



FA 71b: Art of Japan (Summer 2023)

T, W, Th 1:50pm - 4:20pm
(July 11-August 10, 2023)

Professor Aida Yuen Wong

Email: aida@brandeis.edu Responses can be expected in 24-48 hours, except during holidays and weekends when a longer response time is possible.

Office Hours: W/Th 4:30-5:30pm or by appointment. Join here if meeting remotely:
<https://brandeis.zoom.us/my/aywong>

Course Description and Learning Goals

This course surveys the arts of Japan from antiquity to the contemporary period. The objects and monuments studied—ceramics, sculpture, architecture, painting, calligraphy, etc.—communicate the richness and salient features of Japanese culture through the ages. Apart from aesthetic appreciation, you will gain insights into works of art through reference to their creators, techniques, styles, materials, and functions. You still study the roles of art in the formation of various identities, the mobilization of visual products for the promotion of politics, religions, specific tastes, concepts, and social outlook. In the process, you will acquire a rich vocabulary of Japanese terms, techniques, and specialized expressions related to art history. As much as possible, attention will be given to the relationship between different creations/art forms rather than objects in isolation. While a rough chronological order will be followed, (sometimes much) later works will be introduced in order to underscore the continuity of tradition. The class will visit at least one museum together (Thursday, July 27).

Required Textbook: Tsuji Nobuo. *History of Art in Japan*, translated by Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere. New York: Columbia University Press, 2018. (2019 Paperback version is fine.) For weekly page assignments, follow the calendar on LATTE, which will be updated as the semester progresses. If you are having difficulty purchasing the textbook, please make an

appointment with your Student Financial Services or Academic Services advisor to discuss possible funding options, including vouchers for purchases made at the Brandeis Bookstore.

Requirements and Grade Distribution:

Expected Workload

Success in this four-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 18 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (reading, test-taking, studying, research, writing, etc.).

Attendance and Classwork (30%)

More than two unexcused absences or glaring tardiness will be considered grounds for substantial grade reduction. Excused absences with legitimate reasons may be requested with Prof. Wong. You are responsible for all missed class content.

Be prepared to participate. Learning in this class is most productive through regular engagement.

Quizzes (20%)

Students are responsible for reading assigned pages for each week (see LATTE calendar) as well as listening carefully for terms and analyses in class sessions. Regular quizzes based on readings and lectures will be administered, usually at the beginning of each class.

Lecture Powerpoints will be posted on LATTE before each class.

Complete your own quizzes. Do not consult your classmates or feel pressured into helping others complete theirs. These exercises are designed to test your own understanding of the materials. Any violation of academic honesty may result in a failing grade.

Midterm Oral Interview (15%): Thur, July 20

Based on what you have learned, analyze given art works/monuments/sites with reference to their periods, relevant histories, producers, iconography (subjects and motifs if relevant), visual/formal (i.e. “of the form”—shapes, colors, textures, etc.) characteristics, techniques, and materials. You may also be asked to compare and contrast artworks. To prepare:

1. Pay close attention to and review lectures and readings.
2. Be ready to explain the what, where, when, and why, etc. of images, practice compare-and-contrast skills.

End-of-Term Oral Interview (15%): Thur, August 3

Same expectations as Midterm Oral Interview. Non-cumulative (materials are expected to focus on lectures since the last interview)

Museum Paper (20%): Thurs, August 10

Choose a Japanese artwork from a museum visit to write a 5-page research-based visual analysis. More instructions will be given around midterm.

Evaluation

All students' work will be graded according to the same standard and can be found in the table below.

Class Element	Grade Percentage
Attendance and Participation	30%
Quizzes	20%
Oral Interview I	15%
Oral Interview II	15%
Final Paper	20%

Tech Help

For technical assistance connecting to university systems and services, email help@brandeis.edu or call 781-736-4357.

Accommodation

If you find that there are aspects that pose a particular challenge to your learning, please inform Prof. Wong.

Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, please present your letter of accommodation as soon as you can. I want to support you. In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. I want to provide your accommodations, but cannot do so retroactively. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Support at 781-736-3470 or access@brandeis.edu."

