

NORTHWESTERN ART HISTORY 2026 SPRING COURSES



Image: Abanindranath Tagore, *The Victory of Buddha*, 1914, Lahore Museum, Pakistan.

ART HIST 240-0

Introduction to Asian Art: Art and Architecture of South Asia

Professor: Yuthika Sharma

Day & Time: MW 2pm-3:20pm

This survey serves as a first introduction to ancient, medieval and modern/contemporary artistic practices of South Asia, its relationship with East Asia (China, Japan), Central Asia, and Europe. Key examples of art and architecture will focus on a selection of artistic traditions, styles, built environments (archaeological sites and monuments) and media (prints, painting, sculpture, decorative arts, photography). Course materials will take up a thematic as well as object/site-oriented case-study based approach, drawing upon the role of religion, cultural interactions, trade, and entanglements of art with imperialism, colonialism, modernization and war and current issues around museum display and exhibitions. The survey is aimed at developing skills of visual literacy, analysis, and awareness of art-historical debates and will provide opportunities to engage with close reading of objects and their larger historical, cultural, and scholarly contexts.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Vidya Dehejia, *Indian Art*, Phaidon, 1996 (later editions preferred). ISBN: 978-0714834962.

Mitter, *Indian Art*, Oxford History of Art, 2001 (later edition preferred). ISBN: 978-0192842213.

FOUNDATIONAL DISCIPLINES AND OVERLAYS:

FD-HS, FD-LA, Global Perspectives on Justice, Power, and Equity

WEINBERG DISTRO AREA: Historical Studies, Literature and Arts