ISLAMIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE
SPRING 2018

Ms. Guvenc
Office: Mandel 207
FA 33B
Off.Hrs: Th 2-4 pm & by app.
M, W, T 12-12.50am

Through case studies of cities and monuments, this course surveys the art and architecture of the Islamic world beginning from the seventh century to the present. Through an analysis of selected sites, the course critically examines broader transformations of art and architecture in relation with the social, political, and cultural history of the Islamic World. Themes include, but are not limited to, Islamic material culture, orientalist imaginations, systems of governance and the colonial present, search for local identities, urban modernity and nationalism, and globalization. Purposefully, this course is not solely organized as linear history; it is also organized thematically to examine and compare the continuities and differences in Islamic art and architecture within different political and economic junctures. Linking medieval Baghdad to modern Baghdad and Ottoman Istanbul to contemporary Istanbul, for example, the course will provide in-depth analysis on the transformation of Islamic art and architecture on specific regions and cultures.

The learning goals for this course are:

• to gain knowledge about major artistic and architectural works of the Islamic world.
• to understand the role of social, religious, political and economic contexts in the development of works of art and architecture in the Islamic world.
• to foster critical thinking to discuss the expanded field of Islamic art and architecture across time and to develop the ability to make comparative analyses between works of architecture.
• to develop the ability to analyze works of architecture with descriptive vocabulary and critically use such language in writing assignments.

Weekly assigned readings on LATTE.
**Teaching Method:** This is an interactive lecture course where the instructor primarily lectures, but frequently invites students to answer questions, discuss readings and express their thoughts on specific subject matter.

**GRADING STRUCTURE:**
- 2 Short Exams (20% each)  
- Final Exam 30%  
- Short Paper 15%  
- Classroom Presentation & Participation 15%

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Attendance & Participation:** Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to complete all reading assignments. Doing well on the assignments will thus depend on diligently attending lectures, participating discussions and keeping up with weekly readings. Lateness is not only disruptive, but also disrespectful.

Religious Observances: Students may miss class in observance of major religious holidays and other activities observed by a religious group of which the student is a member. For such days, you need to inform me during the first two weeks of the semester.

Following the standards of the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, the Dean of Arts & Sciences has asked that the following statement be posted on all syllabi:  
Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week)  
For this 4 credit hour course, the expectation is that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

During class discussions, students are expected to be courteous and respectful of the opinions of others. Debates and discussions are central to this course. Everyone is encouraged to articulate his or her point of view, but to do so in a manner that is courteous and respectful.

**Exams:** There will be two short exams (approx. 40 min. each) given during regular class periods. Each exam will consist of two parts: 1) image identifications 2) short-paragraphs (analyses and comparisons of key monuments and cities discussed in class)
The third and final exam, given during the final exam period, will consist of three parts: 1) image identifications 2) short-paragraphs (analyses and comparisons of key monuments and cities discussed in class) 3) an essay question. Essay question will be announced before the exam during exam-review session. More details regarding the format of the exams and appropriate study strategies will be discussed during the semester. There will be an in-class review session before each exam.

Classroom Presentation: Students will present in groups on selected monuments. The spreadsheet for the selection of topics will be distributed at the beginning of the semester.

Short Paper: One short paper (6-8 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt.) on the selected contemporary Islamic monuments due on April 9. Specific instructions and guidelines will be distributed at the beginning of the semester.

There will be no extensions or make-up exams, except in the case of a documented medical or family emergency. Attendance at funerals must be documented by a funeral-service program. In such cases, you should notify your advisor in Academic Services about the situation.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Electronic Device Policy: The use of cell phones in any mode (ring tone, vibratory, texting) is not permitted in the classroom. They should be switched off and kept out of sight. Laptops are permitted only for note taking and accessing course material purposes, Students using such devices are expected to pay full attention to instructor presentations and general course discussions. If a student does not follow above items, the permission to use laptop or such an electronic device in this class may be denied.

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private use.

Academic Honesty: The authenticity and quality of a student’s work is critical to the educational process. Thus, cheating or plagiarism is a serious violation of
the school’s academic code. Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment will not be tolerated. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Student Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University.