Accessibility

Course materials are available on [LATTE](https://latte.brandeis.edu), the Brandeis learning management system: <http://latte.brandeis.edu>. Login using your UNET ID and password. (Consult for details of the weekly calendar with assignments.)

Academic Integrity

Every member of the University community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. A student shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of the student's own effort. Infringement of academic honesty by a student subjects that student to serious penalties, which may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University or other sanctions (see section 20 of R&R). Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic

integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic honesty as they apply to a specific course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Student Rights and Community Standards. Citation and research assistance can be found at [Brandeis Library Guides - Citing Sources](https://guides.library.brandeis.edu/c.php?g=301723) (<https://guides.library.brandeis.edu/c.php?g=301723>).

Course Calendar (subject to change, consult LATTE for details and updates)

Introduction

Unit 1: Prehistoric Age

Jomon Period 13,500-300 BCE (Utilitarianism, Folk Culture, and Art)

Yayoi Period 300 BCE-300 CE (Beginning of Continental Contact: Bronzes and Ceramics)

Kofun Period 3rd-8th centuries or some say up to 538 CE
(Monumental Tombs and Ritual Sculptures)

Unit 2: Rise of Yamato and Continental Contact Continues

Shinto Shrines

Buddhist Art I (Asuka and Hakuho Periods 538-710)

Buddhist Art II (Nara Period 710-794)

Unit 3: Heian Period 794-1192

Meeting of Religious and Secular Tastes

From the *Tale of Genji* to other Narrative Paintings

Unit 4: Kamakura Period 1192-1333

Glorification of Military Authorities

Realism

Pure Land Buddhist Art Continues

Zen Buddhist Portraiture

Unit 5: Muromachi Period 1333-1573

Zen Ink Painting

Golden and Silver Pavilions

Temple Gardens

Natural Ash-glazed Stoneware

Unit 6: Momoyama Period 1573-1600

Kano School of Painting

Tea Ceremony, Architecture and Ceramics

Unit 7: Edo Period (first half of the 17th century-1867)

Rimpa Painting

Porcelains

Literati Painting

Kimono

Pleasures of the Floating World

Unit 8 Modern Art

Western-style Painting and Architecture of the Meiji Period (1868-1912)

Avant-garde Western styles in the Taisho and Early Showa Periods (1912-ca. 1940s)

War Art and Nihonga (Japanese-style Painting)
Unit 9: Postwar Art (1945-)
Performance and Body art
Calligraphic Painting/Pictorial Calligraphy
Painting and Architecture

Other Information:

LATTE

LATTE is the Brandeis learning management system. Login using your UNET ID and password. For LATTE help, contact library@brandeis.edu

Privacy

To protect your privacy in any case where this course involves online student work outside of Brandeis password-protected spaces, you may choose to use a pseudonym/alias. You must share the pseudonym/alias with Professor Wong and any Course Assistant. Alternatively, with prior consultation, you may submit such work directly to Professor Wong.

Student Support

Brandeis University is committed to supporting all our students so they can thrive. The following resources are available to help with the many academic and non-academic factors that contribute to student success (finances, health, food supply, housing, mental health counseling, academic advising, physical and social activities, etc.). Please explore the many links on this [Support at Brandeis](https://www.brandeis.edu/support/undergraduate-students/browse.html) page (<https://www.brandeis.edu/support/undergraduate-students/browse.html>) to find out more about the resources that Brandeis provides to help you and your classmates to achieve success.

Library

[The Brandeis Library](https://www.brandeis.edu/library) collections and staff offer resources and services to support Brandeis students, faculty and staff. These include workshops, consultations, collaboration, materials and instruction on emerging trends in technologies such as machine learning, emerging trends in research such as data visualization, and emerging trends in scholarship such as open access. Librarians at the Circulation Desk, Research Help Desk, Archives & Special Collections, Sound & Image Media Studios, MakerLab, AutomationLab, and Digital Scholarship Lab are available to help you. <https://www.brandeis.edu/library/about/index.html>

Creative Arts Librarian: Lisa Zeidenberg (lzeidenb@brandeis.edu)