



History of the Art of India, Part I: Origins to Mughals OLLI, Spring 2024 Syllabus



This course surveys the art of the Indian subcontinent from its origins in the second millennium BCE through early Mughal art (16th century). The survey covers Buddhist, Brahmanic, and Jain architecture, sculpture, and painting. Artistic styles are exemplified by significant monuments. Topics treated include Buddhist chaityas, stupas (e.g., Sanchi), and rock-cut and painted caves (e.g., Ajanta); Hindu temples, both northern (e.g., Konarak, Khajuraho) and southern (e.g., Madurai) style; and Islamic architecture (e.g., Fatehpur Sikri) and painted manuscripts in the reign of Mughal emperor Akbar. A subsequent course, Part II, will commence with later Mughal art.

Course meeting time: Mondays from February 26 through April 15, 2024; 3:30 – 5:00 pm.

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Week 1. Origins in the Indus Valley Civilization, and Early Buddhist Art through Mauryan Empire

- A. Introduction to the Course
 - A1. What is India?
 - A2. What is Indian Religion, Culture, Art?
 - A3. What is This Course?
- B. Indus Valley Civilization (Mohenjo Daro and Harappa)
 - B1. Neolithic paintings
 - B2. Indus valley civilization: Location and timeline
 - B3. Cities and structures
 - B4. Sculpture
- C. Arrival of the Aryans
- D. Early Buddhist Art of the Mauryan Empire
 - D1. Buddhism
 - D2. Alexander the Great and Chandragupta Maurya
 - D3. Ashoka and the Mauryan empire

Week 2. Post-Mauryan Buddhist Art: Chaityas, Vihāras, and Stupas

- A. Introduction
 - A1. End of the Mauryan empire
 - A2. Terms (Buddhist monuments)
 - A3. Rock-cut caves

- B. Bhaja
 - B1. Evolution of the chaitya hall
 - B2. Chaitya hall at Bhaja
 - B3. Vihāras at Bhaja
 - B4. Steps to Bhaja cave
- C. Karli
 - C1. Façade and courtyard
 - C2. Façade and relief sculptures
 - C3. Interior
 - C4. Patronage
- D. Ajanta
- E. Sanchi
 - E1. Mauryan stupa, 3C BCE
 - E2. Shunga stupa, 2C BCE
 - E3. Sātavāhana stupa, 1C BCE
 - E4. East gateway narrative reliefs
 - E5. West gateway narrative reliefs
 - E6. Female bracket figure
 - E7. Artists and Patronage

Week 3. Sātavāhana and Kushan Art and Architecture

- A. Sātavāhana: Sanchi
- B. Sātavāhana: Amarāvati
 - B1. Introduction: Amarāvati stupa
 - B2. Relief sculptures
 - B3. Patronage
- C. Kushan: History, Trade, Buddhism
 - C1. Kushan History
 - C2. Kushan Trade
 - C3. Buddhism in Kushan Empire
- D. Kushan: Gandhara
 - D1. Introduction
 - D2. Buddha Statues
 - D3. Bodhisattva statues
 - D4. Relief panel of the Life of the Buddha
 - D5. Gandharan reliquaries
- Topic E. Kushan: Mathura
 - E1. Comparison: Gandhara & Mathura
 - E2. Imperial galleries at Mat
 - E3. Railing pillar statues
 - E4. Bodhisattvas and Buddhas

Week 4. Gupta Art

- A. Gupta: History and Buddhist sculpture
 - A1. History
 - A2. Buddhist art style and workshops
 - A3. Mathura workshop

- A4. Sarnath workshop
- A5. Metal sculpture
- A6. Terracotta
- B. Gupta: Brahmanical art
 - B1. Introduction
 - B2. Udayagiri cave 5: Vishnu relief
 - B3. Udayagiri cave 6: Vishnu reliefs
 - B4. Udayagiri caves 4, 6: Various deities
 - B5. Other reliefs
- C. Gupta: Ajanta
 - C1. Introduction
 - C2. Technique, style, and other points
 - C3. Cave 1 paintings
 - C4. Cave 17 paintings

Week 5. Post-Gupta Art

- General Introduction
- A. Chalukyas: Bādami, Aihole, Pattadakal
 - A1. Introduction
 - A2. Rock-cut caves at Bādami (late 6C)
 - A3. Malegitti Shivalaya temple at Bādami (6-7C, probably ca.600)
 - A4. Siva temple (Ladkhan) at Aihole (5-8C, probably 600-650)
 - A5. Durga temple at Aihole (6-8C, probably 675-725)
 - A6. Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal (ca.740)
- B. Rashtrakutas: Ellora
 - B1. Introduction
 - B2. Rock-cut Kailasha Siva temple, ca.757-790
 - B3. Rock-cut caves, 6-9C
- C. Rashtrakutas: Elephanta
 - C1. Introduction
 - C2. Great cave
 - C3. Trimūrti Siva

Week 6. South India: Pallavas, Cholas, Post-Chola, 7th through 17th Centuries

- A. Pallavas
 - A1. History
 - A2. Rock-face relief: Descent of the Ganges or Arjuna's penance
 - A3. Rock-cut ratha temples, 7C
 - A4. Shore temple, ca. 700
- B. Cholas
 - B1. History
 - B2. Rajarajeshwara temple, 1010
 - B3. Chola bronzes
- C. Post-Chola
 - C1. Characteristics of south Indian temples, 12-17C
 - C2. Minakshi temple at Madurai, 1336-1736

Week 7. North India: Temple Architecture, 8th through 13th Centuries

Introduction

- A. Orissan temples: Parasurameshwara through Rajarani
 - A1. Parasurameshwara temple, Bhubaneshwar, late 7C
 - A2. Rajarani temple, Bhubaneshwar, 11C
 - A3. Lingaraja temple, Bhubaneshwar, ca. 1050
 - A4. Sun temple at Konarak, ca.1250
- B. Chandella temples: Khajuraho
 - B1. Introduction
 - B2. Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple, 1004-35: Plan
 - B3. Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple, 1004-35: Elevation
 - B4. Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple, 1004-35: Shikhara
 - B5. Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple, 1004-35: Wall reliefs
- C. Jain temples of Western India

Week 8. Islamic India: Early Mughal Architecture and Painting

- A. Pre-Mughal: History and Monuments
 - A1. Early history of invasion and conquest
 - A2. Quwwat ul-Islam mosque and Qutb Minar
 - A3. Later history of pre-Mughal dynasties
- B. Mughals: Emperor Akbar's Architecture
 - B1. Introduction and History
 - B2. Humayun's Tomb
 - B3. Fatehpur Sikri
- C. Mughals: Emperor Akbar's Painting Workshop
 - C1. Workshop, style, process, artists
 - C2. Pre-Mughal Hindu and Persian painting
 - C3. Islamic books & painting: *Hamza Nama*, 1562-77
 - C4. Mughal books & painting: *Akbar Nama*, 1590-95
 - C5. Hindu books & painting: *Harivamsa*, ca.1585
 - C6. European Christian books & painting
 - C7. After Akbar: Jahangir