ART 414 (10935): HISTORY OF JAPANESE ART

Instructor: Dr. Meiqin Wang
Time and location: Thursday 4:00-6:45 PM   Sagebrush Hall 109
Office: Sagebrush Hall 227
Office Phone: 677-3027 (no voice message)
Email: mwang@csun.edu
Office hours: Thursdays 9:00-11am, 1-2pm, 3:30-4pm, 6:45-7:15pm

Course Description:
Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Japanese visual culture from the Neolithic period to the present time. Investigation of various art forms in different media (including ceramics, bronze object, calligraphy, painting, sculpture, architecture, woodblock print, photograph, video, installation, and performance), and ways in which different artistic features are connected to specific historical, religious, philosophical, and political contexts.

- Be prepared! Expect to work hard and learn a lot in this course. I have high expectations for my students and am committed to helping you succeed in achieving your learning goals.

Art Department Program Goals Addressed in This Course:
1. Students will acquire competent knowledge and skills in various art media, concepts and methodologies.
4. Students will utilize and apply critical thinking skills to communicate ideas for their intended audience at a competent level in visual, oral, and written formats.
5. Students will acquire historical and contemporary knowledge of diverse cultural and aesthetic contexts, including political, visual and material culture.

Course Student Learning Objectives
1. To develop a critical and historical consciousness of the development of Japanese art.
2. To achieve a “visual literacy” of Japanese artistic images.
3. To explain the role and function of Japanese art within its religious, political, social and economic contexts.
4. To demonstrate a general knowledge of important art historical terms, methods, and issues as applied to Japanese art.
5. To foster both individual and collective learning and to demonstrate research skills including ability to locate, evaluate, organize, and document sources for written assignments and articulate ideas verbally in class.

Course Assignments:
You are expected to assume a high responsibility of learning in this class by completing required course assignments and selecting some from the optional course assignments. Plan early and fill in the assignment plan. Keep in mind that you are responsible for turning in all your assignments by the deadlines.

Required Course Assignments
1. Attendance and Participation (30 points)

   Attendance:
   Attendance is mandatory and will be taken every week. Materials presented in class will not be repeated. Missing more than one class will affect your final grade on a 3-points downward scale each subsequent absence. Exception will only
be made with an exigent circumstance, but you must provide a three-page essay summarizing the missed course materials plus proper documents. **Every tardy arrival or leaving class early, sleeping in class, or electronic device violation** will cost you 1 point.

**Participation**

It is imperative that you have studied the assigned readings **BEFORE** you come to class! The quality, rather than the quantity, of your contributions to the class and group discussion will be used to establish your participation grade.

1. **(Summarizer- You will perform this role twice-10 points)** For each time: you will present to the class in 10 minutes; you will also turn in a THREE-page essay summarizing the main content of the weekly readings. Your essay has to show that you have read and understood the weekly material. Being concise and getting the main issues are the key to this assignment.

   **Note:** both essays are due on course website before the class begins. See summary rubric online.

2. **(Discussant- You will perform this role twice- 6 points)** You will lead discussion on weekly questions/topics in a group and report to the class. (You should not be summarizer and discussant on the same day).

3. **(Commentator-4 points)** You will comment on two classmates’ research paper proposal and annotated bibliography (See Research paper project for details).

4. **(Others-10 points)** spontaneous class discussions, informed comments, online assignments and surveys.

2. **Research paper project part 1–paper proposal and annotated bibliography (20 points) Due week 9 before the class begins**

   You will research on a topic that is related with **modern and contemporary Japanese visual arts** (since 1868) and develop it into an art history paper proposal. Your topic needs to get my approval first. For my approval, you will submit your topic online before the class begins on week 4. This can be a simple initial proposal, including a title, a paragraph introducing the specific time frame, names of artworks and/or artists, the issues, problems, or phenomena that your research paper will cover.

**Paper proposal and annotated bibliography** is the first step of your research paper. You will write a proposal, and support it with an annotated bibliography.

