

Raritan Valley Community College

New Course Outline

I. Basic course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: ARTH-208 - Art Beyond the Western World
- B. Date of Proposal: March 28, 2002
- C. Sponsoring Department: Humanities
- D. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- E. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 (lecture)
- F. Prerequisites: None
- G. Laboratory Fees: None (However, a class field trip to a museum in New York City is to be part of this course.)

II. Catalogue Description

Art Beyond the West is a survey of art, including painting, sculpture, and architecture from the beginnings up to the present in non-Western societies. The art of China, Japan, Korea, India, Africa, Oceania, Mesoamerica, and the Middle East will be studied within the context of each culture as well as in comparison with some major developments in European art.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course provides a valuable addition to the Art History courses currently offered at RVCC, which focus primarily on Western influences on the history of art. Many recent events in the world, particularly after September 11, 2001, have made it important to study the development of art not only of “Western Civilization” but also to gain a greater understanding of the art and culture of non-Western societies.

Art Beyond the West aspires to integrate significant artistic, literary, historical, and cultural elements of non-Western societies and to explain how particular ideas and ideals developed over time in these societies. This course reinforces the goals and objectives of humanistic education: to enrich the mind, to increase aesthetic awareness and appreciation, to humanize the people and societies that created this art, and to reinforce significant contributions non-Western societies have made to the world.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Satisfies general education requirements: Yes, Humanities
- B. Degree program, option or certificate requirement: No
- C. Elective: Yes
- D. Course transferability: Yes
- E. Honors course: No

V. General Education Goals

Art Beyond the West addresses the following general education goals:

- To develop the ability to think critically.
- To develop the ability to communicate effectively.
- To collect, organize, and evaluate information to address different kinds of problems.
- To develop the ability to make informed judgments concerning ethical issues.
- To value literature and the arts.
- To develop historical consciousness.
- To develop an understanding of diverse cultures.
- To develop a global perspective on problems and issues that humankind faces.

VI. Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete Art Beyond the West will be able to:

- Identify the cultural and historical features distinct to China, Japan, Korea, India, Africa, Oceania, Mesoamerica, and the Middle East that have affected the development of art and architecture in these societies.
- Explain the development of key traditions, storytelling and mythology, ideals, and religious practices within the above-mentioned societies that have influenced their art and architecture.
- Compare and contrast works of art from these societies.
- Explain the significance of available materials to those who created works of art in these societies (e.g., in stone Mayan hieroglyphs, in sand drawings and paintings of native North American peoples, in ceremonial African costumes).
- Explain the role of geographic isolation in the development of particular artistic styles within selected non-Western societies (e.g., Pueblo Bonito in New Mexico, the Moai figures on Easter Island, the pyramids of the Maya, the antelope headaddresses of Mali).
- Identify the essential characteristics of art works produced in selected non-Western societies, and explain specific reasons why they were created (e.g., carved African masks, Easter Island Bird-Man regalia, Islamic ceramic tiles, Mayan hieroglyphs, carved Japanese temple guardian figures).
- Assess the impact of non-Western societies and their art on contemporary worldwide developments in painting, sculpture, and architecture.

VII. Outline of Course Content

1. Art of Africa
2. Art of India and Southeast Asia
3. Art of China
4. Art of Japan and Korea
5. Islamic Art
6. Art of the Pacific
7. Art of Mesoamerica
8. Art without Boundaries

VIII. Suggested Materials

A. Textbooks:

Art Beyond the West. Michael Kampen O'Reiley. Prentice Hall and Harry N. Abrams. 2001.

Islamic Art and Architecture. Robert Hillenbrand. Thames & Hudson, 1999.

B. Materials, equipment, special needs:

See attached list of books that will support this course.