

TANG CHINA AND NARA JAPAN

This is a seminar about Tang China and Nara Japan, and Early Heian Japan, Unified Silla Korea, Northeast Asia under Parhae, and Uyghur Inner Asia through their cities, palaces, monasteries, Buddhist art, and painting. We begin by studying material remains of the two best-documented civilizations of East Asian in the seventh-ninth centuries. Focusing on material remains of Tang China and Nara Japan, we investigate the validity of the frequent assessment of this period as “international Tang.” We then move to Korea, Mongolia, and Central Asia.

Students will have a wide range of topics to work on. They will be encouraged to find comparative topics. This seminar is an opportunity for students to use Chinese, Japanese, or Korean in research papers, but the course has no prerequisites. There are no exams. Readings will be assigned to the whole group and to individual students for short presentations every week. Undergraduates will write one short and one long paper. Graduate students will write and present research papers.

The class will be taught synchronously on Tuesday evenings from 7 pm – 10 pm.

Class Schedule

I. January 26 Introduction to the seventh, eighth, and ninth centuries in East Asia

II. February 2 Tang Chang’an: city, palaces, tombs

III. February 9 The seventh-ninth century East Asian city: Luoyang, Yangzhou, Asuka, Naniwa, Kunikyo, Nagaoka, Heian, Five Parhae capitals, Besh-baliq, Karabalghasun, Bay-Baliq

IV. February 16 Four Tang Monasteries
Mount Wutai in the Tang dynasty

V. February 23 Asuka- and Nara-period Monasteries and Their Architecture; Eighth-century monasteries in Korea
Shitenno-ji, Asuka-dera, Horyu-ji, Horin-ji, Hokki-ji, Taima-dera, Eizan-ji, Todai-ji, Yakushi-ji, Toshodai-ji, Shin Yakushiji)
Mireuksa, Hwangnyongsa, Bunhwangsa, Kameunsa

VI. March 2 Tang Tombs and Their Murals, tombs of Korean princesses in Jilin

VII. March 16 Takamatsuzuka, tomb in Kitora, Silla tombs, tombs in Bayannuur and of Pugu Yitu

VIII. March 16 Tombs, burial objects, murals in the Astana cemetery and of Sogdians in Guyuan

IX. March 23 Mogao caves: sculpture and painting

X. March 30 Mandala of the Two Worlds and Early Esoteric Buddhist Halls

XI. April 6 Painting at the Tang courts: Zhan Zijian, Han Gan, Hang Huang, Zhang Xuan, Zhou Fang

XII. April 16 Seminar Reports

XIII. April 20 Seminar Reports

XIV. April 27 Seminar Reports