

Print Culture: East and West

UHON 222-009 | W | 10:00-12:30 | SHC 8 | 25072

Fulfills A&S Group V: Humanities

Emily Orzech

In "Print Culture: East and West" we will study art and publishing history through the lens of printing technology, from the Chinese woodblock and Gutenberg's movable type to contemporary issues about blogs, copyright and electronic reproduction. Rather than being a broad survey of print history the course will focus in depth on a number of different periods. We will discuss questions such as what impact the printing press had on literacy and education, why fine art prints became a tool for social and political change during the early 20th century and what print means today in the world of blogs and tweets. Students will be introduced to UNM's own history of print making including its association with Tamarind Press, one of the leading lithographic presses in the United States.

Readings

Readings and images will be compiled in a PDF course packet and include "Recent Discovery of Earliest Movable-type Printing in China: and Evaluation," by Tsien Tsuen-hsuei, "Publishing, Society and Culture in Pre-modern China: the Evolution of Print Culture" by Cynthia J. Brokaw, "The Battle for a Market: Art Reproductions in Print and Photography from 1850 to 1880" by Pierre-lin Renie, "Revolution and Its Discontents: Prints, Politics, and the Emergence of Modernism in Nineteenth-Century France" by Stephen Pinson, *The American Scene: Prints from Hopper to Pollock* by Stephen Coppel, "Abstract Expressionist Prints at Tamarind" by David Acton

Requirements

The course will include a balance of reading assignments and visual materials. Reading assignments will be a mix of mid-length historical texts and short, more difficult theoretical readings. Students are expected to come to class familiar with the material and prepared to have a lively discussion. Each week students will write up a brief analysis of the assigned visual materials in the context of the readings as preparation for in class discussion. Students will also be expected to write three essays over the course of the semester that examine the impact of print making technology on a particular culture and time period of their choosing. While there will be no slide lectures, as in a standard art history course, we will look at images throughout the course of our discussions. I will also bring in examples of prints, printing plates and movable type to the classroom. Possible field trips include going to watch print making demonstrations at the UNM print making studios and Tamarind Press and viewing original prints and books in the Rare Book Room.

About the Instructor

Emily Orzech received her MFA from the University of Michigan and her BA from Smith College where she focused on etching and East Asian art history. She just returned from a Fulbright Fellowship to China where she researched lithography and Chinese contemporary art.

200-Levels