

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY – D.F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS &
LETTERS – DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS & ART HISTORY**

THE ART OF ISLAM – SPRING 2013

ARH 4930 001; CRN 24590; RM AL342 – 10AM-11:50AM (MON.&WED.)

4 CREDIT HOURS

Pre-requisites: ARH 2050 and ARH 2051 or permission of the department.

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For help and advice, I will be available between 9&10AM outside the classroom; after class in my office by appointment; also available via email and general availability. The course has no official pre-requisite, though having ART Survey or Pre-Classical & Classical Art might prove to be beneficial. (One must be a student with less than 30 credits – 2 elective credits.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is an in depth survey of the art, architecture, & culture of the Islamic World from the coming of Mohammed to that of the Ottoman Turks. Students will be introduced to the religion of Islam and exposed to its manifold grandiose art forms. From Mecca to Jerusalem, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, North Africa, Spain, Iran, Central Asia, India, and Turkey, students will have an opportunity to see and study the greatness of its architecture, the delicacy of its fine art, and the superb calligraphy that is one of its hallmarks.

Brand new color photographs along with excellent DVDs will provide students with the most up to date visuals and perspective on the arts of Islam. How the West views Islam and vice versa will also be addressed at an appropriate point in the course.

TEXTBOOKS: ISLAMIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE by Robert Hillenbrand; Thames & Hudson, World of Art series (sc; ISBN 978-0-500-20305-7); ISLAMIC ART & ARCHITECTURE 650-1250 by R. Ettinghausen, O. Grabar, & M. Jenkins-Madina (Yale Univ. Press; Pelican History of Art – sc; ISBN 0-300-08869-8). (4)

ABSENCES AND IMPROPER USE OF TECHNOLOGY: More than 3 unexcused absences could adversely affect one's grade. Excused absences are permissible for religious observance, personal or family emergencies, or representing FAU at official events. Both written and oral testing will be utilized. Depending upon certain circumstances, the lowest grade will be dropped and your final grade will be helped by an upward bias in your overall test results. Written tests (which include take home essays) will make up about 90% of your grade and class response to oral recitation/review will make up the remaining 10%. I do NOT give makeup tests but do give **OPTIONAL TAKE HOME ESSAY QUESTIONS** to plug any test gaps and to help lift one's grade. Students are encouraged to be **ON TIME** for class, **SHOULD NOT GET UP AND LEAVE THE ROOM DURING CLASS**, and must **SHUT OFF ALL CELL PHONES**. **LAPTOPS MAY BE USED FOR TAKING CLASS NOTES AND OBTAINING CLASS INFORMATION ONLY**. I will confiscate any phones I catch being utilized for texting, etc. during class time or ask you to leave the class. The same applies to improper use of laptops.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and

plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see:

http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton SU 133 (561-297-3880), in Davie – LA 240(954-236-1657), in Jupiter – SR 110 (561-799-8585) and follow all OSD procedures.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan.7&9): Introduction to & overview of Islam; Terminology, Chronology, & Geography; the Roots of Islam; pre-Islamic Arabia and the coming of Mohammed. A Video – ‘THE STORY OF ISLAM’.

Week 2 (Jan.14&16): The rise and early spread of Islam; the basis and sources of early Islamic art and architecture. A Video – ‘ISLAM: EMPIRE OF FAITH’. Mecca and Jerusalem; THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM.

Week 3 (Jan.23): Mecca, Medina, and the Kaaba; Jerusalem and Damascus. The Dome of the Rock, The Temple of Solomon, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The al-Aqsa mosque and the Great Mosque of Damascus. The conquest of Egypt and the founding of Cairo. The Umayyad Dynasty. NO CLASS ON JAN. 21; MLK DAY.

Week 4 (Jan.28&30): The Abbasids – Ukhaidir, Samarra, & Baghdad. The beginning of the Western conquests. Egypt & the Maghrib (North Africa).

Week 5 (Feb.4&6): Survey of the Maghrib concluded. RECITATION/REVIEW ON FEB. 6 (NO ABSENCES PERMITTED; ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY).

