

COURSE CONTENT

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| Course Code | DD2012 (DD8008) |
| Course Title | Faith and Art |
| Pre-requisites | Nil |
| No of AUs | 3 |
| Contact Hours | 39 |

Course Aims

This course is designed to situate art and artists in a number of diverse spiritual, geographical and historical contexts and in so doing allow you to explore art history through a variety of human beliefs. This will include, but is not limited to the rituals of worship, sacred spaces, divine objects, images of magic, illuminated manuscripts and so on. We will examine case studies that demonstrate how stained-glass windows tell us Biblical stories; ask what kind of secrets the faceless Venus of the Stone Age hides from us; suggest which tunes Islamic calligraphy 'sings' to our eyes; analyze what Jocho's Amida Buddha has been telling us throughout the centuries, and much more. This course is open to all students from any academic background. Once completed you will have a deeper understanding of these concepts and they can provide the basis for further study in Art History and History.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and distinguish between the basic artistic and architectural features of the major religions as well as certain ancient and indigenous religions.
2. Compare and contrast chosen religious art/architectures from different time periods and geographies.
3. Apply the knowledge of complexity of religious iconography and sacred spaces to current dynamics of global cultural heritage practice.
4. Present observations, rationales and conclusions of faith in art in a well-structured manner.
5. Contribute and critique discussions surrounding faith in art in class, in your own work and in the work of your peers.

Course Content

How do we define religious/sacred art?

What makes art, a space/ architecture religious/sacred?

What makes art and architecture religious/sacred in the contemporary world?

Defining the basic features of art/architecture of Bahaí Faith, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikh Faith, Jain Faith, ancient and indigenous religions from Africa, America and Pacific.

Comparing and contrasting religious art/architectures from different time periods, geographies and cultures.

These topics will be discussed and critiqued in class lectures and tutorials.

You will give a short 10-minute presentation and write a 2,000 word essay discussing a given topic.