

## THE ART OF THE BODY IN INDIA

### COURSE OUTLINE

Class meets MONDAY 3:00 – 5:45 PM in MEZ 1.102  
Office hours: Monday 2:00 – 2:45 & Thursday 11:00 – 12:15  
and by appointment

Professor Edeltraud Harzer  
Asian Studies, WCH 5.135, Tel. 232-3575  
harzer@austin.utexas.edu (fastest and preferred communication)

#### **Course description:**

This course introduces students to clothing, ornaments, hair, hair coverings such as turbans, shaved hair, top knot and body paint which gives an individualized expression of one's own values and esthetics in South Asia. Although there is a great regional diversity, certain traditional patterns especially in women's apparel can clearly be discerned as heavily indebted to customs in antiquity. Examples of this still survive in sculptural representations which the students will be able to observe, along with the fashions in DVDs. Various apparel is used for different occasions, but almost every facet has some symbolic function. Clothing and ornaments in India are still fashioned individually to order. Therefore it is important to be familiar with the right merchants in the area and also goldsmiths. Students learn through the study of the art of the body different lifestyles, socio-economic positions in the society, but also religious symbols and proprieties. A person's appearance is addressed with care, with respect to one's environment while living quarters for most inhabitants of India represent only a utilitarian function.

#### **Required texts:**

Shukla, Pravina. *The Grace of Four Moons. Dress, Adornment, and the Art of the Body in Modern India.* Indiana 2008.  
Tarlo, Emma. *Clothing Matters. Dress and Identity in India.* Chicago 1996.

#### **Selections from the following books and journals will be available on the BLACKBOARD (Bb) and electronically from PCL:**

Dehejia, Vidya. *The Body Adorned. Dissolving Boundaries Between Sacred and Profane in India's Art.* Columbia 2009.  
Hiltebeitel, Alf. & B.D. Miller, eds. *Hair. Its Power and meaning in Asian Cultures.* SUNY 1998: Hiltebeitel, Olivelle, Miller.

Leslie, Julia. "Significance of Dress for the Orthodox Hindu Woman." In *Dress and Gender*. R.Barnes and J. Eicher, eds. Pp. 198-213  
Mohapatra, R.P. Fashion Styles of Ancient India.

### **Requirements:**

- Attendance & participation in discussion (20%)
- Two exams (each 10%, total 20%)
- Response Essays five in total (1-2 pages, each 3%, total 15%)
- Presentation (10%)
- Paper revision (5%)
- Research paper 9-10 pages (30%) Consider visiting the Writing Center.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus.

### **Class Expectations:**

**This course will be graded on the Plus/Minus system:**

- A=4.0; A-=3.67; B+=3.33; B=3.0; B-=2.67; C+=2.33; C= 2.0; C-=1.67; D+=1.33; D=1.0; D-=0.67.
- There is no written final exam for this course.

Deadlines:

- Late assignments lose 3 points per day. No assignments are accepted after the last due date.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Weeks 1 – 2 The Study of Body Art, in Shukla, pp. 383-429.

Week 3 Localizing Body Art, in Shukla and Tarlo

Weeks 4 – 5 Production and Commerce, in Shukla

Week 6 Personal Adornment, Differences between Brahman, Peasant, Pastoralist and Scheduled classes, in Tarlo and Shukla

Week 7 Body Art in the Lifecycle, in Shukla and Mohapatra

Week 8 The Body Adorned. The Body as Leitmotif in Art, in Dehejia Bb.

- Guest Appearance: Anuradha Naimpally

Week 9 SPRING BREAK

Weeks 10 – 12 Hair and Society. Indian Folk Cult. Disappearance of the Oiled Braid, in Hildebeitel & Miller

Weeks 13 – 14 Gandhi and the Recreation of the Indian Dress, in Tarlo

Weeks 15 – 16 Presentations

## Exams and writing assignments due dates:

- Exam 1 wk 4, Exam 2 wk 10
- Response essays wk 5, 6, 7, 8, 13
- Full rough draft of paper wk 14
- Revised paper May 5

## Writing Center

I strongly encourage you to use the Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/home>. The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. They work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Whether you are writing a lab report, a resume, a term paper, a statement for an application, or your own poetry, UWC consultants will be happy to work with you. Their services are not just for writing with "problems." Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant's advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work.

## University Policies

### Laptop Use Policy:

- Classroom Laptop use is for taking notes related to this course only. You need an agreement form if you are planning on using a laptop in class for "notetaking." Laptop activities unrelated to this course will lead to dismissal from class (and marked as an absence for that day). **Repeat offenders will be reported to the administration.**
- **Other Electronic Devices (Cell phones, BlackBerry, i-Phones, etc.) Use Policy – All devices must be turned off during class.** Any use of these devices, including texting, websurfing, etc. will lead to dismissal from class (and marked as an absence for that day). **Repeat offenders will be reported to the administration.**
- There is a class attendance policy for this course.

## The University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Any student with a documented **disability** who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of **observance of a religious holy day**. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

### **University Electronic Mail Notification Policy**

(Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students)

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>