

Undergraduate Courses offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2017-2018

ELECTIVES / INTER-FACULTY ELECTIVES (OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2010 Buddhist art and architecture (6 Credits)

Course Description

Visual art has always played a key role in delivering the message of the Buddha throughout the long history of Buddhism. During the process of its dissemination, various forms of visual art were created with symbolic meanings to facilitate and enhance the practice of Buddhist ritual and meditation. Therefore, when Buddhism was transmitted to China from the Eastern Han dynasty onwards, not only did it influence the religious belief of Chinese people, it also had great impact on the development of Chinese art, culture and science.

This course will study and examine Chinese Buddhist art from historical and cultural perspectives to explore its origin, evolution and influence. The transmission of Buddhism as well as its transformations will also be studied through the investigation of the various art treasures found along the Silk Road. A study of these archaeological artefacts, religious monuments, and art and sculpture from the area would reveal to us the fascinating story of the development of Buddhism from India to Central Asia and eventually to China, Korea and Japan.

Offering Semester	1 st Semester
Lecturer	Dr. TSUI Chung-hui
Office	C0407, 4/F, Jockey Club Tower, Centre of Buddhist Studies
Tel	3917-5018
Email	chunghui@hku.hk
Day of the week	Thursday
Time	1:30 pm-3:20 pm
Assessment	100% coursework
Class Venue	CPD 3.28, Centennial Campus

Objectives

Students are expected to obtain a general knowledge of Buddhist art through a broad understanding of the cultural context as well as the historical and geographical framework of major Buddhist sites. By the end of the course, students will be able to

describe and explain the functions and meanings of fundamental Buddhist doctrine through major masterpieces of Buddhist art.

Assessment ratio

The final examination is based on one essay, one presentation and lecture participation.

100% coursework, including :

- (1) 50 % short essay with 2,500-3,000 words
- (2) 10 % two short quizzes during semester (each with 5%)
- (3) 25 % presentation, each student has three to five minutes.
- (4) 15 % class participation

(Faculty Grade Expectations :

http://arts.hku.hk/BAprogramme/2012/assessment/A92_311_amended_2014.pdf)

Course Outline (tentative)

1. Introduction :origin and formation of various schools of Buddhist Art
2. Buddhist Art in India (stupas and stories of the Buddha with visual narratives)
3. Buddhist Art in India (the monastery, chaitya-griha and temple)
4. Transmission of Mahayana Buddhist art along the Silk Road
5. The development of Buddhist art in Central Asia
6. Buddhist art in China
7. Art and iconography of the Buddha, Bodhisattva and other deities
8. Tibetan Buddhist art
9. Buddhist art in Sri Lanka
10. Buddhist art in South East Asia
11. Buddhist art in Korea
12. Buddhist art in Japan
13. **Presentation**

Required Readings

Baker, Janet, *The Flowering of a foreign faith: new studies in Chinese Buddhist art*, New Delhi : Marg Publication, 1998.[704.948943 F64](#)

Fisher, Robert E. *Buddhist Art and Architecture*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1993.[704.948943 F53](#)

Foucher, A. (Alfred), *The beginnings of Buddhist art and other essays in Indian and Central-Asian archaeology*, London : Humphrey Milford, 1917. [[X 704.948943 F7 b c.2](#)](e-book is also available from HKU library)

Leidy, Denise Patry, *The art of Buddhism : an introduction to its history and meaning*, Boston : Shambhala, 2008. [704.948943 L52 a](#)

Tucker, Jonathan, *The Silk Road: Art and History*, Chap.1-10.[LB 915.16 T88](#)

Whitfield, Roderick, *Cave Temples of Dunhuang: art and history of the silk road*, The British Library Press, London.[951.45 W595 c](#)

W. Zwalf, "The Buddha Image," in *Buddhism: Art and Faith*, edited by W. Zwalf (London: British Museum, 1985): 91-103.[704.94894309 B9](#)

Suggested Readings

Angela F Howard: "Buddhist Art in China". In James C.Y. Watt: *China-Dawn of a Golden Age,220-750AD*. Pp. 89-99;[LB 709.21 C5 W](#)

Anne Farrer and Roderick Whitfield, *Caves of the Thousand Buddhas: Chinese Art from the Silk Route*, London: British Museum, 1990.[709.21 W59](#)

AnnetteL.Juliano:"Buddhist Art in Northwest China", in Annette L. Juliano and Judith A.Lerner: *Monks and Merchants–Silk Road Treasures from Northwest China*.[951.4 J94 m](#)

