

HAA 128 Pro-Seminar: *Syllabus and readings*
Monday, 3:00-5:00pm, Sackler 406
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Spring 2003

**TOPICS IN ARABIC ART AND CULTURE
THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

A problem oriented inquiry into Arabic art and culture (ca. 750 to 1300), focusing on regions circling the Mediterranean, from the Iberian Peninsula to Iraq. Materials (the book, painting, portable arts, epigraphy, architecture) and geographic focus vary. Themes also change, but include relations between art and literature, aesthetics, vision and perception, courtly culture, the rise of a mercantile patron class, and cultural continuities and resurgences. The Western Mediterranean is the focus in 2003.

READINGS:

All readings are required and should be read before each weekly meeting of the seminar. All books and articles are on open or closed reserve at the Fine Arts library (annotations to the accompanying bibliography show where each item should be). Articles are arranged in a binder. Some of the books used in the seminar may be available for purchase at booksellers in Harvard Square (e.g., the Harvard Bookstore, Wordsworth) or can be ordered through the large Internet booksellers.

REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to weekly attendance and participation in classroom discussions, each student is responsible for making a 40-minute presentation to the seminar on a research topic chosen by him or her and discussed with the professor. Students should provide each member of the seminar with a one-page bibliography, sketching out the most important sources for their project, on March 31. The final paper is due on May 15. It should be accompanied by a scholarly apparatus comprising footnotes, bibliography, and illustrations.

Breakdown of grade: classroom 30%; presentation 20%; paper 50%. To pass the course students must complete all assignments.

READINGS AND SEMINAR TOPICS BY WEEK

Feb. 3 INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND READING:

Encyclopedia of Islam, s.v. "Al-Andalus" (several authors), vol. 1, pp. 486-503 (FAL, RFA 50.23.50).

Richard Ettinghausen, Oleg Grabar, and Marilyn Jenkins-Madina, *Islamic art and architecture, 650-1250*, pp. 3-132; 187-212; 265-288.

Oleg Grabar, "Two Paradoxes in the Islamic Art of the Spanish Peninsula," in *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*, ed. Jayyusi, pp. 583-591.

Feb. 10 CALIPHAL IBERIA: CORDOBA AND THE GREAT MOSQUE

READINGS:

Jonathan Bloom, "The Revival of Early Islamic Architecture by the Umayyads of Spain."

Jerryln Dodds, "The Great Mosque at Cordoba," in *Al-Andalus*, ed. Dodds, pp. 11-25.

Oleg Grabar, "Notes sur le mihrab de la Grande Mosquée de Cordoue."

Robert Hillenbrand, "'The Ornament of the World': Medieval Cordoba as a Cultural Centre," in *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*, ed. Jayyusi, pp. 112-135.

Nuha Khoury, "The Meaning of the Great Mosque of Cordoba in the Tenth Century."

G. Marçais, "Sur les mosaïques de la Grande Mosquée de Cordoue."

Evariste Levi-Provençal, *Inscriptions arabes d'Espagne*, pp. ix-xli; cat. entries 1-46.

Feb. 17 HOLIDAY

Depending on your interest, you may want to consult some of the historical studies on reserve.

Feb. 24 CALIPHAL IBERIA: MADINAT AL-ZAHRA

READINGS:

Dede Fairchild Ruggles, *Gardens, Landscape, and Vision in the Palaces of Islamic Spain*.

Antonio Vallejo Triano, "Madinat al-Zahra': The Triumph of the Islamic State," in *Al-Andalus*, ed. Dodds, pp. 27-39.

March 3 PORTABLE ARTS OF THE CALIPHAL COURT

READINGS:

Anthony Cutler, *The Craft of Ivory: Sources, Techniques and Uses in the Mediterranean World, A.D. 200-1400*.

Renata Holod, "Luxury Arts of the Caliphal Period," pp. 41-47, in *Al-Andalus*, ed. Dodds.

Ernst Kühnel, *Die islamische Elfenbeinskulpturen. 8-13 Jh*, pp. 1-24; cat. entries 19-51; 88-130; 131-141 and accompanying plates.

Francisco Prado-Vilar, "Circular Visions of Fertility and Punishment: Caliphal Ivory Caskets from al-Andalus."

March 10 ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF "THE PARTY KINGS" (MULUK AL-TAWA'IF)

READINGS:

Cynthia Robinson, *In Praise of Song: The making of courtly culture in al-Andalus and Provence, 1005-1134 A.D.*

_____. "Ubi Sunt: Memory and Nostalgia in Taifa Court Culture."

_____. "Arts of the Taifa Kingdoms," in *Al-Andalus*, ed. Dodds, pp. 49-61.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND [OPTIONAL]:

David Wasserstein, *The Rise and Fall of the Party Kings: Politics and Society in Islamic Spain, 1002-1086*.

March 17 FATIMID EGYPT

READINGS:

Oleg Grabar, "Trade with the East and the Influence of Islamic Art on the 'Luxury Arts' in the West."

_____. "Imperial and Urban Art in Islam: The Subject Matter of Fatimid art."

Ibn al-Zubayr, *Book of Gifts and Rarities*, trans. al-Qaddumi.

SOURCES TO BROWSE FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:

Marianne Barrucand, ed., *Trésors Fatimides*, exhib. cat.

Anna Contadini, *Fatimid Art*, museum cat.

[March 22-30 Spring recess]

**March 31 NORMAN SICILY: THE CAPPELLA PALATINA AND KING ROGER II'S
MANUSCRIPT OF AL-IDRISI'S GEOGRAPHY**

READINGS:

William Tronzo, *The Cultures of his Kingdom: Roger II and the Cappella Palatina in Palermo.*

Ugo Monneret de Villard, *Le pitture musulmane al-soffitto della Cappella Palatina in Palermo.* [browse illustrations]

La geographie d'Idrisi: un atlas du monde au XIIe siecle, CD-ROM.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND [OPTIONAL]:

René Herval, "Ecléctisme intellectuel à la cour de Roger II de Sicile."

Donald Matthew, *The Norman Kingdom of Sicily.*

William Tronzo, "The medieval object-enigma, and the problem of the Cappella Palatina in Palermo."

April 7 CROSS-CULTURALISM

READINGS:

Jerryln Dodds, *Architecture and Ideology in Early Medieval Spain.*

Marie Rose Menocal, *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain.*

Thelma K. Thomas, "Christians in the Islamic East," and Priscilla Soucek, "Byzantium and the Islamic East," in Helen C. Evans and William D. Wixom, *The Glory of Byzantium: Art and Culture of the Middle Byzantine Era A.D. 843-1261*, pp. 364-387, and 403-433.

April 14 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

April 21 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

April 28 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

May 3-14 READING PERIOD

May 15-23 EXAMINATION PERIOD: PAPERS DUE ON MAY 15