Your proposal should have:

1. A title that tells the theme of your paper.
2. An abstract that explains the perspective, goal and content of your paper. It must contain a thesis!
3. An outline that contains several sections with paragraphs stating what each section is about.
4. A supporting annotated bibliography with at least eight bibliographic entries with brief descriptions on what each source is about and how it is useful for your paper. You much include at least two primary sources. **No more than two online sources will be accepted.**

   5. The maximum length: 3 pages.

   • Please turn in your work on course website in a **word** attachment with your **last name-first name** as the file name. Besides, exchange your work with two other students and comment on their works. You comments will be evaluated. Please be constructive in providing comments. Gratuitous negative comments are strongly discouraged and if these become a problem a student’s grade may be negatively impacted by such disruptive activity.

   • Check Research Paper Guide on course website for complete guidelines and samples of paper proposal and annotated bibliography.

**Optional Course Assignments**

(You have to earn at least 60% of an assignment for it to be counted.)
1. Mini-lecture presenter (3 points each) Due time varies
You can sign up for mini-lecture, in which you will teach the rest of the class 4-5 new lecture images from that day’s reading materials in about 10 minutes. You have to sign up one week in advance in class.
• Check course website for mini-lecture guidelines

2. Exhibition Review (6 points) Due by the end of week 11th
Exhibition review essay requires you to attend an exhibition on Japanese visual art in museums or galleries and write about it. You should apply terms, issues, concepts learned from the course to your exhibition review. The required length is four-pages, plus pages for illustrations and captions. Evidence of attendance is required.
• Check course website for detailed requirements
• Read Sylvan Barnet’s chapter 7 for general guidelines and samples

3. Research paper project part 2–Final Paper (40 points) Due week 16th (required for art history majors)
You will turn in your work on course website in a word attachment with your last name-first name as the file name. The paper should be 12 pages in length (excluding the cover page, bibliography and illustrations).
• You will present your paper in 6 minutes on week 15th or 16th
• Check the complete Research Paper Guide on course website

4. Online Exam I and Exam II (15 points each) Due by the end of week 8th and week 16th respectively
Both exams are essay questions. There will be several questions and you will be asked to write a two-page essay for each question. Both exams test your understanding of course content and ability to reconstruct historical, political, and artistic significance of Japanese art history. You will have three hours for each exam.
• Check course website for detailed guidelines

5. Gallery Show Project (30 points): Sign-up due by week 6th and complete project Due by the end of week 13th
(Special note: artists or artworks you include in this project should not repeat what you do for the research paper proposal or final paper or other projects. Otherwise you won’t get credit for this project.)
This project involves individual and small group (3 to 5 students) to create a virtual gallery show of contemporary Japanese art (since the 1960s). You should form your own group (with the help of the instructor if necessary).
• Check course website for detailed guidelines

6. Creative project: (30 points total) Due by the end of week 13th
(Special note: artists or artworks you include in this project should not repeat what you do for the research paper proposal or final paper or other projects. Otherwise you won’t get credit for this project.)
This project involves a combination of research and artwork, design, or video making.
• Check course website for detailed guidelines

Grading Scale:
A = 100-96 points  A- = 95-90 points
B+ = 89-87 points  B = 86-83 points  B- = 82-80 points
C+ = 79-77 points  C = 76-73 points  C- = 72-70 points
D+ = 69-67 points  D = 66-64 points  D- = 63-60 points  F = below 60 points
Submission method of your written works: all assignments are due online unless required in hard copy.

Format for all written works
1. Only Microsoft word (.doc) will be accepted, if not particularly required by PowerPoint (.ppt).
2. When cite, please use footnote following the Chicago Manual of Style.
3. Please use your last name, then first name, and then the assignment itself as the title of your file. For example: wang-meiqin-final paper.doc
4. All written submissions must have page numbers and should have a cover page containing the title of your paper, your name, course number, course title, professor’s name, and date.
5. Use Times Roman 12 point, double-spaced. Page margins should measure 1” on all sides.

All written works will be graded on content, organization, logic, grammar, spelling, as well as format for citation and bibliography when applicable. The Writing Center in SB40g (7-2033) is there to help with your writing if English is not your first language. Please contact them in advance to plan for getting help.

