This course considers major developments in Islamic arts and architecture from the 7th through the 17th centuries. The first unit considers the rise of Islam between 600 and 900; the second examines regional centers and local powers between 900 and 1500, and the final third focuses on the great empires, particularly that of the Ottomans. In addition to obtaining a broad overview of the development of Islamic art, students will also hone their critical reading skills through a series of papers that will require a close analysis and deconstruction of scholarly articles.
The required textbook is Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair, *Islamic Arts* (London: Phaidon, 1997), available for purchase at the Colgate Bookstore. Other readings are available either on the web or on our course Moodle site. Please note that the syllabus is subject to change.

**Grade Components:**

- map quiz 10%
- writing exercises 20%
- paper 1 10%
- paper 2 15%
- midterm 1 10%
- midterm 2 15%
- final exam 20%

**Course Schedule**

**I. Rise of Islam, 600-900**

1/19 1. Intro, Muhammed, Kaaba, House of Prophet
   - Bloom & Blair (hereafter BB), 5-24

1/24 2. The Dome of the Rock
   - BB, 24-31
   - Oleg Grabar, *The Formation of Islamic Art* (1973), chapter 3 (online)

1/26 3. Great Mosque of Damascus
   - BB, 31-35
   - MAP QUIZ

1/31 4. Lion-Gazelle Mosaic, Mosque at Kairouan, Samarra
   - BB, 35-56
5. Guest Lecture: Nady Abdal-Ghaffar on the Arabic Language & Script
   - BB, 59-71

6. Film: *Islam: Empire of Faith* (part 1)
   

7. NO CLASS

8. Calligraphy
   - BB, 71-78
   - David Roxburgh, *Writing the Word of God*, 1-23 (on Moodle)

9. Textiles, Ceramics, Metal, Glass
   - BB, 81-127

10. Midterm I

II. Regional Centers and Local Powers, 900-1500

11. Film: *Islam: Empire of Faith* (part 2)

12. The Great Mosque at Cordoba
   - BB, 131-46

13. Geometric Patterns; Quwwat al-Islam mosque, Delhi; Isfahan
   - BB, 146-59

14. Bukhara, Fez, Cairo, Aleppo
   - BB, 159-83
• Bernard O’Kane, “Monumentality in Mamluk and Mongol Art,” *Art History* 19.4 (1996), 499-522 (JSTOR)

3/9  15. Alhambra

• BB, 183-90


3/21  16. Decorative arts

• BB, 249-83


3/23  17. Textiles & Calligraphy

• BB, 223-246; 193-207

• David Roxburgh, *Writing the Word of God*, 25-53 (Moodle)

3/28  18. Miniatures

• BB, 207-20

3/30  19. midterm

The Great Empires, 1500-1800

4/4  20. Film: *Islam: Empire of Faith* (part 3)

4/6  21. Sinan, Suleyman and Istanbul

• BB, 287-302

4/11 22. Isfahan; Fatehpur Sikri

- BB, 302-25


nb: we may also have a regular class meeting if we are behind on the syllabus

4/18 24. Taj Mahal

- BB, 325-28


4/20 25. Book arts

- BB, 331-60


4/25 26. Textiles

- BB, 363-88

- Esin Atil, “The Imperial Wardrobe,” in The Age of Suleyman the Magnificent, ex. cat. 1987, 177-233 (Moodle)

4/27 27. Decorative arts

- BB, 391-413