

HAA 12y Lecture: Syllabus and readings
Fall 2007: T, Th 10-11am, Sackler 318

Professor David J. Roxburgh
Sackler 410: (617) 496 1056
roxburgh@fas.harvard.edu
Office hours: Wednesday 3:00-5:00pm

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC ART VISUAL AND PORTABLE ARTS IN CONTEXT (650-1650 CE)

The lecture course introduces key examples of the arts of the book, calligraphy, and portable arts (ceramics, metalwork, glass, rock crystal, textiles, and ivory) made in the historical Islamic lands, from the rise of Islam until the pre-modern Gunpowder Empires (650-1650 CE) of Turkey, Iran, and India.

The works of art are examined in light of their aesthetic, cultural, political, and socio-economic contexts. Themes include production and patronage; functions and contexts of use; correspondences across media; the high status accorded to writing; and cross-cultural relationships of content and form. The selected materials are studied through a range of methodologies.

COURSE WEBSITE

<http://webdocs.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/courses/HistoryofArtandArchitecture.html>

Click on course link highlighted in blue

READINGS

All required readings from books (in italics) are on reserve at the Fine Arts Library. Articles are arranged in a binder by the author's last name. Ask for the binder at Fine Arts Library circulation desk.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and the completion of readings before the class meeting for which they are assigned. There will be a midterm examination (20% of final grade) and a final examination (35% of final grade) based on the readings, lectures, and a selection of slides from the lectures. Three written assignments, with the due dates listed below, comprise: 1. an analysis of a work of art in the Sackler Museum, Harvard University Art Museums; and 2. and 3., short papers that respond to specific thematic and/or methodological questions framed through selected readings (each paper should be no more than 5 pp. max. and carries 15% each of the final grade).

LECTURES AND READINGS

- September 18** **Introduction**
- THE RISE OF ISLAM: RIVAL CALIPHATES 650-1000**
- September 20** **Legacies and New Formations in Early Islamic Art**
- Readings:**
Richard Ettinghausen, Oleg Grabar, and Marilyn Jenkins-Madina,
Islamic Art and Architecture 650-1250, chaps. 1-2
- September 25** **Arts of the Abbasid Court**
- Readings:**
Richard Ettinghausen, Oleg Grabar, and Marilyn Jenkins-Madina,
Islamic Art and Architecture 650-1250, chaps. 1-2
- September 27** **Art of the Qur'an**
- Readings:**
Yasser Tabbaa, "The Transformation of Arabic Writing: Part 1,
Qur'anic Calligraphy"
Abu Hayyan al-Tawhidi, "Abu Hayyan at-Tawhidi on
Penmanship"
- October 2** **Samanid Ceramics and Literate Culture**
- Readings:**
Oya Pancaroglu, "Serving Wisdom: The Contents of Samanid
Epigraphic Pottery"
Julian Raby, "Looking for Silver in Clay: A New Perspective on
Samanid Ceramics"
- October 4** **Fatimid Cairo: The Dispersal of the Treasury**
- Readings:**
Qadi b. al-Zubayr, "Book of Gifts and Rarities," chap. 1
Boaz Shoshan, "High Culture and Popular Culture in Medieval
Islam"
Priscilla Soucek, "Byzantium and the Islamic East"
- October 9** **Cordoba and Madinat al-Zahra: Umayyad Ivories**
- Readings:**

Renata Holod, "Luxury Arts of the Caliphal Period"

October 11 Textile Art of the Buyids

Readings:

Sheila S. Blair, Jonathan M. Bloom, and Anne E. Wardwell, "Reevaluating the Date of the Buyid Silks by Epigraphic and Radiocarbon Analysis"

First paper due in class

THE SELJUKS AND THEIR SUCCESSORS, 1000-1250

October 16 No class

October 18 Iranian Seljuk Ceramics: From Icons to Narratives

Readings:

James W. Allan, "Abu'l-Qasim's Treatise on Ceramics"

Marianna Shreve Simpson, "Narrative Allusion and Metaphor in the Decoration of Medieval Islamic Objects"

October 23 Iranian Seljuk Metalwork: Themes and Aesthetic Affect

Readings:

Ranee Katzenstein and Glenn D. Lowry, "Christian Themes in Thirteenth-Century Islamic Metalwork"

Rachel Ward, *Islamic Metalwork*, chaps. 4-5

October 25 Art of the Book: From Astronomy to Herbals

Readings:

Eva R. Hoffman, "The Author Portrait in Thirteenth-Century Arabic Manuscripts: A New Islamic Context for a Late-Antique Tradition"

Oya Pancaroglu, "Socializing Medicine: Illustrations of *Kitab al-Diryaq*"

October 30 Art of the Book: Al-Hariri's *Maqamat* ("Assemblies")

Readings:

Oleg Grabar, "The Illustrated *Maqamat* of the Thirteenth Century: The Bourgeoisie and the Arts"

November 1 Midterm examination

November 6

Art of the Anatolian Seljuks

Readings:

Scott Redford, "The Seljuqs of Rum and the Antique"

FROM THE MAMLUKS TO THE MONGOLS AND THE TIMURIDS, 1250-1500

November 8

Art of Mamluk Egypt and Syria

Readings:

Esin Atil, *Renaissance of Islam: Art of the Mamluks*, pp. 50-117

David James, "Some Observations on the Calligrapher and Illuminators of the Koran of Rukn al-Din Baybars al-Jashnagir"

Karl Stowasser, "Manner and Customs at the Mamluk Court"

November 13

Art of the Ilkhanid Mongols

Readings:

Linda Komaroff and Stefani Carboni, eds., *The Legacy of Genghis Khan*, chaps. 5 and 6

November 15

Mongol China and Iran: Artistic Exchange

Readings:

Linda Komaroff and Stefani Carboni, eds., *The Legacy of Genghis Khan*, chaps. 3 and 7

November 20

Art and Ideology: The Art of the Timurids

Readings:

Thomas Lentz and Glenn D. Lowry, *Timur and the Princely Vision*, chap. 1

Second paper due in class

November 22

Thanksgiving

November 27

The Timurid Workshop: Objects for the Court

Readings:

Thomas Lentz and Glenn D. Lowry, *Timur and the Princely Vision*, chap. 3 and app. 1 (the *Arzadasht*)

November 29

Kamal al-Din Bihzad and the New Painting

Readings:

Thomas W. Lentz, "Changing Worlds: Bihzad and the New Painting"

AGE OF EMPIRES: OTTOMANS, SAFAVIDS AND MUGHALS, 1500-1650

December 4 Ottoman Art from Mehmed II to Süleyman

Readings:

J. M. Rogers and R. M. Ward, *Süleyman the Magnificent*, pp. 1-43.

December 6 Ottoman Visual Idioms: History and the Portrait

Readings:

Gulru Necipoglu, "The Serial Portraits of Ottoman Sultans in Comparative Perspective"

December 11 Safavid Tabriz: From Shah Isma'il to Shah Tahmasp

Readings:

Sheila R. Canby, *The Golden Age of Persian Art 1501-1722*, chaps. 3, 4, and 6

December 13 Safavid Isfahan: From Riza-yi Abbasi to Muhammad Zaman

Readings:

Sheila Canby, *The Rebellious Reformer: The Drawings and Paintings of Riza-yi Abbasi of Isfahan*, pp. 7-94

December 18 Mughal Painting and Its Idioms

Readings:

J. M. Rogers, *Mughal Miniatures*, chaps. 3, 4, and 6

Third paper due in class