Academic Integrity and Performance:
CSUN expects its students and employees to conduct themselves in an honest and professional manner. Disrespectful activities such as inappropriate comments, texting, emailing, Internet surfing or talking will result in a lower grade. Please turn off all cell phones during class. Your offence of any type listed above will be counted against your final grade.
• If a student is caught cheating in any form, he/she will receive a failing grade for the course and be reported to the University for appropriate disciplinary action.
• Plagiarism (copying others' ideas and/or words in your work without clearly acknowledging the source of that information) will not be tolerated. If you aren’t sure what plagiarism means, consult the website: http://library.csun.edu/Guides/ResearchStrategies/AvoidingPlagiarism

Assumptions I Make About You: You have made a conscious, informed choice to be a member of this class. This means that you have read the syllabus, know the expectations, and you will turn in your assignments on time and follow the conduct rules outlined in this document. Be aware that for a class of 3 units like this you should spend at least 6 hours per week on your own (reading, making notes, working on assignments, etc.).

Assumptions You Can Make About me: I am committed to helping you achieve your learning goals in this class. I will give you the respect that I ask you to give me and the other members of this class. I will respond to your email within 24 hours whenever possible. You should let me know when certain assignments or learning activities are challenging to you and how you are doing in the class. If you start this habit early in the semester, then I will be able to better tailor our activities to help you learn.

Course website and Email:
Please check course website and your CSUN email account regularly for handouts, updates, assignments, exams, and other relevant activities. You are responsible for all course related materials and information distributed through them.
• When you email to me, please have “ART 414” in the subject line! Without the required info, your email may not get read in a timely manner.

Textbooks:


4. Canvas Course website: for weekly PowerPoint presentation files, additional readings, videos as well as guidelines, quizzes, assignment submissions, reports, and surveys of your learning experience.

**Schedule of readings and lectures (subject to change)**

**Week 1** (JAN.24) Introduction to art history and to the class

***Assignment plan due

***Syllabus report due online by the end of the week

**Week 2** (JAN.31) Sylvan Barnet, Chapter 1 “Writing About Art” and Shimizu, “Japan in American Museums – But Which Japan?”

**Week 3** (FEB. 7) Preface and **Chapter 1**: The Birth of Japan

**Week 4** (FEB.14) **Chapter 2**: Imperial Models

***Paper Topic Due online before class

**Week 5** (FEB.21) **Chapter 3**: Capital of Peace and Tranquility

***Watch video *The Tale of Geiji* and answer questions online by the end of the week

**Week 6** (FEB.28) **Chapter 4**: Changing of the Guard Part 1 (stop at page 211, before the discussion on Zen Buddhism begins)

Gallery show project sign up

**Week 7** (MAR.7) **Chapter 4**: Changing of the Guard Part 2

Online Exam I

**Week 8** (MAR.14) **Chapter 5**: Splendor Regained

(MAR.21) Spring Recess/no class

**Week 9** (MAR.28) class canceled (the instructor gives a talk and attends a workshop at York University in Toronto)

***Paper proposal and annotated bibliography due at 4pm

**Week 10** (APR.4) **Chapter 6**: Pax Tokugawa Part 1 (stop at page 311, before Developments in Painting begins)

*** Commentator’s work due at the beginning of class
Week 11 (APR.11) Chapter 6: Pax Tokugawa Part 2
Exhibition Review due

Week 12 (APR.18) Chapter 7: Forging a New Identity: The Meiji Restoration and the Modern World
***Sign up for student presentation due

Week 13 (APR.25) East and West: *The Book of Tea* (v-xviii, and 1-41)
Gallery Show Project/Creative project due

Week 14 (MAY.2) Modern and Contemporary Japanese Visual Arts: student presentation

Week 15 (MAY.9) Modern and Contemporary Japanese Visual Arts: student presentation
Final Paper due
Online Exam II

Final week: this class has no final and thus no class meeting on final week. However, I will be in my office for students who might have questions about their grades.

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**Plan of Assignments** (keep this form for yourself and turn in the next one)

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The points you earn will be your final grade, out of 100

Total:
## Plan of Assignments

**instructor’s note:**

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