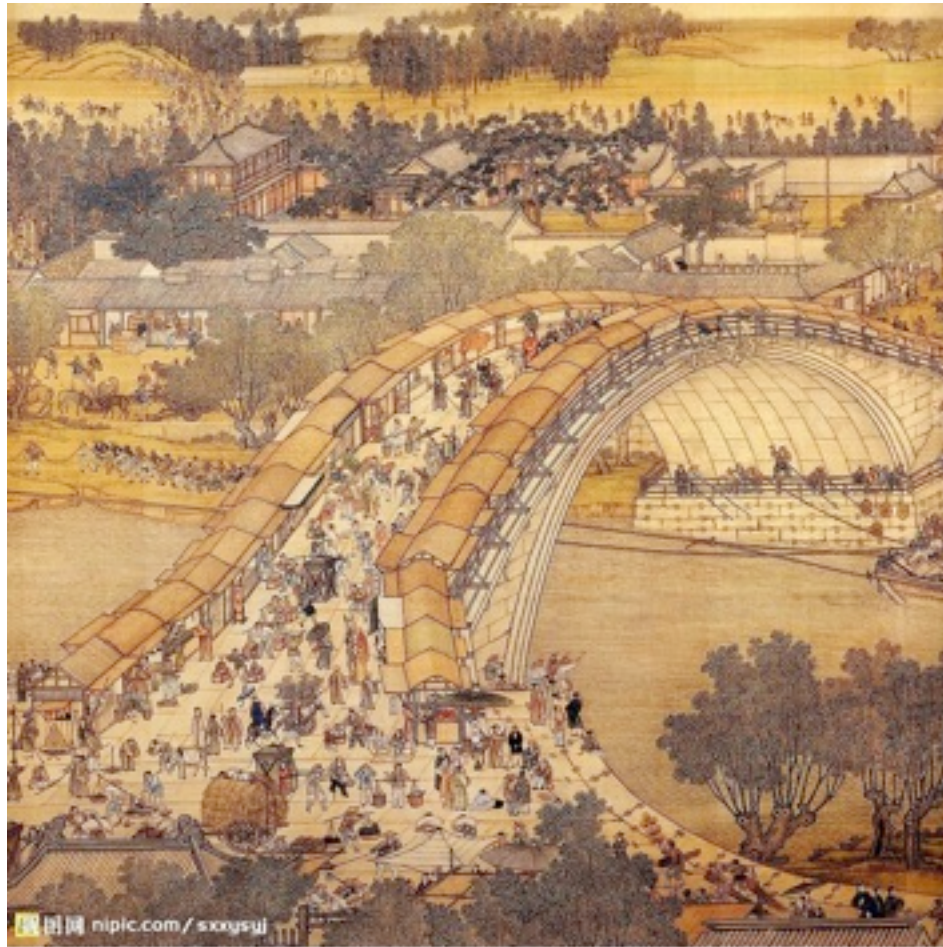


4.609 Seminar in the History of Art and Architecture:

The Arts and Architecture of Asia



Units: 3-0-9

Level: U

Instructor: Samuel Y. Liang

Meets: TR 2-3:30 in 3-133

This course introduces students to the arts and architecture of China, India, Japan and Southeast Asia through the ages. We will examine principal artworks and developments in a variety of media, including architecture, painting, sculpture, and material culture. We will not only analyze the artworks' aesthetics and formal features but also discuss their production and uses in the context of Asian culture, politics, and religion. We will pay particular attention to how the artworks were deployed in empire-building projects and modern developments in Asian art and architecture. Key topics include: ancient Chinese burial complexes and artifacts; religious monuments in India and Southeast Asia; Buddhist arts in India, China, and Japan; landscape paintings in China and Japan; houses and gardens in China and Japan; the timber construction system in East Asia; and the influence of the West on modern Asian arts and architecture.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Key text: Sherman Lee, *A History of Far Eastern Art*, 5th ed. (Pearson Education, 2002).



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