
INTRO TO ISLAMIC ART & ARCHITECTURE in Spring 2021 (ME2024)

Course Code	ME2024	Professor(s)	Anna Devi Russakoff
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	TBD
Class Schedule	F: 12:10-13:30 in C-101 F: 13:45-15:05 in V-1 T: 12:10-13:30 in C-101	Office Hours	E-mail or via TEAMS
Credits	4	Email	arussakoff@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	TBD

Course Description

Shortly after its launch in the 7th century CE, the Islamic religion quickly rose and became a great power in the Middle East. It was in these early years that Islamic Art developed and coalesced into a definitive style. By looking at early monuments such as the Dome of the Rock and the Great Mosque of Damascus, this class will explore the ways in which the rulers of the first Islamic empires combined existing artistic styles with new elements to develop what we now identify as Islamic Art. The class will also discover how the precepts of Islamic belief affected early Islamic Art, and the ways in which the early Islamic rulers used art and architecture to express their authority.

Starting in the 13th century, the Mongol invasions brought Chinese influence to the Islamic world, transforming both its art and its society. The period from 1400 to 1800 saw the rise of many of the great Islamic empires: the Timurids in Central Asia, the Safavids in Iran, the Mughals in India, and the Ottomans in Anatolia. The art of this period, from the miniatures of the Safavid court to elaborate Mughal tombs such as the Taj Mahal, reflects the wealth and power of these great empires as well as a strong identity that can be traced back to the earliest days of Islam.

Islamic Art is dynamic and multifaceted, and we will explore painting, sculpture, and architecture, as well as portable arts including textiles, ceramics, ivory, metalwork, and illuminated manuscripts. Thematically, we will engage with topics such as the uses of figural and non-figural imagery, calligraphy and ornament, religious and secular art, public and private art, the art of the court, and the meaning(s) of the portable arts. We will also consider how trade, diplomacy, political influence and the arts linked the West, the Middle East and East Asia together, establishing Islamic art as a fertile intersection of cross-cultural influence.

Course Learning Outcomes

Ability to identify major monuments of Islamic art, including geographical locations and approximate dates

Expanding cross-cultural awareness

Honing visual analysis and concise writing skills

Local and Global Perspectives: Students will enhance their intercultural understanding of languages, cultures, and histories of local societies and the global issues to which these relate (CCI LO1)

Aesthetic Inquiry and Creative Expression: Students will engage with artistic or creative objects (e.g., visual art, theatrical works, film) in different media and from a range of cultural traditions (CCI LO2)

Exploring and Engaging Difference: Students will think critically about cultural and social difference; they will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities that can relate to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion, or class (CCI LO3)

General Education

[PLEASE REMOVE THIS SECTION IF THE COURSE DOES NOT FULFILL ANY GLACC REQUIREMENT]

GLACC

The Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (GLACC) degree requirements include the following categories of courses:

- Integrative Inquiry (coded CCI)
- Experiential learning (coded CCX)
- Research, Interpretation, and Writing (coded CCE)
- Digital Literacy and Communication (coded CCD)
- Disciplinary Research Methods and Writing (coded CCR)
- Quantitative Reasoning (coded CCM)
- Experimental Reasoning Course with Lab (coded CCS)
- Expression Française (coded FR)
- AUP Capstone (coded CCC)

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

This course can be used to fulfill the _____ CCI _____ requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes (Learning Outcomes for GLACC components are defined on the [AUP GLACC Website](#)):

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- **CCI LO1 - Local and Global Perspectives:** Students will enhance their intercultural understanding of languages, cultures, and histories of local societies and the global issues to which these relate.
 - **CCI LO2 - Aesthetic Inquiry and Creative Expression:** Students will engage with artistic or creative objects (e.g., visual art, theatrical works, film) in different media and from a range of cultural traditions.
 - **CCI LO3** Students will think critically about cultural and social difference; they will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities that can relate to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion, or class.

Course Outline

COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE: Subject to change!!!