Benjamin Rowland, *The evolution of the Buddha image*, New York : the Asian Society, 1976, [704.948943 A8](#)

Davidson, J. Leroy. *The Lotus Sutra in Chinese Art: A Study in Buddhist Art to the Year 1000*. New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 1954. [X 704.948943 D2](#)

Dehejia, Vidya. *Early Buddhist Rock Temples*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1972. [X 722.404 D3](#)

Frances Wood, *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia* (Berkeley and LA: University of California Press, 2003). Chap.5[LB 958 W87](#)

Hallade, Madeleine, *The Gandhara Style and the Evolution of Buddhist Art*;

Nehru, L, *The Origins of Gandhara Style*.[\[XLB 709.24 H18\]](#)

Hayashi Ryoichi, *The Silk Road and the Shoso-in*, New York :Weatherhill, 1975. [708.95218 H42](#)

Kim, Lena, *Tradition and Transformation in Korean Buddhist Sculpture*, in “*Arts of Korea*”, pp.251-294; XLB 709.23 K4

Mc Arthur, Meher. *Reading Buddhist Art: An Illustrated Guide to Buddhist Signs and Symbols*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2002. 704.948943 M1

Mason, Penelope, *History of Japanese art*, Upper Saddle River, N.J. : Pearson Prentice Hall, c2005 . pp.33-146; 709.22 M41

Okazaki, Joji. *Pure land Buddhist painting*. Compare and Contrast Images with selected Dunhuang. Tokyo : Kodansha, 1977. 753.202 O4

Portal, Jane, *Korea: Art and Archaeology*, pp. 42-107. London : Published for The Trustees of the British Museum by British Museum Press, c2000. 709.23 P8

Rajeshwari Ghose, *Kizil on the silk road : crossroads of commerce & meeting of minds*. Mumbai : Marg Publications on behalf of National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2008. LB 915.16 K62

Roderick Witfield and Anne Farrer, *Caves of the Thousand Buddhas– Chinese Art from the Silk Road*. pp. 138-192. 709.21 W59

Sponberg, Alan. *Maitreya, the Future Buddha*. Ed. Hardacre, Helen. N.Y. Cambridge University Press, 1988. 294.3421 M2

Washizuka, Hiromitsu, *Transmitting the forms of divinity: early Buddhist art from Korea and Japan*, pp.18-139; New York : Japan Society, c2003. 704.948943 W31

Zürcher, E. (Erik) ,*The Buddhist conquest of China : the spread and adaptation of Buddhism in early medieval China*, Leiden : Brill, 2007. [294.30951 Z9] (E-resources: <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/hkulibrary/docDetail.action?docID=10271043>)

Internet Resources

1. *Database for Buddhist Cave Temples in China* 中國石窟數據庫

<http://dsr.nii.ac.jp/china-caves/>

2. *Digital Silk Road Project* : <http://dsr.nii.ac.jp/index.html.en>

3. Buddhist dictionaries :

(1) *A Dictionary of Chinese Buddhist Terms*. Free for download. Edited by William Edward Soothill and Lewis Hodous. All the entries are in classical Chinese and the explanation is in English. You can download the entire dictionary from the following website for your private use:
<http://www.hm.tyg.jp/~acmuller/soothill/soothill-hodous.html>

(2) *Digital Dictionary of Buddhism*, eds., Charles Muller. Free for online checkup. This is an internet based dictionary similar to *Dictionary of Chinese Buddhist Terms*, by Soothill and Hodous, but has much more entries. If you know the

Chinese Buddhist technical terms, but do not know how to translate it into English, please visit Muller's DDB website address:

<http://www.acmuller.net/ddb/> Users can access the search function with the user ID of "guest" (case-sensitive, no quotes), leaving the password area blank allowing 20 searches in a 24 hour period. To search Sanskrit and other terms containing diacritics, type in the term in simple ascii.

(3) 《佛光大辭典》線上查詢 **Free for online search** for Chinese Buddhist Terms explained in traditional Chinese <http://sql.fgs.org.tw/webfbd/>

4. Encyclopaedias

Encyclopaedia of Buddhism, eds., Robert E. Buswell, Jr., Ed. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2003. 982 pp. 2 vols. This encyclopedia describes the Buddhist world view, basic teachings and practices of Buddhism, as well as its different schools and sects. This *Encyclopedia* needs subscription, so *use it through HKU Electronic Recourses*.

(Last updated: July 19, 2017)