

Art and Archaeology of South Asia (A005649)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 2) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

De Simone, Daniela	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Mondini, Sara	LW21	co-lecturer
Trinco, Letizia	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Exchange Programme Archaeology	5	A
Exchange Programme Art Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Elective Set Archaeology	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Art and Archaeology, Material and Visual Cultures, Decolonisation, South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Afghanistan), Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam

Position of the course

This course provides an overview of key themes in the art and archaeology of South Asia by focusing on the social, political and religious aspects of the several arts and architectures of the region, which are analysed through a decolonial lens. Lectures present a variety of topics covering a wide geographical area (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Afghanistan) and chronological span (1.5 MYA to present day). Occasionally, lectures are given by eminent scholars and influential museum curators. Class teaching is complemented by a visit of the South Asian galleries at the Royal Museum of Art and History in Brussels.

Contents

- An introduction to South Asia: decolonised histories and geographies
- Palaeolithic to the earliest cities
- Buddhist art of the Ganges plain and the Hellenised East
- Hindu iconography and the origins and development of the Hindu temple
- Rock-cut architecture of the Deccan (peninsular India) and trade with the Roman Empire
- Tibetan and Himalayan art
- Islamic architecture
- Early Modern painting

- Art and empire in British India
- Indian Modernism and trends in contemporary South Asian art
- Folk and tribal arts
- Decolonising South Asian collections in European museums
- Visit of the South Asian galleries at the Royal Museum of Art and History in Brussels

Initial competences

Attended (preferably) one of the courses below:

- 'Visual Culture: Art in Historical Context'
- 'Introduction to World Archaeology'
- 'Introduction to World History'
- 'History of South Asia'
- 'Religious Traditions of India'
- 'Buddhism'
- 'Sanskrit I'
- 'Hindi I'

Final competences

- 1 Acquire a broad knowledge of key themes in the art and archaeology of South Asia.
- 2 Situate archaeological remains and assemblages in their chronological and regional context.
- 3 Critically analyse South Asian artistic production, including sculpture, painting and architecture, within its historical context.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures (2 hours/week): PowerPoint presentations, videos and other media.

Groupwork (1 hour/week): Each week, a small group of students gives a 15-minute presentation about an object or work of art, which is followed by a classroom discussion.

Excursion: Royal Museum of Art and History, Brussels.

Study material

None

References

Coningham, R. and Young R. (2015). *The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, C.6500 BCE-200 CE*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dehejia, V. (1997). *Indian Art*. London: Phaidon.

Huntington, S. and Huntington, J. (1985) [2014]. *The Art of Ancient India: Buddhist, Hindu, Jain*. New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.

Mitter, P. (2001). *Indian Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Course content-related study coaching

Upon appointment (face-to-face or on MS Teams) or by email.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- 15-minute presentation on object or work of art
- 1.500 word essay
- Written exam

Calculation of the examination mark

- Presentation (20%)
- Essay (30%)
- Exam: (50%)

Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation or obtain a mark of less than 10/20 for one of its parts cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Facilities for Working Students

- Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance (to be discussed with the teacher)
- Possible alternative examination on a different time (in the same academic year)
- Alternative time for feedback: upon appointment (face-to-face or on MS teams) or by email