Note: the outside readings for the exams that are not from your required purchase will be either posted on our Blackboard site or are available on-line through JSTOR or ARCHNET <https://archnet.org/>.

Jan. 19 (T): INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC ART & ARCHITECTURE

Reading:

Hillenbrand, pp. 8-9

Blair & Bloom, pp. 5-12

Jan. 22 (F): [BACKGROUND: ROMAN, JEWISH, BYZANTINE & SASANIAN ART & ARCHITECTURE](#)

Reading:

Blair & Bloom, pp. 13-21

Jan. 26 (T): Umayyad Architecture I: The Dome of the Rock

Readings:

Hillenbrand, start Chapter 1

Blair and Bloom, pp. 23-33

Jan. 29 (F): Umayyad Architecture II: Early Mosques/Secular Art in Palaces

Reading:

Hillenbrand, finish Chapter 1

Blair and Bloom, pp. 33-40

Feb. 2 (T): Abbasid Architecture

Reading:

Hillenbrand, start Chapter 2

Feb. 5 (F): Umayyad & Abbasid Decorative Arts

Reading:

Hillenbrand, finish Chapter 2

Blair and Bloom, pp. 40-56

MINI-BREAK

Feb. 12 (F): NORTH AFRICA & SPAIN: ARCHITECTURE

Reading:

Hillenbrand, Chapter 7

Blair and Bloom, Chapter 5

Feb. 16 (T): [SPANISH Umayyad Decorative Arts](#)/SICILY

Readings:

Blair and Bloom, pp. 223-236, 249-257

Feb 19 (F): [THE MUSLIM EAST: ARCHITECTURE \(SALJUQS: MOSQUES & MONUMENTAL TOMBS\)](#)

Reading:

Hillenbrand, Chapter 4

Blair and Bloom, pp. 146-165

PAPER #1 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

Feb. 23 (T): THE MUSLIM EAST: MANUSCRIPTS & DECORATIVE ARTS

Reading:

Blair and Bloom, pp. 193-200, 257-271

MINI-BREAK

Mar. 2 (T): MIDTERM EXAM

Mar. 5 (F): LOUVRE VISIT #1

Mar. 9 (T): [FATIMIDS](#)

Reading:

Hillenbrand, Chapter 3

Blair and Bloom, pp. 171-191

Mar. 12 (F): [CRUSADERS & AYYUBIDS](#)

Reading:

Hillenbrand, Chapter 5

Blair and Bloom, pp. 271-283

Mar. 16 (T): [MAMLUKS](#)

Reading:

Hillenbrand, Chapter 6

Blair and Bloom, pp. 277-283

Mar. 19 (F): [ILKHANIDS](#)

Reading:

Hillenbrand, start Chapter 8

Blair and Bloom, pp. 162-171

PAPER #2 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

Mar. 23 (T): [TIMURIDS](#)

Reading:

Hillenbrand, finish Chapter 8

Blair and Bloom, pp. 200-220

Mar. 26 (F): [SAFAVID ARCHITECTURE & TILES](#)

Reading:

Hillenbrand, start Chapter 9

Blair and Bloom, pp. 287-292, 295-321

Mar. 30 (T): SAFAVID CARPETS & MANUSCRIPT PAINTING

Readings:

Hillenbrand, finish Chapter 9

Blair and Bloom, pp. 331-346, 363-372

Apr. 2 (F): TRIP TO THE INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE w/ STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Apr. 9 (T): MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE

Reading:

Blair and Bloom, pp. 321-328

Apr 13 (T): MUGHAL PAINTING

Reading:

Blair and Bloom, pp. 347-360, 381-388, 405-413

Apr. 16 (F): LOUVRE VISIT #2

Apr. 20 (T): OTTOMAN ARCHITECTURE

Reading:

Hillenbrand, start Chapter 10

Blair and Bloom, pp. 295-302

PAPER #3 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

Apr. 23 (F): OTTOMAN & MUGHAL DECORATIVE ARTS

Reading:

Hillenbrand, finish Chapter 10

Blair and Bloom, pp. 346-347, 372-381, 391-405

Apr. 27 (T): Final review & discussion

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY MAY 11 AT 3:00PM

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Islamic Art and Architecture	Hillenbrand, Robert	Thames & Hudson	9780500203057	Yes

Attendance Policy

AUP ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled

classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are still expected to attend ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example, when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory. In all cases of missed course meetings, the responsibility for communication with the professor, and for arranging to make up missed work, rests solely with the student.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may also recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and *especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods*.

