

## ART 414: HISTORY OF JAPANESE ART

**Time and location:** Monday 4:00-6:45 PM Sagebrush 105

**Instructor:** Dr. Meiqin Wang

**Office:** Sagebrush 227

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**Office hours:** Monday: 3:30-4pm; 6:45-7:15pm, Tuesday: 8:30-9:30, 12:15-1:15pm

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### 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.

### Art Department Program Goals Addressed in This Course:

1. Acquire a basic knowledge, theories, and concepts about art; develop a foundation of art skills and a high level of craftsmanship; communicate ideas and concepts through writing, speaking and art making; acquire a competency with the tools and technologies associated with the visual arts.
2. Broaden knowledge of ancient through contemporary art; develop an understanding of the theoretical, cultural, and historical contexts of art.
3. Apply processes of generating and solving problems in art; analyze, interpret and question traditional methodologies and preconceived notions of art and art making.
4. Develop an appreciation and tolerance of diverse perspectives dealing with art, culture, teaching and learning.

### Course Student Learning Objectives

1. To develop a critical and historical consciousness of the development of Japanese art.
2. To understand the role and function of Japanese art within its religious, political, social and economic contexts.
3. To achieve a “visual literacy” of Japanese artistic images.
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 Requirements and Grading:

You are expected to assume a high responsibility of learning in this class by completing all the 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.

#### **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

## 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** will cost you **1-point**.

## Required Course Assignments

### **1. Class participation (30 points)**

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.

01. (**Summarizer- You will perform this role twice-10 points**) For each time: you will introduce main content of a particular week's reading material to a group 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 Moodle before the class begins.

02. (**Discussant- You will perform this role twice- 5 points**) You will lead discussion on weekly questions/topics in a group and report back to the class. (You should not be summarizer and discussant on the same day).
03. (**Commentator-5 points**) You will read and comment on two classmates' research paper proposal and annotated bibliography (See Research paper project for details).
04. (**Others-10 points**) spontaneous class discussions, informed comments, online assignments and surveys.

### **2. Research paper project-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 must 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 include:

1. A title that tells the theme of your paper.
  2. An abstract that explains the perspective, goal and content of your paper.
  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 must include at least **two primary sources. No more than two online sources will be accepted.**
  5. The maximum length: 5 pages.
- Please turn in your work on Moodle in a **word** attachment with your **last name-first name** as the file name. Besides, bring **two hard copies** of your work to the class for peer comment. Every student is responsible for commenting two other students' work. Your 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 Moodle 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 5-6 new lecture images from that day's reading materials. You have to sign up one week in advance in class. You can present up to **three** times.

- Check <https://moodle.csun.edu/> for mini-lecture guidelines

#### **2. Formal analysis essay: (5 points total) Due by the end of week 6<sup>th</sup>**

Visit a local museum or gallery and select a piece of Japanese artwork to write about using the approach of formal analysis. The required length is three-pages, plus pages for illustrations and captions. Evidence of attendance should be scanned and included in your essay.

- Read Sylvan Barnet's chapter 3 for guidelines and samples

#### **3. Exhibition Review (6 points) Due by the end of week 11<sup>th</sup>**

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 <https://moodle.csun.edu/> for detailed requirements
- Read Sylvan Barnet's chapter 7 for general guidelines and samples

#### **4. Final Paper (40 points) Due week 16<sup>th</sup> (required for art history majors)**

You must turn in your work on Moodle 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 are required to present your paper in **6 minutes** on week 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>
- Check Research Paper Guide on Moodle for the complete guidelines.

#### **5. Online Exam I and Exam II (15 points each) Due by the end of week 9<sup>th</sup> and week 16<sup>th</sup> 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 <https://moodle.csun.edu/> for detailed guidelines

#### **6. Gallery Show Project (30 points): Sign-up due by week 5<sup>th</sup> and complete project Due by the end of week 14<sup>th</sup> (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 <https://moodle.csun.edu/> for detailed guidelines

## 7. Creative project: (30 points total) Due by the end of week 14<sup>th</sup>

(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 <https://moodle.csun.edu/> for the detailed guidelines

**NO late assignments will be accepted!** This applies to every member in the class. The instructor welcomes personal consultation on how to plan and complete an assignment on time, but she will not discuss the matter after the deadline.

