Course Description: This course explores a selection of Buddhist, Jain, and Hindu artistic expressions from ancient and medieval India. We will focus on particular issues such as the early production of imagery and its role in the development of sacred architecture. We will also consider the ways in which art functions in terms of ritual and how it expresses certain religious values and goals. Special attention will be paid to iconography, creation of sacred space, patronage, and how art shapes (and is shaped by) devotional practices.

Course Content & Objectives: This course is designed to familiarize students with the arts of ancient and medieval India. By the end of this course the student will be able to identify selected works of art through their religious, regional and/or socio-political affiliations and be able to associate these works within their larger historical contexts. In addition, the student will be able to accurately describe the function and/or meaning of these artworks given the time and place of their creation. By engaging in the visual cultures of India, students can cultivate a thorough knowledge of this important specialization within the discipline of art history, and, at the same time, foster the essential skills of critical looking, reading, and writing about art.

Goals of the course include:
(1) to enhance critical reading skills
(2) to refine writing skills
(3) to recognize a variety of approaches and paradigms employed in the study of art

Required Textbook (available at most bookstores, Amazon.com, and on reserve at Willis Library):

Required Readings on Blackboard (learn.unt.edu):


**Course Structure:** This is a lecture course that meets three times a week for fifty minutes. Reading assignments for the course are listed below in the lecture schedule. In order to fully prepare for lecture, the student should complete the reading assignment *before* the scheduled class.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**

Exams (2 in-class; 1 take-home; @ 25% each)................................. 75%

Writing Assignment................................................................. 15%

Attendance.................................................................................. 10%

**Description of In-Class Exams 1 and 2:** There will be a total of 2 in-class essay exams. Dates for these exams are highlighted in bold in the lecture schedule. At least one week prior to each in-class exam, 20-25 images will be available on Blackboard for review. For the in-class exam, I will select 6-8 images. On the exam, I will provide the relevant information of each artwork (title, location, date), but you will need to answer specific questions relating to the images (either as a pair or individually). You will have approximately 10 minutes to write a response to each of the questions. It is imperative that you arrive to class on time, as I will not re-show the images once the exam is in progress.

In addition, **there will be no make-ups for the in-class exams.** If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero on that test unless you provide proper documentation for a University-sanctioned absence (e.g., documented illness, team event, family emergency, etc.). You must contact me within 24 hours of the missed exam. If, after reviewing your documentation, I agree to schedule a make-up exam with you, it must be taken within one week of the missed test.

**Description of Take-Home Exam 3:** The third exam (Exam 3) will be distributed as a take-home exam and due on the last day of regular classes. The dates for distribution and submission are highlighted in bold in the lecture schedule. You will be able to access your textbook, assigned essays, and notes for this exam that will require computer-generated essay responses. The take-home exam (and the Writing Assignment) will be graded on content and the quality of writing.

**Description of Writing Assignment:** During the semester, students are to turn in a short paper that assesses one of the assigned readings. The assigned reading and date of discussion are highlighted in bold in the lecture schedule. Specific content guidelines will be distributed at the appropriate time. Check the lecture schedule for discussion and due date and read over the Grading Criteria on the last page of this syllabus. *The paper must be turned in at the beginning of class* and the student must stay for the lecture. In other words, do not simply drop off your paper and leave. If you do so, I will not accept the paper. In addition, **emailed submissions are not accepted under any circumstances.**
Late work is also not accepted unless there is a documented emergency. As with the exams, the student must notify me about the emergency within 24 hours of the due date of the assignment. If I agree to accept a late assignment, it will be marked down 10 points per day (not class) that it is late.

Posting of Grades: Grades will be posted on Blackboard approximately one day after exams or assignments are handed back. It is your responsibility to verify that the posted grade corresponds with the grade recorded on the assignment/exam. If you are not satisfied with the grade you earned, you can come and see me for a re-grading. However, you must realize that a re-grading can either raise or lower your original score. Once the assignment or exam is passed back, you have a window of two weeks to talk to me about your grade. In other words, at the end of the semester, I will not look over past material for you. I would also suggest that you hold onto all of your graded work until you receive the final grade for the class.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken via a sign-up sheet that is passed around during each class. It is up to you to make sure that you have signed the roster. You are allowed two absences without penalty. After that, your attendance grade (which is initially recorded as 100% A) will be lowered by half a letter grade for each absence over the allotted two. It is also important for you to attend class as the exams are based on lectures and the visual material presented. In many cases, I do not completely agree with the information provided in the readings and so I will offer alternative interpretations of selected artworks and include supplemental visual comparisons during lecture. Since you will be responsible for this material when preparing for and taking exams, it is imperative that you come to class and participate fully if you wish to do well. Should you miss a class lecture, it is up to you to get notes from a classmate. I do not respond to emails asking "what did I miss" nor do I repeat entire lectures during my office hours.

Extra Credit: Opportunities for extra credit will be available throughout the semester. Typically, these include attending lectures in the Art History lecture series. After attending the lecture, please turn in a computer-generated, 1-page summary of the material presented. Students can submit 2 summaries for a total of 5 extra credit points that will be added to the lowest exam score. Alternatively, students may attend 2 lectures at the day-long symposium on women's empowerment in South Asia at SMU. Details of this symposium, scheduled for Saturday, September 16, will be discussed in class.

