

SYLLABUS SPRING 2009
NES-ARH-ARC 403/503
Art and Architecture of the Islamic World:
Focus on Egypt and its Territories
Department of Near Eastern Studies

T-TR 3:30-4:45 pm

Harvill 404

Dr. Amy Newhall

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Office Hours: Monday: 2-4 or by appointment

Purpose of the Course:

Students will explore some of the best known works of architecture and art in Islamic Egypt and its territories in depth. Through these objects and monuments they will become acquainted with issues surrounding the exchange of aesthetic preferences and visual forms throughout the larger Islamic, Mediterranean, Asian and African worlds. They will become familiar with the methods and modes of inquiry that have been used by scholars to understand these objects in the time and place of their making and in later eras.

Course organization.

Each week a major work will be introduced and analysed. Students will have assigned readings prepared by the Tuesday of each week and will be ready for discussion on the topics of that week. Two or three different students will be assigned a supplementary and related reading each week (only one such assignment per student per semester). These students will be responsible for presenting the issues and information contained in the supplementary to the class (10 minutes). Students will be assigned five 3-4 page response papers (to visual comparisons, textual sources, critical analyses), and take a final exam. Grad students will be responsible for additional readings and will meet with the professor to discuss. They will give an oral presentation on the subject of their final research paper.

Grading

Class participation and reading preparation and presentation: 10%

5 response papers: 15% each = 75%

Final Exam: 15% (undergrads only)

Term paper (grads: 15 pages). 15%

No late papers. No make-up exams.

Plagiarism will result in a failing grade FOR THE COURSE. And you will be reported to the Dean of Students.

TEXTBOOKS:

Robert Hillenbrand, *Islamic Art and Architecture*, 1999.

Afaf Lutfi Al-Sayyid Marsot, *A History of Egypt from the Arab Conquest to the Present*. Cambridge University Press. 2nd edit. 2007, 2008.

Location of other readings:

D2L

RESERVE Books (only a few): Located in the Art/Music/Library in the Music Building, 2nd floor.

Source for Architecture images and some readings:

ARCHNET:

<http://archnet.org/lobby/>

contains a "Digital library" under "Publications." Articles are downloaded PDFs; you can print out or read on your computer.

<http://archnet.org/library/documents/>

and images of architecture under "Images"

<http://archnet.org/library/images/>

ARCHNET contains a very useful Dictionary of terms:

<http://archnet.org/library/dictionary/>

See the addresses for other online sources.

Other Online Resources available through the Main Library: JSTOR

Recommended Readings for those who know nothing or little about Middle Eastern history and Islam:

1. Albert Hourani, *The Arabs in History.* "The Making of a World," 1-21. Main Library Book Reserve.

January

TR 15 Introduction

READING:

1. Robert Irwin, *Islamic Art in Context*, Ch. 1, "The Historical Background" 17-36. [D2L]
2. Robert Hillenbrand, *Islamic Art and Architecture*, pp. 8-37. And Glossary p. 283-84.
3. Afaf Marsot, *A History of Egypt*, pp. 1-14.

Recommended: Patricia L. Baker, *Islam and the Religious Arts*, Chapters 1, 2 pps. 1-51. ON RESERVE.
Art/Music Library

T 20 The Development of a Cultural Capital: Cairo

TR 22 Urban History as Art/Architectural History

READING:

1. Doris Behrens Abou-Seif "The City" http://archnet.org/library/documents/one-document.jsp?document_id=6405
2. K.A.C. Creswell and James W. Allan "The Mosque of Ibn Tulun," (1989) *A Short Account of Early Muslim Architecture.* [D2L]

T 27 The Abbasid Age: The Mosque of Ibn Tulun

TR 29

READING:

1. Robert Hillenbrand, *Islamic Art and Architecture*, pp. 37-60.
2. http://archnet.org/library/sites/one-site.jsp?site_id=2070
3. <http://mathforum.org/geometry/rugs/symmetry/>
4. *Grove Dictionary of Art*: "Islamic Art" sections on: Geometry and Arabesque (available online through the main library.)
5. Recommended: Patricia L. Baker, *Islam and the Religious Arts*, Chapters "Place of Prayer", "Visions of Paradise." ON RESERVE

ASSIGNMENT ONE

FEBRUARY

T 3 Fatimid Architecture in Cairo: al-Azhar and al-Aqmar

TR 5

READING:

1. Marsot, *History of Egypt*, pp. 14-25.
2. Robert Hillenbrand, *Islamic Art and Architecture*, pp. 61-85.
3. Jonathan Bloom, *Arts of the City Victorious*, pp. 52-81, 117-53 [D2L]
4. Archnet IMAGES Azhar, Aqmar, Hakim,

T 10 Shrines and Mausolea and Muqaranas

TR 12

READING:

1. Robert Hillenbrand, *Islamic Art and Architecture*, pp. 86-110
2. Lisa Golombek, "The Cult of Saints and Shrine Architecture in the 14th Century", *Near Eastern Numismatics, Iconography, Epigraphy and History in Honor of George C. Miles*. 1974, pp. 419-30. [D2L]
3. Paula Sanders, *Rituals, Politics, and the City in Fatimid Cairo*. NY, 1994. pp. 39-67. An online book available through the main library.

