

Islamic Art

Spring 2010

Art 290

Instructor: Professor Stephen Lucey

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Class meetings: MW, 8:00-9:45 a.m., Putnam Arts Lecture Hall

Office hours: MW 10:00-11:00 a.m., TR 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 1:00-2:00 p.m. I am also available informally before and after class or when you see me wandering the campus! To set up an alternative meeting time convenient for you, speak with me or send me an email with your schedule availability. I encourage you to set up individual meetings with me at any time during the semester to discuss your academic concerns, progress, etc.

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course will introduce you to the art and architecture of Islam, c.650-1650. Each week, lectures and discussion – focusing on a particular region, subculture, or discrete chronological period – will consider a variety of art historical approaches toward the study of objects (style, iconography, technique, etc.) and their cultural context.

LECTURES/DISCUSSION: My goal is to present expanded material from your readings and to discuss in greater depth monuments that are particularly interesting and important. Vocabulary and slide lists will be handed out each week to serve as basic lecture outlines. Reading should be done by the beginning of the week in which the material is introduced. You are responsible for information and works of art presented in the readings and previous lectures, and you are expected to recall this material in class discussions and exams. Slide presentations shown in class will be posted weekly on Blackboard (see instructions below).

REQUIRED TEXT: Jonathan Blair & Sheila Bloom. *Islamic Arts* (London, 1998).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Two non-cumulative exams (30% each), final cumulative take-home exam (40%). The format of the exams will generally be short answer and essay format. There will be no make-ups for in-semester exams. For Honors Program students, there is an additional requirement of a research paper, c. 10-15 pp., and brief class presentation the focus of which we will discuss in early February. The paper/presentation will have the same weight as the final exam - 40% - for a total of 140% toward a course average.

LEARNING GOALS: You will learn how to analyze visually art and architecture and to interpret monuments within their broader socio-historical contexts. You will become familiar with the various methods that art historians use to approach the visual arts whether addressing the role of the artist/architect, the meaning of subject matter, the development of artistic style, or the place of art in a particular society. In-class discussion and written work will allow you to develop your skills of keen observation, clear expression, and independent critical thought.

General Learning Goals:

- ❖ To develop further the basic skills and perspectives of a liberal arts education
 - To become familiar with various methods of academic inquiry
 - To read and think critically by identifying, analyzing, and evaluating pertinent information
 - To present facts and ideas through clear and concise verbal and written expression
 - To foster an awareness and sensitivity for diverse cultural and historical views

Discipline Specific Learning Goals:

- ❖ To examine the importance of art in the human experience
 - To identify major art historical periods and styles

- To describe the physical form of a work of art using appropriate art historical vocabulary
- To recognize and explain the subject matter of a work of art
- To interpret the possible meaning of art works within an appropriate and arguable context / historical tradition

Religion/Culture Specific Learning Goals:

- ❖ To consider the relationship between religion and the visual arts
- ❖ To examine the visual arts of a cultural tradition outside of the Western ambit
 - To become familiar with the historical tenets and practices of a major world religion
 - To evaluate the visual arts as a mode of religious expression
 - To interpret works of art in their functional and practical religious applications
 - To become familiar with the socio-historical development of a specific cultural tradition
 - To evaluate the role of the visual arts within a specific cultural tradition
 - To analyze the broader social and historical implications of religion, culture, and the visual arts

ATTENDANCE: Your attendance is expected at all lectures; more than *three* absences will result in a lowered final grade at my discretion regardless of academic performance. Only verifiable illnesses, emergencies, and certain academic/co-curricular activities will be excused. You are responsible for any lecture material missed; please check with me for a brief overview and your colleagues for detailed class notes. Students who miss three weeks of classes or more will be asked to withdraw from the course.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY: Unless otherwise stated, all work for this course is to be your own. Familiarize yourself with KSC's academic honesty policy regarding dishonest actions, plagiarism, and cheating [<http://www.keene.edu/policy/academichonesty.cfm>]. I am always available to respond to any questions you might have about these policies and can advise you on how to avoid such situations. However, observed violations will be reported and official KSC procedures will be followed.

