

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

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

**BSTC2014 Chinese Buddhist art (6 Credits)**

**Course Description**

The course introduces students to the rich world of Chinese Buddhist art from historical and thematic perspectives, through an examination of important Buddhist caves, paintings, sculptures, calligraphy, architecture, and renowned world cultural heritage sites in China. Starting with an introduction on Indian Buddhist art, this course comprises a series of thematically designed topics and issues from different historical periods and regions of China. In this course, students will be exposed to the ways Buddhism influenced Chinese art and come to appreciate how some distinct movements of Chinese Buddhist art, such as Chan, Huayan and Pure Land, influenced East Asian art in general. This course will enable students to achieve visual literacy and gain a historical understanding of the origins and evolution of Chinese Buddhist art and iconography as a result of social, political and philosophical changes. Furthermore, they will learn to critically analyze how Buddhist art conveys the Buddhist teachings and serves as an instrument of propagation for Buddhism at large.

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| Offering Semester | 2nd Semester  |
| Lecturer          | Dr. TSUI Chung-hui  |
| Office            | Rm 407, 4/F, Jockey Club Tower,<br>Centre of Buddhist Studies |
| Tel               | 3917-5018   |
| Email             | chunghui@hku.hk   |
| Day of the week   | Friday  |
| Time              | 12:30pm-2:20 pm   |
| Assessment        | 100% coursework   |
| Class Venue       | CPD 1.21, Centennial Campus                                   |

**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 five-ten minutes.
- (4) 15 % class participation

( Faculty Grade Expectations

[http://arts.hku.hk/BAprogramme/2012/assessment/A92\\_311\\_amended\\_2014.pdf](http://arts.hku.hk/BAprogramme/2012/assessment/A92_311_amended_2014.pdf) )

### **Course Outline (tentative)**

1. Introduction
2. Early Buddhist caves in Xinjiang
3. Dunhuang and Buddhist caves in Gansu & Northern China
4. Yungang & Longmen Buddhist caves
5. Buddhist caves and temples in Sichuan & Yunnan
6. Buddhist sculptures and stelae
7. Buddhist stūpas and pagodas
8. Buddhist calligraphers and calligraphy
9. Chan and calligraphy
10. Chan and painting
11. Chan monastic artists and figure paintings of Arhats
12. Buddhist illustrated books
13. Presentation

### **Required Readings**

1. Awakawa, Yasuichi. *Zen Painting*. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1970.  
Yang Yao t'ing, "The Art of Line," in *Looking at Chinese Painting*, (Tokyo: Nigensha, 1995).
2. Baker, Janet, *The Flowering of a foreign faith: new studies in Chinese Buddhist art*, New Delhi : Marg Publication, 1998. [704.948943 F64](#)
3. Fisher, Robert E. *Buddhist Art and Architecture*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1993. [704.948943 F53](#)
4. 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)

5. Harrist, Robert E. jr.& W. C. Fong, *The Embodied Image: Chinese Calligraphy from the John B. Elliott Collection*. Princeton: The Art Museum, Princeton University, 1999.
6. Ledderose, Lothar. "Chinese Calligraphy: its aesthetic dimension and social function", *Orientalia* 17, no. 10 (Oct. 1986) pp. 35-50. 915.005 O69
7. Leidy, Denise Patry, *The art of Buddhism : an introduction to its history and meaning*, Boston : Shambhala, 2008. 704.948943 L52 a
8. Whitfield, Roderick, *Cave Temples of Dunhuang: art and history of the silk road*, The British Library Press, London. 951.45 W595 c
9. W. Zwalf, "The Buddha Image," in *Buddhism: Art and Faith*, edited by W. Zwalf (London: British Museum, 1985): 91-103. 704.94894309 B9
10. Wong, Dorothy C. *Chinese steles : pre-Buddhist and Buddhist use of a symbolic form*. (Honolulu : University of Hawaii Press, 2004)

### **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

Annette L. 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

Richard Barnhart, James Cahill, et al., Three Thousand Years of Chinese Painting,

Mote, Frederick W. and H-l Chu. *Calligraphy and the East Asian Book*. Boston & Shaftesbury: Shambhala Publications, Inc., 1988. NK3634.A2 M67 1989

Nehru, L, *The Origins of Gandhara Style*. [XLB 709.24 H18]

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

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

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

Robert Thorp and Richard Vinograd, Chinese Art and Culture

Roderick Whitfield 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

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

※ *Database for Buddhist Cave Temples in China* 中國石窟數據庫  
<http://dsr.nii.ac.jp/china-caves/>  
<http://dsr.nii.ac.jp/china-caves/index.html.en>

※ How to identify a Buddhist images :  
<http://enweb.dha.ac.cn/002F/index.htm>

※ Chinese Symbols and Art Motifs  
<http://www.chinesepaintings.com/chinese-symbols.html>

#### ◎ **Buddhist dictionaries :**

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(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/>

#### ◆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*.

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