T 17 The Art of Ceramics: Fatimid Lustre

TR 19

READING:

1. Oliver Watson, "Fritware: Fatimid Egypt or Saljuq Iran" *L'Egypte Fatimide: son art et son histoire*, 1999 pp. 299-310. [D2L]
2. Oliver Watson, *Ceramics from Islamic Lands*. [D2L]

T 24 Calligraphy, Textiles and More

READING:

1. Lisa Golombek, "The Draped Universe of Islam" [D2L]
2. D.S. Rice, The Unique Ibn al Bawwab Manuscript in the Chester Beatty Library [D2L]
3. Patricia L. Baker, *Islamic Textiles*, Islamic Arts: Art of the Loom, chapters 3, 4 and 7 (Textiles as Tribute) [D2L] Textiles at Court
4. William Tronzo, "The Mantle of Roger II of Sicily," *Robes of Honor in the Medieval World of Investiture*. 2001. pp. 241-253. [D2L].

March

T 3 Ayyubid Architecture: Tomb of Imam Shafai'I, The Madrasa of Sultan Najm ad-Din Ayyub

TR 5 The Mamluks: **The Baptistere of St. Louis** (Paris, Louvre)

READING:

1. Robert Hillenbrand, *Islamic Art and Architecture*, pp.111-137.
2. D.S. Rice, *The Baptistere de St. Louis* (Paris, 1953) [D2L]
3. Rachel Ward, "The Baptistere de Saint Louis-A Mamluk Basin Made for Export to Europe" *Islam and the Italian Renaissance*, 1999, pp. 113-132. [D2L]
4. Marsot, *History of Egypt*, pp. 25-47.

T 10 Mamluk Architecture:: The Complex of Qala'un

TR 12 **The Complex of Sultan Hassan**

READING:

1. Robert Hillenbrand, *Islamic Art and Architecture*, pp. 138-166
2. Michael Meinecke, "Mamluk Architecture. Regional Architectural Traditions: Evolution and Interrelations," *Damaszener Mitteilungen*, 2, 1985, pp. 163-175. [D2L]
3. Doris Behrens Abou Seif, on Qala'un and Sultan Hassan [D2L]
4. Linda Komaroff, "The Transmission and Dissemination of a New Visual Language." [D2L]

T 17 Calligraphy and Mamluk Korans

TR 19

READING:

1. David James, *Qur'ans of the Mamluks*, pp. 30-75; pp.132-155. [D2L]
2. Jonathan Bloom, *Paper before Print*, pp. 94-123. [D2L]
3. Bernard O'Kane, "Monumentality in Mamluk and Mongol Art", *Art History* 19:4 499-522 [D2L]

T 24 The Architecture of Sultan Qaytbay

TR 26

READING:

1. Kessler, Christel. 1976. *The Carved Masonry Domes of Mediaeval Cairo*. aarp/Art and Archaeology Research Papers. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press. [D2L]
2. Doris Behrens Abouseif, on Qaytbay [D2L]
3. 1.ARCHNET: Gulru Necipoglu, "The Suleymaniye Complex in Istanbul: An Interpretation," *Muqarnas* 3, 1985
1. http://archnet.org/library/documents/one-document.tcl?document_id=3645
4. Oleg Grabar, "The Inscriptions on the Madrasa Mausoleum of Sultan Qaytbay." [D2L]

T 31 **From Imperial Capital to Ottoman Province**

April

TR 2

1. Marsot, History of Egypt, pp. 48-64.
2. Doris Behrens Abouseif, "The Abd al-Rahman Katkhuda Style in the 18th Century", *Annales Islamologique* 26, 1992. [D2L]
3. Nicholas Warner, *The Monuments of Historic Cairo, : A Map and Descriptive Catalogue*, pp. 234-317. [D2L]

T 7 **Post-Napoleonic Conquest Cairo**

TR 9

READING:

1. Marsot, History of Egypt, pp. 65-75.
2. Gillespie and Dewachter. [D2L]

T 14 **Muhammad Ali**

TR 16

READING:

1. Agnieszka Dobrowolska and Khaled Fahmy, **Muhammad Ali Pasha and His Sabil**
2. Marsot, History of Egypt, pp. 76-92.
3. Mohammed al-Asad, "The Mosque of Muhammad Ali in Cairo", *Muqarnas* 9, 1992. Archnet.

T 21 **19th-20th art and architecture and urban development**

TR 23

READING:

1. Marsot, History of Egypt, pp. 93-116
2. Paula Sanders, *Making Cairo Medieval*, chapter. [D2L]
3. Nasser Rabbat, "The Formation of Neo-Mamluk Style in Modern Egypt" [D2L]

T28

TR 30 Grad Presentations

READING:

1. Caroline Williams, "Transforming Cairo's Medieval City," *Middle East Journal* 56:3, Summer, 2002 ARCHNET

MAY

TR 5 Grad Presentations and Conclusion

Last day of classes MAY 6

Final examination

Tuesday May 12, 2009, 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm