

**AHIS/EALC 484: Studies in Chinese Art
Heritage Conservation in China and Beyond
Spring 2018
Tuesdays, 2:00-4:50, THH 209**

Instructor: Sonya S. Lee
Departments of Art History and East Asian Languages and Cultures

Heritage conservation is a field of interdisciplinary research and practice devoted to preserving material objects and structures that are deemed to hold cultural significance to a people or a nation. This course offers an introduction to key issues and concepts in defining heritage as well as different approaches in conservation method today, with a particular focus on the developments in China. We will first explore the prehistory of the Chinese heritage management system, its beginning in the early twentieth century, and later transformation under the People's Republic of China. Through scholarly debates and case studies, we will discuss a range of pertinent issues, including cultural patrimony, world heritage, antiquarianism, technical art history, archaeological reconstruction, tourism and sustainable development. In the second part of the course, greater emphasis will be placed on technical processes of conservation such as documentation, condition assessment, and visitor management. Students will acquire a basic understanding of the job of a heritage professional through practical hands-on exercises, site visits, group work, and classroom discussions. Prior knowledge of art history and/or Chinese studies is requisite for this course.