**Submission method of your written works:** all assignments are due via Moodle unless also required in hard copy.

### **Format for all written works**

- Only Microsoft word (.doc) will be accepted, if not particularly required by PowerPoint (.ppt).
- When cite, please use footnote following the Chicago Manual of Style.
- 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 or smith-karen-formal analysis.doc
- 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.
- 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.

### **Textbooks:**

#### **Required:**

1. Mason, Penelope. *History of Japanese Art*. Prentice Hall and Abrams, 2nd edition, 2004. ISBN # 0131176013. (Available for purchasing at the Matador Bookstore, also available at the library reserve room on the fourth floor)
2. Okakura, Kakuzo. *The Book of Tea*. Dover Publications, 1964.
3. Barnet, Sylvan. *A Short Guide to Writing About Art* (10<sup>th</sup> Edition). New York: Prentice Hall, 2010. ISBN-10: 0205708250. (Available for purchasing at the Matador Bookstore, also available at the library reserve room on the fourth floor)
4. **Course website:** <https://moodle.csun.edu/>

### **Important websites:**

**For starting your research project:** <http://library.csun.edu/Guides/ResearchStrategies/GettingStarted>

#### **For images:**

1. <https://library.csun.edu/cgi/ezpldap.pl?url=http://www.artstor.org>
2. <http://worldimages.sjsu.edu/>
3. <http://www.oxfordartonline.com.libproxy.csun.edu:2048/subscriber/>

**For career options in art history:** <http://www.nd.edu/%7Ecrosenbe/jobs.html>

### **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 workload required, 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 will do my best to help you to achieve your 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 be available to help you, but you must let me know that you need help. If you do not turn in an assignment, I will assume that you are content with a grade of zero for that assignment.

### **Moodle and Email:**

Please log on moodle.csun.edu and check your CSUN email account regularly for materials related with the course. 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.

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

**Week 1 No Class/Martin Luther King's Day**

**Week 2** Introduction to art history and to the class

\*\*\*Assignment plan due

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

**Week 3** Sylvan Barnet, Chapter 1 “Writing About Art” and Shimizu, “Japan in American Museums – But Which Japan?”

**Week 4 Chapter 1:** Preface, The Birth of Japan

\*\*\*Paper Topic Due online before class

**Week 5** Library research session/meet in library at 4 pm

**Week 6 Chapter 2:** Imperial Models

**Formal analysis essay due**

Gallery show project sign up

**Week 7 Chapter 3:** Capital of Peace and Tranquility

\*\*\*Watch video *The Tale of Geiji* on your own and answer questions online by the end of the week

**Week 8 Chapter 4:** Changing of the Guard Part 1 (stop at page 211, before the discussion on Zen Buddhism begins)

**Week 9 Chapter 4:** Changing of the Guard Part 2

\*\*\*Paper proposal and annotated bibliography (online and two hard copies) due at the beginning of class

**Online Exam I**

**Week 10 Chapter 5:** Splendor Regained

\*\*\*Comments (on other’s paper proposal and annotated bibliography) due at the beginning of class

**Week 11 Chapter 6:** Pax Tokugawa Part 1 (stop at page 311, before Developments in Painting begins)

**Exhibition Review due**

**Week 12** Spring recess

**Week 13 Chapter 6:** Pax Tokugawa Part 2

\*\*\*Sign up for student presentation due at the beginning of the class

**Week 14 Chapter 7:** Forging a New Identity: The Meiji Restoration and the Modern World; East and West: *The Book of Tea* (v-xviii, and 1-41)

**Gallery Show Project/Creative project due**

**Week 15 Modern and Contemporary Japanese Visual Arts:** student presentation

**Week 16 Modern and Contemporary Japanese Visual Arts:** student presentation

**Final Paper due**

**Online Exam II**

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

Last name:

First name:

Date:

Assignment type	Deadline	Points
1. Class participation and presentation (30 points)	Every week	30
2. Research paper project (the first step) Paper proposal and annotated bibliography	Week 9 <sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class	20

<b>The points you earn will be your final grade, out of 100</b>		<b>Total:</b>

**Plan of Assignments**

**instructor's note:**

Last name:

First name:

Date:

<b>Assignment type</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1. Class participation and presentation (30 points)</b>	<b>Every week</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>2. Research paper project (the first step) Paper proposal and annotated bibliography</b>	<b>Week 9<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>The points you earn will be your final grade, out of 100</b>		<b>Total:</b>