Student Behavior in the Classroom: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences: According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism necessitates that I file an incident report to the appropriate authorities and this may result in your failing the assignment, failing the course, or being expelled from the University.
Please consult the University's Code of Student Conduct or ask me if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism and how you should give proper acknowledgement to your sources in your written work.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, and Assault: UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

ADA Accommodation Statement: UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu

Course Risk Factor: According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category 1 course. Students enrolled in this course will not be exposed to any significant hazards and are not likely to suffer any bodily injury. Students in this class will be informed of any potential health hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of any materials and/or processes and will be instructed how to proceed without danger to themselves or others.

Emergency Notification and Procedures: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Schedule
Please Note: The professor reserves the right to alter this syllabus if necessary. © 2017 Lisa N. Owen

Aug 28 (M): Introduction to the course; why study ancient art?

Aug 30 (W): Indus Valley Civilization: Indian Art, Chapter 2, 25-36

Sept 1 (F): Indus Valley Civilization

Sept 4 (M): Labor Day—No Class

Sept 6 (W): Indus Valley Civilization

Sept 8 (F): Introduction to the Vedas and Upanishads: Indian Art, Chapter 2, 36-39 and Davis essay 1-14
Sept 11 (M): Introduction to Jainism and Buddhism: *Indian Art*, Chapter 2, 39-42 and Davis essay 14-21

Sept 13 (W): Jainism and Buddhism

Sept 15 (F): Jainism and Buddhism

**Sept 18 (M):** Buddhism and Ashoka: *Indian Art*, Chapter 2, 42-48 and Edicts essay

Writting Assignment distributed and discussed in class

Sept 20 (W): Buddhism and Ashoka

Sept 22 (F): Buddhism and Ashoka

**Sept 25 (M):** The Buddhist Stupa and Issues of Aniconism: *Indian Art*, Chapter 3, 51-69

Writing Assignment due at the beginning of class

Sept 27 (W): The Buddhist Stupa and Issues of Aniconism: Huntington essay

Sept 29 (F): The Buddhist Stupa and Issues of Aniconism: Dehejia essay

Oct 2 (M): The Buddhist Stupa and Issues of Aniconism

Oct 4 (W): Early Buddhist and Jain Monastic Architecture: *Indian Art*, Chapter 5, 103-113

Oct 6 (F): Early Buddhist and Jain Monastic Architecture

Oct 9 (M): Early Buddhist and Jain Monastic Architecture

**Oct 11 (W): In-Class Exam 1**

Oct 13 (F): Work independently on early Jina and Buddha images

Oct 16 (M): Early Jina Images and Jain Art: Leoshko essay

Oct 18 (W): Early Jain Art

Oct 20 (F): Origins of Buddha Images: *Indian Art*, Chapter 4, 79-100 and Schopen essay

Oct 23 (M): Origins of Buddha Images

Oct 25 (W): Origins of Buddha Images


Oct 30 (M): Developments in Buddhist Rock-Cut Architecture

Nov 1 (W): Developments in Buddhist Rock-Cut Architecture
Nov 3 (F): Origins of Hindu Images — Shiva, Vishnu, and Devi: *Indian Art*, Chapter 6, 137-140 and Davis essay 21-27

Nov 6 (M): Origins of Hindu Images — Shiva, Vishnu, and Devi


Nov 10 (F): Hindu and Jain Rock-Cut Architecture: Owen essay (Ellora)

Nov 13 (M): Hindu and Jain Rock-Cut Architecture

**Nov 15 (W): In-Class Exam 2**

Nov 17 (F): Work independently on structural temple architecture

Nov 20 (M): Structural Temple Architecture — Northern India: *Indian Art*, Chapter 6, 141-152 and Michell essay

Nov 22 (W): Structural Temple Architecture — Northern India: *Indian Art*

**Nov 24 (F): Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class**

**Nov 27 (M):** Structural Temple Architecture — Northern India: *Indian Art*, Chapter 7, 155-170  
*Take-Home Exam 3 distributed and discussed*

Nov 29 (W): Structural Temple Architecture — Southern India: *Indian Art*, Chapter 8, 185-204 and Kaimal essay

Dec 1 (F): Structural Temple Architecture — Southern India: Smith essay

Dec 4 (M): Structural Temple Architecture — Southern India

**Dec 6 (W):** Gods beyond Temples  
*Take-Home Exam 3 due at the beginning of class*

**Dec 8 (F): Reading Day—No Class**
Grading Criteria for Written Work:

A = Such a grade indicates that the student assessed the reading(s) and did so with rigor and clarity of thought. An ‘A’ paper means that there were little to no errors in grammar/spelling and that the introduction and conclusion were clear as was the development of the body of the paper. An ‘A’ paper also demonstrates that the student not only carefully read the entire assignment, but thought about the larger issues and considered the author's use of evidence.

B = Such a grade indicates that the student was able to execute the assignment with diligence and forethought, though some main issues in the reading(s) were not addressed fully by the student. A grade of ‘B’ also usually indicates that there were limited structural, spelling, or grammatical problems.

C = This is similar to the ‘B’ description, but the number of problems is more extensive. These may include significant grammatical or structural problems, adding irrelevant material or new material inappropriately, too many generalities, and/or not addressing the main issue(s) in the assigned reading(s). ‘C’ papers often contain too many quoted passages.

D = A grade of ‘D’ indicates that the student did a poor job in demonstrating that s/he read the assignment. Further, grammatical/structural problems make a ‘D’ essay quite difficult to follow. There are usually far too many generalities and a lack of analysis.

F = This either indicates that the assignment was not done or what was done was simply unacceptable for any number of reasons. This includes any indication of plagiarism, which may entail further academic penalty. See the section on plagiarism in this syllabus.