Course description: This course explores selected artworks produced during India's colonial and postcolonial periods through the frameworks of modernity, nationalism, urbanization, and religious identity. While the class will briefly explore the introduction of photography in the subcontinent and developments in architecture and urban planning, most of our attention will be spent on the medium of painting. We will discuss the formation of major schools of painting, the role(s) of the art academy and other institutions in India, and the rise of the independent artist.

Course content & objectives: This course is designed to familiarize students with selected examples of modern Indian art created between 1780 and 1980. The course is divided into three chronological sections: (1) Art and Colonialism, (2) Art and Swadeshi, and (3) Art for a New Nation. 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

There is no textbook for this class. All readings are found on Blackboard Learn (learn.unt.edu).

Required readings
Section 1
Section 2

Section 3

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 final; @ 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 Learn 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 (artist, title, 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 final:** The final exam will be distributed as a take-home exam and **due on our scheduled final date and time for this class—Monday Dec. 10 from 10:30-12:30.** The processes for distribution and submission are highlighted in bold in the lecture schedule. You will be able to access the class readings and your notes for this exam that will require computer-generated essay responses. The take-home final (and the writing assignment below) 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 Learn 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.

**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, and/or being expelled from the University. Please 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. © 2018 Lisa N. Owen

Section 1: Art and Colonialism

Aug 27 (M): Introduction to the course; the problematic category of "non-western art"

Aug 29 (W): East India Company

Aug 31 (F): Observing India: European Artists in Residence—Reading: Archer

Sept 3 (M): Labor Day—No Class

Sept 5 (W): Observing India: European Artists in Residence

Sept 7 (F): Documenting India: Company School Painting—Reading: Nevile

Sept 10 (M): Documenting India: Company School Painting

Sept 12 (W): Documenting India: Photography—Reading: Pelizzari

Sept 14 (F): Documenting India: Photography

Sept 17 (M): Collecting India: The Colonial Museum

Sept 19 (W): From Colony to Crown: The Raj and Art Academies

Sept 21 (F): From Colony to Crown

Sept 24 (M): The Rise of Independent Artists: Raja Ravi Varma—Reading: Mitter 1

Sept 26 (W): The Rise of Independent Artists

Sept 28 (F): Exam 1

Section 2: Art and Swadeshi

Oct 1 (M): Colonial Bengal, Swadeshi, and the Calcutta Art School—Reading: Cohen

Oct 3 (W): Colonial Bengal, Swadeshi, and the Calcutta Art School—guest lecture by Pravrajika Brahmaprana, Resident Minister of the Ramakrishna Vedanta Society of North Texas

Oct 5 (F): The Search for 'Indianness': E.B. Havell and Abanindranath Tagore—Reading: Jamal writing assignment distributed and discussed in class

Oct 8 (M): The Search for 'Indianness'—Reading: Mitter 2

Oct 10 (W): Work on Writing Assignment

Oct 12 (F): Work on Writing Assignment
Oct 15 (M): The Search for 'Indianness'

Oct 17 (W): Avant-Garde Art: Gaganendranath Tagore and Bauhaus—Reading: Mitter 3

**Oct 19 (F): Avant-Garde Art—** **Writing Assignment due in class**

Oct 22 (M): The Search for the Universal: Santiniketan, Rabindranath Tagore and Nandalal Bose—Reading: Das Gupta

Oct 24 (W): The Search for the Universal—Reading: Chandra and Quintanilla

Oct 26 (F): The Art of Politics: Nandalal Bose and Gandhi

Oct 29 (M): The Art of Politics

Oct 31 (W): The Art of Politics

**Nov 2 (F): Exam 2**

**Section Three: Art for a New Nation**

Nov 5 (M): Partition—Reading: Khan

Nov 7 (W): The Making of a National Museum—Reading: Singh

**Nov 9 (F): guest lecture by Aparna Kumar,** PhD candidate, UCLA

Nov 12 (M): On the Eve of Independence: Amrita Sher-Gil—Reading: Mathur

Nov 14 (W): On the Eve of Independence

Nov 16 (F): On the Eve of Independence: Jamini Roy—Reading: Datta

Nov 19 (M): On the Eve of Independence

Nov 21 (W): On the Eve of Independence

**Nov 23 (F): No class—Thanksgiving**

Nov 26 (M): Art after Independence: Explorations in Figural Form—Reading: Dalmia; Bean 77-81 and 86-103

Nov 28 (W): Art after Independence: Explorations in Figural Form

Nov 30 (F): Art after Independence: Explorations in Landscape and Abstraction—Reading: Bean 82-85 and 104-113

Dec 3 (M): Art after Independence: Explorations in Landscape and Abstraction
Dec 5 (W): Last class day—Censorship
    Take-home final exam distributed and discussed in class

Dec 7 (F): No Class—Reading Day

Dec 10 (M): Take-home final exam due in the classroom (BLB 075) between 10:30am-12:30pm

Grading Criteria for Written Work:

A = Such a grade indicates that the student assessed the reading 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 provided exceptional responses to the questions posed in the paper guidelines.

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 and/or in the guidelines 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 fully addressing the main questions posed in the guidelines. ‘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. Please see the section on plagiarism in this syllabus.