

ART HISTORY 320: ART HISTORY OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Summer 2012
M-TH: 9:30-11:45 AM
Art & Design Bldg. #2026

Maureen M. Guignon
Office Hours: 12:30-1:30
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Course information:

This course examines the historical, cultural, & religious background of the Islamic world, and its impact on art & architecture from the 7th Century to the present. Through lectures, readings, & museum assignments, students will study three types of visual arts within the Islamic world: the Arts of the Book, monumental architecture, & luxury arts. Class objectives are to increase students' historical, geographical, cultural, & religious knowledge about the world of Islam; to realize the continuities & similarities within the Islamic world as well as its differences. Students will become familiar with local museums and mosques- as well as learn art-historical methods of interpretation. Class requirements include reading assignments, tests, maps, papers and class participation. A paper assignment requires visiting a local mosque and museum.

Students are expected to attend class and to be prepared to participate and learn. Please respect others and turn off cell phones, etc. Class participation requires reading the assigned chapters in the class textbooks: Esposito's *The Straight Path* and Blair & Bloom's *Islamic Art*-available at the GMU bookstore.

You must notify me before missing a test or assignment OR provide a written excuse in order to make up a test or an assignment. College level writing ability is necessary for this course. If you are unsure of your writing ability, please see me and/or visit the writing Center at: writingcenter.gmu.edu

Please let me know if you have any special requirements. I am available during office hours or you may schedule an appointment by email.

Course Requirements and Grade Points:

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|---|------------|
| In Class Tests, Assignments and Map: | 10% |
| Test #1: Wednesday May 30 | 20% |
| Test #2: Thursday June 7 | 20% |
| Museum Paper Due: June 14 | 30% |
| Final Exam: June 21 | 20% |

CLASS SCHEDULE- PART ONE: The Early Islamic World: Art & Architecture

Readings: Esposito, Islam: The Straight Path; pp.3-31; Blair & Bloom: pp.5-127.

Monday May 21: Introduction to ARTH 320: Review Syllabus and required readings.
Discuss Esposito and Islam.
Lecture: In the Beginning

Tuesday May 22: Early Arabia: People, Culture & Geography
The Ka'aba

Wednesday May 23: Arts of the Book: The Qur'an

Thursday May 24: Early Islamic architecture: The Mosque

Monday, May 28: Memorial Day, No Class

Tuesday May 29: Early Expansion of Islam: Jerusalem & Damascus
Map Due
Comparison Exercise
Review for Test One

Wednesday May 30: Test One

PART TWO: The Expansion of the Islamic World.

Read: Blair & Bloom: pp.131-283; Esposito: pp.32-67.

Review Museum/Mosque Paper assignment

Thursday, May 31: The Abbasid World: Baghdad

Monday June 4: Baghdad: MSS
Check out the Maqamat Al Hariri (13th Century
Manuscript@<http://www.omifacsimiles.com/brochures/maq.html>

Tuesday June 5 Al-Andalus: Islamic Spain

Wednesday June 6 Egypt: Fustat and Cairo: Conservation, Restoration, and
Reconstruction (Modern problems facing the ancient world).

Review for Test Two.

Thursday June 7: Test Two

PART Three: **The Islamic World: Persia, India and the Ottoman Empire**
Read: B& B: pp.287-422 Esposito: 68-114.

Monday June 11 Class: Persia: *The Shahnama* MS

Tuesday June 12 The Mughal Empire: Islamic India: *The Hamzanama* MS

Wednesday June 13 The Ottoman Empire

Thursday June 14 East meets West: Orientalism and Islam
Museum/Mosque Paper due

Monday June 18 Loot and Questions of Ownership

Tuesday June 19 Modern Islamic Art

Wednesday June 20 Review for Exam

Thursday, June 21: Final EXAM

TESTS:

Tests will be based on lectures, readings, and works of art in the textbook and shown during class lectures. You will be responsible for general themes and ideas linked to the images shown. Important works of art and definitions.

Tests will include:

1. Definitions of terms. You will be responsible for history & art history terms discussed in class. You should be able to define the term and provide an example.
2. You will need to identify objects by their title, artist, time period, geographical location and medium. You will also need to describe the significance of each work of art.
3. Comparison Exercise: You will compare and contrast works of art and/or architecture.

PAPER ASSIGNMENT:

This course requires visits to museums in the area in order to examine works of art as primary sources for writing assignments. Complete instructions will be provided. College level writing skills require the incorporation of specific rules of grammar, spelling, sentence and structure and punctuation. Equally important, students must cite the sources they use in their paper. These topics will all be further explained in class. However, if you are concerned about your writing skill, please see me and/or visit the GMU Writing Center. I will review papers before they are due but do not wait until the last minute.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE:

George Mason University honor code that is clearly defined in the University Catalogue and GMU website. Every student will sign a pledge on every test and paper that their work is entirely their own. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work as your own: it includes not citing your sources of information. It is a violation of the honor code.

GRADING:

A+=100; A=99-93; A-=92-90 (Superior work and understanding of concepts, factual material, excellent written work and classroom participation.

B work: (B+ (89-87); B (80-82); B-(82-80. (Above average mastery of material with well written assignments and obvious class participation and preparation.

C Work: C+=79-77; C= 76-73; C-=72-70. An average grade that represents a basic grasp of factual and conceptual material.

D work: 69-60. Unsatisfactory, minimal passing grade. Poor writing & learning skills.

F= Failed the course.

ARTH 320: PAPER ASSIGNMENT: Due in class THURSDAY, JUNE 14

The paper assignment requires a visit to the Sackler Gallery -Freer Gallery and a mosque. Two local mosques are: the Islamic Center Mosque in DC and the Manassas Mosque. Look them up on the web for addresses, information about times that you may go to the mosque, etc.

Your paper topic should connect an object from the Freer Gallery to something in the mosque: this could be interior objects or the structure of the mosque itself, etc. Clearly define and describe your two choices and footnote each choice with its title, description, location, etc. Then, compare and contrast the two: how they are similar, how they are different and, how do they define the world of Islam. Your paper should be four pages long. It must be typed, double-spaced with a title, footnotes or endnotes, etc. I will review rough drafts after class that have been e-mailed to me. However, this should be done at least a week before the paper is due.

We will go over this in class before the paper is due. If you are concerned about your writing skills, visit the George Mason Writing Center on campus. You may reach them at <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

I will review a rough draft of your paper. However, please, do not wait until the last minute.