Disability Resources: If you are student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please contact me and present your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, you should contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services (781-736-3470) or brodgers@brandeis.edu. Letters of accommodation should be presented at the start of the semester to ensure provision of accommodations. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.
ISLAMIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

Jan 10 Introduction & Course Overview
   Art and architecture of the Islamic World as a field of Inquiry
   Nasser Rabbat, ‘Islamic Architecture as a Field of Historical
   Online: https://arthistoriography.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/rabbatdoc.pdf

Jan 11 Early Urban Settlements and Main Conceptualizations in Islamic Architecture
   Bianca, Stefano. “Basic Principles of Islam and their Social, Spatial
   and Artistic Implications.” In Urban Form in the Arab World: Past and
   (LATTE)
   Michell’s Architecture of the Islamic World, 10-23

Jan 17 Umayyad I: The Architecture of Power and the “Capital”: Damascus
   Hillenbard’s Islamic Art and Architecture, 10-38

Jan 18 Umayyad II: The Religious and Secular Architecture

Jan 22 Calligraphy and Foliation in Islamic Art

Jan 24 The Abbasids: Bagdad and Samarra
   Hillenbard’s Islamic Art and Architecture, 38-61

Jan 25 Re-inventing Ancient Art in Modern Baghdad
   Kanan Makiya, The Monument: Art and Vulgarity in Saddam Hussein’s Iraq, 68-77 (LATTE)

Jan 29 The Spread of Islam: Spain
   Hillenbard’s, Islamic Art and Architecture, 167-196

Jan 31 Light and Geometry in Islamic Art: Fez, Marrakesh

Feb 1 Colonialism, Orientalism and Systems of Governance in Maghreb

Feb 5 The Colonial Architecture vs. the Architecture of the Medina

Feb 7 The Fatimid’s: Cairo
   Hillenbard’s Islamic Art and Architecture, 61-86

Feb 8 The Saljuks
   Hillenbard’s Islamic Art and Architecture, 86-121
Feb 12 First Exam Review
Feb 14 First Exam
Feb 15 Film: Battle of Algiers (La battaglia di Algeri), 1966, dir. Gillo Pontecorvo (Selected Clips)

Feb 19-Feb 23 No University Exercises

Feb 26 The Ayyubids

Feb 28 The Mamluks: Cairo
Hillenbard’s *Islamic Art and Architecture*, 138-143

Mar 1 The Ilkhanids
Hillenbard’s *Islamic Art and Architecture*, 196-226

Mar 5 The Timurids and the Uzbeks
Student Presentations

Mar 7 The Safavids
Hillenbard’s *Islamic Art and Architecture*, 226-237

Mar 8 Safavid Secular Architecture
Student Presentations

Mar 12 Early Ottoman Architecture and the Rise of Domed Mosques

Mar 14 The Architecture of Trade and Travel
Michell’s Architecture of the Islamic World, 80-112

Mar 15 The Domesticity and the “House” (No Reading)

Mar 19 Westernization in Late Ottoman Architecture

Mar 21 Modernization in Turkey

Mar 22 Neo-Ottoman Aesthetics | Class Discussion
Mar 26  Second Exam Review  
Mar 28  Second Exam  
Mar 29  Film: Glenn Murcutt: Spirit of Place The Construction of a Mosque for an Islamic Community in Melbourne. Dir. Catherine Hunter  

Mar 30- Apr 6  Passover and spring recess: No university exercises.  

Apr 9  The Mughal Tombs, Palaces and Funerary Gardens  
James Dickie, The Mughal Garden: Gateway to Paradise, Mqarnas 3, 1985 (LATTE)  

Apr 11 Post-Colonial Cultures in Asia  

Student Presentations  

Apr 12 Islamic Architecture in Non-Muslim Contexts I: Asia and Africa  

Student Presentations  

Apr 16 Islamic Architecture in Non-Muslim Contexts II: Europe  

Student Presentations  

Apr 18 Islamic Architecture in Non-Muslim Contexts II: The Americas  

Student Presentations  


Apr 23 The END? What is “Islamic” art and architecture in the 21st century? | Class Discussion  
Shiraz Allibhai (ed), Islamic Architecture: A Debate in Seven Parts, 2004 (LATTE)  

Apr 26 FINAL EXAM REVIEW  

Final Exam on Monday, April 30, 12.15 pm-3.15 pm (tentative until confirmed by the Registrar’s Office)