

School of Arts & Sciences Prospectus Autumn 2024

Survey of the History of Ceramics in East Asia (China, Korea, and Japan)

- Lecture and discussion sessions will meet on Wednesdays 3:30-6:30PM. There will be at least three meetings in the Penn Museum for hands-on work with objects, and at least one visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. A field trip to the National Museum of Asian Art is also a possibility.

Assignments: Weekly online identification quizzes, three short papers, and take-home final.

Pieces for the quizzes will be chosen from the textbooks, discussed in class and posted on the Canvas web site. The eight top quiz grades will make up 30% of the course grade.

Three short papers will explore works of Asian ceramic art in detail. Each student should write on one work from China, one from Korea, and one from Japan. The first paper should concern a piece of earthenware, the second a piece of stoneware or celadon, and the third a piece of porcelain. The grades for these three papers together will represent about 30% of the course grade. Late papers will be graded down. Two weeks before each paper is due, submit a proposal naming the work you wish to discuss and briefly describing the circumstances under which you viewed it. The day the paper is due each student will make a 10-15 minute presentation to the class.

A take-home final essay exam will be assigned during the final week of class, due on the scheduled exam date. This final will count for 20% of the course grade.

About ten percent of the course grade will be based on attendance and class participation. Attendance is particularly essential, as no facilities exist for student access to slides used in class presentations. In order to assure ourselves of clear understanding of this admittedly foreign material, in-class questions and answers are also essential, so please speak up whenever you need to know more about a topic.

Summary: Quizzes 30%, Papers 30%, Presentations 10%, Final 20% Attendance 10%

Required Texts:

He Li, Chinese Ceramics • ISBN-10: 050028623X ISBN-13: 978-0500286234

Robert Koehler, Korean Ceramics: The Beauty of Natural Forms ISBN 8997639072

Richard L. Wilson, Inside Japanese Ceramics ISBN 9780834804425

Supplemental Texts (on reserve in Furness Fine Arts Library):

Elizabeth Wilson, A Guide to Oriental Ceramics

Ji Wei, Chinese Ceramics

Jae-yeol Kim, Handbook of Korean Art v. 3 White Porcelain and Punchong

Penny Simpson, The Japanese Pottery Handbook

Suzanne G. Valenstein, A Handbook of Chinese Ceramics

Youngsook Pak and R. Whitfield, Handbook of Korean Art v. 1 Earthenware and Celadon