Two thousand years ago the wonder that was India was well known not only elsewhere in Asia but as far away as Rome. This course examines the visual culture that arose at this time as a result of India’s material and spiritual wealth. Themes to be examined include the constructions of sacred space that led to distinctive architectural traditions, the principles of image-making that resulted in elaborate iconographies and the entwined nature of political allegory and religious narrative. How these visual forms were shaped by particular social and religious factors is a central issue that will allow us to consider the relationships among India’s early religious traditions (Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism). Another focus of this class is upon understanding how we investigate and produce knowledge about the past and why this is important. Course carries a global flag.

Requirements: Three exams (20 % each), two short papers (10% each) and active class participation (20%). Exams will ask you to address certain questions with an emphasis on developing good arguments, not just listing facts. The topic of each paper will focus on articles from assigned reading; the task will be to integrate class discussion and lectures in order to develop the article's significance. These papers are not to be simply summaries of the selected article, but they do not require additional research. A student who comes to class, does the reading and maintains good focus should be able to master the material and learn to develop cogent arguments. Do note that participation means more than just attendance and includes participation in discussion and specific group presentations for which further details will be given later. Books recommended are Richard H. Davis, Global India, circa 100 CE: South Asia in Early World History (Ann Arbor: Association of Asian Studies, 2009) Diana L. Eck, Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India (NY: Columbia University Press 1998) . There is also a course packet of selected articles available for purchase. Copies on reserve in the Fine Arts library.

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact 471-6259, Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office for more information. See also the SSD website at HYPERLINK "https://courses.utexas.edu/webapps/blackboard/content/contentWrapper.jsp?content_id=1597055_1&displayName=Students+with+Disabilities&course_id=87004_1&navItem=content&href=http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/" http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/. (As the Faculty Council's Educational Policy Committee states, "Providing a quality educational experience for all students includes adapting the instructional environment to accommodate the educational needs of students.")

Please also note: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. “Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information (as in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment).
COURSE SCHEDULE

8/25 Introduction

8/30, 9/1 Looking at Religion & Studying “Art”
Read: Schopen, Protestant Presuppositions; Dean, The Trouble with (the term) Art”

9/6, 9/8 "Constructions" of Art and Ritual
read: Davis book

9/13, 9/15 Place & Space
read articles by Davis and Thapur

9/20, 9/22 Emergence of Empire
read: Trautmann and Sinopoli, “In the Beginning”

9/27, 9/29 Locating the Sacred
read: articles by Skilton, Trainor  Exam in class on 9/29

10/4, 10/6 Bharhut, Bodhgaya, Sanchi & Mathura
read Hawkes, Singh; paper 1 due

10/11, 10/13 Narrating the Sacred
read: Huntington, Dehejia, Linrothe

10/18, Class Debate 10/20 Reading Day

10/25, 10/27 Creation of Sacred Images
take home exam due 10/25; read: Schopen

1/1, 11/3 The Guptas
read: Eck book and Leoshko article

11/8, 11/10 Constructing Sacred Spaces: temples and mountains
read: Spink, Michell

11/15, 11/17 The Question of Place and Purpose and the Case for Mamallapuram
paper 2 due, 11/15

11/22 Class Debate 1 1/24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

11/29, Conclusions 12/1 Exam in class