Week 6 (Feb.11&13): The Conquest of Spain and the beginnings of Moorish art.

Week 7 (Feb.18&20): Moorish Spain (continued). Cordova, Granada, and the Alhambra. GENERAL REVIEW AND DISCUSSION on the 20th.

Week 8 (Feb.25&27): Eastern Islam – Iran. MID-TERM EXAM ON FEB.27. IN CLASS TEST PLUS TAKE HOME ESSAY WHICH WILL BE DUE ON MARCH 13 (NO ABSENCES PERMITTED AND NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED). NOTE WELL: The Mid-Term exam will NOT include Moorish Spain.

Week 9 (March 4-8: SPRING BREAK; NO CLASSES).

Week 10 (March 11&13): Iranian Islamic art continued. Isfahan – the Pearl of Persia. TAKE HOME ESSAYS DUE ON MARCH 13. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Week 11 (March 18&20): The Crusades and their reciprocal effect.

Week 12 (March 25&27): The coming of the Mongols; The Islamic art & architecture of Central Asia. The Timurid Dynasty; Samarkand and Bukhara.

Week 13

(April 1&3): A brief survey of the Islamic conquest of northwest India. The Taj Mahal and other wonders of India. The rise of the Ottoman Empire and its ultimate conquest of Byzantium. RECITATION/REVIEW ON APRIL 3 – WILL COVER THE PERIODS FROM MOORISH SPAIN THROUGH CENTRAL ASIA. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY! TAKE HOME ESSAY WILL BE ASSIGNED AT THAT TIME AND WILL BE DUE ON APRIL 17. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Week 14 (April 8&10): A brief survey of Ottoman art & architecture. IN CLASS TEST ON APRIL 10. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. NO ABSENCES ARE ACCEPTABLE!

Week 15 (April 15&17): Continuation of survey of Ottoman art & architecture. TAKE HOME ESSAYS ARE DUE ON APRIL 17. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!

Week 16 (April 22&24): Epilogue - The Legacy of Islam and the world today. April 24 is last day of class.

ISLAMIC FACTOIDS

The Islamic calendar, which begins in 622AD, is based upon a lunar year.

The Arabs were polytheistic prior to the rise of Islam.

Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Koran.

Mohammed never went to Jerusalem except in a metaphysical sense.

The Arabs did NOT destroy the library of Alexandria. This probably occurred during a Christian riot of the 4th century AD or somewhat later.

The face of Mohammed is NEVER depicted in Islamic art.

Human images do appear in Islamic art but in a non-religious setting.

Certain prohibitions in Islam are found in the Hadith (the collected sayings of Mohammed) and not the Koran.

Islam was very respectful of the Christians and Jews in its early history since they were also considered to be "People of the Book". This is not necessarily so today.

Jesus is mentioned many times in the Koran but NOT considered divine by Moslems who view him only as one prophet in a chain concluding with Mohammed.

Both Jews and Moslems (as well as Christians) ultimately claim descent from Abraham.

Moslems are not necessarily Arabic or Semitic.

Indonesia has the largest Moslem population while India, which is primarily Hindu, may have the second largest Moslem population.

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today and may overtake Christianity in the not too distant future.

Europe, which was never conquered by Islam, may become gradually Islamicized in the not too distant future if certain trends continue unchecked, though this is a highly debatable issue at present.

SOME KEY TERMS & NAMES

Kaaba	Shia
Hegira	Sunni
Hajj	Byzantine Empire
Monotheism	Sassanian (Persian Empire)
Aniconic	The Five Pillars of Islam
Mihrab (Niche, Apse)	The Levant
Maqsura	
Muqarnas	
Squinch	
Dikka	
Minbar	
Minaret	
Qibla	
Kiswa	
Tawaf	
Caliph	
Koran	
Mecca	
Medina (Yathrib)	
Jerusalem	
Kairouan (Qayrawan)	
Zamzam (Zemzem)	
Ishmael	
Hagar	
Abraham	
Maghrib	
Umma	
Alhambra	
Granada	
Cordova	
Baghdad	
Muezzin	
Tesserae	
Istanbul (Constantinople)	
Ottoman Empire	
Taj Mahal	