ATTENDANCE for Spring 2021:

Special COVID attendance policy for Spring 2021 for Professor Russakoff:

- If we are back in the classroom in Paris and you are feeling well, you are expected to come to class and to participate. If possible, please bring your laptop computer with you to facilitate communication with remote classmates

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- If you are based in Paris and you are NOT feeling well, do NOT come to class. Please in this case log in and join us via TEAMS
 - If you are joining us remotely/synchronously (in a compatible time zone), you are expected to attend each class via TEAMS and to participate by 'raising your hand' and speaking, or commenting and asking questions in the chat
 - If you are joining us remotely/asynchronously (not in a compatible time zone), you are expected to watch the recordings of the classes (please take frequent breaks while watching them!) and to PARTICIPATE TWICE PER WEEK on the BlackBoard discussion board after each class (post your questions and/or comments). If I do not have either a question or a comment from you about each class, it will be counted as an absence! If I receive your questions/comments more than a week after the class takes place, I can only give you partial credit for them. ****Please try to avoid sending me summaries for multiple classes at the very end of the semester.****
 - Wherever you are located, if you are very sick and cannot attend even remotely or on the discussion board, please let me know asap and send me a doctor's note so that I can excuse your absence(s)
 - Please stay tuned for info. about our on-site visits and their possible replacements, if necessary

OFFICE HOURS:

My office hours will be held on Mondays from 9am-12pm via TEAMS, Tuesdays from 10:30am-12 noon **in person** as soon as this is possible (when it's not possible, I'll be available on TEAMS), and on Saturdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm via TEAMS. If you're setting up a TEAMS appointment, please try to leave Tuesdays for students who can see me in person (once this is possible). If you're in a compatible time zone, please leave Saturday evenings for students who are not. Please book your appointment with me directly on this site:

<https://aup.libcal.com/appointments/annarussakoff>

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT:

As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

<u>GRADING:</u>	Class participation:	10%
	Paper #1 (ca. 2-3 pages):	10%
	Paper #2 (ca. 2-3 pages):	15%
	Paper #3 (ca. 5 pages):	20%
	Midterm Exam:	20%
	Final Exam:	25%

N.B.: late papers will receive grade penalties. Re-writes will only be accepted for papers that were originally handed in on time, and only if they are handed in along with the original, marked-up paper. *Evidence of cheating or plagiarism/fraud will result in a failing grade for the entire course regardless of all other work, and will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.*

Make-up exams will only be given in documented cases of extreme medical or personal emergencies, and only if the Professor is notified prior to the exam.

Please note: Students are responsible for all images and terms with stars next to them on the hand-outs for the exams. PowerPoint presentations of all lectures will be posted on our Blackboard site.

MUSEUM VISITS: As of the writing of this syllabus, we do not know when museums and monuments will reopen this semester. Hoping for the best possible outcome, I have planned three visits: two to the Musée du Louvre, and one to the Institut du Monde Arabe. The days we go to the museums and monuments we will use the longer class time on Fridays (periods 3 and 4) to ensure that everyone has enough time to get there and back without missing any other classes. We will not need the extra period if there are video replacements of the visits.

Important note on the readings: you will be expected to submit ~300-word reflections on THREE articles in blue font by the time of the midterm, and the same thing for the final on the 'Student Notebook' section of TEAMS. Instructions can be found at the end of the syllabus, so that you can get started ahead of time. This will be counted as part of your exam grades. I will give you full credit for the reflections if it is clear that you read the articles. I will only deduct points if they are full of errors or if it seems that you did not read them. I will provide more detailed guidelines on BlackBoard.

Other