COURTESY: Laptops may be used in class for the purpose of note taking only. Please turn off all cell phones, and neither make nor answer calls/texts in class. Keep our class space clean; remove any trash you might produce or that you see – remember to recycle.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodation should contact Jane Warner (8-2354 / jwarner@keene.edu) and me as early in the semester as possible. Confidential discussions will assist in developing a plan to address your specific academic needs.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT: Should you have any academic concerns related to the course or in general, please schedule an individual meeting with me. In addition, the Aspire Program is an academic support nexus located in Elliot Center that offers a variety of more generic advising services to students including time management/study skills workshops.

CAMPUS EMERGENCIES: In the event the College closes for a weather emergency, major disaster, etc. all students are responsible for regularly checking their e-mail, voice mail, Blackboard, etc., for information on rescheduling course work and exams.

RESERVE READINGS: In addition to chapters from your textbook, each week will have additional readings that may be found on reserve in the library. The following books are good for both further general reading and looking at images:

M. Hattstein & P. Delius, eds. *Islam. Art & Architecture* (Cologne, 2000). – Images & text
 R. Ettinghausen, et al. *Islamic Art & Architecture 650-1250* 2nd ed. (New Haven, 2001). – Text
 J. Bloom & S. Blair. *The Art & Architecture of Islam 1250-1800* (New Haven, 1994). – Text

Reserve: Richard Ettinghausen, et al. *Islamic Art & Architecture 650-1250* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001), 106-116; 133-165.

Week 11 March 29 & 31 **Regional Asian Art Exam 2, Wed., Mar. 31**

Text: Blair & Bloom, 193-220.

Reserve: Richard Ettinghausen, et al. *Islamic Art & Architecture 650-1250* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001), 116-130; 165-183.

Week 12 April 5 & 7 **Ottoman Turkey**

Text: Blair & Bloom, 287-302, 391-413.

Reserve: Jonathan Blair & Sheila Bloom, *The Art and Architecture of Islam 1250-1800* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), 213-250.

Further reading: J.M. Rogers & R.M. Ward. *Süleyman the Magnificent* (Secaucus, NJ: Wellfleet Press, 1988).

Week 13 April 12 & 14 **Safavid Persia**

Text: Blair & Bloom, 302-321, 363-388.

Reserve: Jonathan Blair & Sheila Bloom, *The Art and Architecture of Islam 1250-1800* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), 165-198.

Further reading: Sheila R. Canby, *The Golden Age of Persian Art 1501-1722* (New York: Abrams, 1999).

Week 14 April 19 & 21 **Mughal India**

Text: Blair & Bloom, 321-328, 331-360.

Reserve: Jonathan Blair & Sheila Bloom, *The Art and Architecture of Islam 1250-1800* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), 267-302.

Further reading: Susan Stronge, *Painting for the Mughal Emperor: The Art of the Book 1560-1660* (New York: Abrams, 2002).

Week 15 April 26 & 28 **Free classes / Honors presentations / papers due**

FINAL EXAM

Take-home exam due electronically by 10 a.m., Wed., May 5

Late exams will be penalized at my discretion

Blackboard

- Go to the MyKSC homepage
- Click on BLACKBOARD LOGIN under Campus Bookmarks
- Click on USER LOGIN on the Blackboard homepage
- In the text box USERNAME type your Keene email username (Example: slucey)
- In the text box PASSWORD either:
 - -Type the last 6 digits of your SS# if you are using Blackboard for the first time (You will want to change this default password once within Blackboard. Click on PERSONAL INFORMATION in the Toolbar menu. On the personal information page, click CHANGE PASSWORD and follow the prompts to change or update your password)
 - -OR type whatever password you had chosen previously using Blackboard
- Click on the course name you wish to view (ART211 or Ancient Art)
- Click on COURSE DOCUMENTS
- You will see the course syllabus and a folder of PowerPoint files. Click on the file you wish to view.
- If you are using a PC and have PowerPoint installed, the file should open directly on your computer as a PowerPoint slideshow. Move forward in the show using your arrow keys. Hit escape to end the show.
- If you are using a Mac and have PowerPoint installed, your computer will prompt you to download the file. Double click on the downloaded file to view as a PowerPoint slideshow. Move forward in the show using your arrow keys. Hit escape to end the show.
- Direct any technical questions to the College Helpdesk