandey, "Desire and Disgust: Meditations on the Impure Body in Medieval Japanese Narratives," *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 60, No. 2 (2005): 195-234 [Project Muse]
- Apr. 13             Zen Buddhism and Art  
Topics: Zen Buddhism  
Read: 1) Hiroshi Onishi, "Chinese Lore for Japanese Spaces," *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin*, New Series, Vol. 51, No. 1 (1993): 3-47 [JSTOR]  
2) Barnet, Sylvan. *Zen Ink Paintings*  
Background reading: "Zen Masters of Mediation in Images and Writings," *Artibus Asiae, Supplementum*, Vol. 40 (1996): 3-394 [JSTOR]
- Apr. 15, 20         Zen Monks and Ink Paintings  
Topics: Gozan Zen, *shigajiku*  
Read: Joseph Parker, "Attaining Landscapes in the Mind: Nature Poetry in Gozan Zen," *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (1997): 235-257 [JSTOR]
- Apr. 22, 27         Contemporary Art and Buddhism  
Read: 1) Leidy, "Chapter 12 The Dalai Lamas in Tibet"  
2) Jacquelynn Baas, ed., *Buddha Mind in Contemporary Art* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, c 2004) [Tisch Reserve]
- Apr. 29 (Thr)      Final exam**

## CHRONOLOGY—INDIA

ca. 2500-1500 B.C.E.	Indus Valley Civ. (Aryan Invasions: 2000-1500 B.C.E.)
1500-800 B.C.E.	Vedic Period
642-322 B.C.E.	Shaishunaga-Nanda Period
322-185 B.C.E.	Maurya Dynasty
187-75 B.C.E.	Shunga Dynasty
ca. 70 B.C.E.- ca. C.E. 50	Early Andhra Dynasty
ca. C.E. 50-320	Later Andhra Dynasty (in northern subcontinent India)
	Kushan Dynasty (in present-day Afganistan/Pakistan, till 7th cent.)
320-600	Gupta Dynasty

## CHRONOLOGY—CHINA

206B.C.E.- C.E. 9	Western Han Dynasty
25C.E.-221	Eastern Han Dynasty
220-589	SIX DYNASTIES PERIOD
	Northern Wei (386-535)
	Northern Qi (550-557)
	Western Wei (535-557)
581-618	Sui Dynasty
618-907	Tang Dynasty
907-960	FIVE DYNASTIES PERIOD
960-1127; 1127-1279	Northern and Southern Song Dynasty
	Liao in north (907-1125)
	Jin in north (1115-1234)
1260-1368	Yuan Dynasty
1368-1644	Ming Dynasty
1644-1912	Qing Dynasty
1912-	People's Republic of China

## CHRONOLOGY—JAPAN

552 - 645	Asuka Period
645 - 794	Nara Period
794 - 1185	Heian Period
1185 - 1333	Kamakura Period
1333 - 1573	Muromachi Period
1573 - 1615	Momoyama Period
1615 - 1868	Edo Period
1868 - 1912	Meiji Period
1912 - 1926	Taishô Period
1926 - 1989	Shôwa Period
1989 - present	Heisei Period