

'ISLAMIC ART' - CULTURE AND AESTHETICS

HUAS 6315.002

Thursday: 1:00PM to 3:45PM

Dr. Sabiha Al Khemir, Senior Advisor for Islamic Art at the DMA and Distinguished Scholar of Islamic Art in Residence at the O'Donnell Institute

Spring 2017

This seminar program offers an introduction to the arts of the Islamic world. Using material that covers a wide time and geographical span (from the 7th century onwards and from the Western Mediterranean to South Asia), the seminar explores the main characteristics of the visual language of the Islamic world in its color and exuberance, its form and spirit. The seminar focuses on topics related to narrative and representation, cross cultural exchange, and innovative approaches, highlighting what distinguishes the identity of "Islamic art". It looks in depth at the role of calligraphy, geometry, so-called 'arabesque', the question of figural representation. The course also looks closely at some of the styles and major techniques of artistic production that reached a remarkable height in the arts of the Islamic world, such as luster-painted pottery. The seminar will engage students in close study of the art of the object and the cultural dimension objects carry, focussing on the intimate link between aesthetics and culture. The course aims to build an understanding of Islamic art and culture, in its diversity and unity. It uses the Keir Collection at the DMA as a major resource to illustrate the topics taught, as well as examples from world collections of Islamic art.

Professor Contact Information

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Academic Calendar:

Lecture 1: January 12

Held on UTD campus ATC ROOM 2.800

Historical context

Lecture 2: January 19

Calligraphy I

Lecture 3: January 26

Calligraphy II

Lecture 4: February 2

Discussion of Calligraphy assignment

Lecture 5: February 9

Image and Islam: The Question of Figural representation

Lecture 8: February 16

Discussion of assignment on figural image

Lecture 9: February 23

Pattern and symbolism: Geometry and the arabesque

Lecture 10: March 2

Discussion of assignment on Pattern

Lecture 11: March 9

Ceramics

SPRING BREAK

Lecture 12: March 23

Metalwork

Lecture 13: March 30

Arab Painting

Lecture 14: April 6

Persian Painting

Lecture 15: April 13

Discussion of assignment on Painting

Lecture 16: April 20

Contemporary Art from the Islamic world

Lecture 17: April 27

General discussion

READING DAY:

EXAM: May 2 - 8

GRADES Due: May 9-11

READING LIST:

All books are on reserve at the McDermott Library.

- 1) Lewis, Bernard, ed. *The World of Islam: Faith, People, Culture*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1992.
- 2) Grabar, Oleg. *The Formation of Islamic Art*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2nd ed., 1987.
- 3) Al Khemir, *Beauty and Belief: Crossing Bridges with the Arts of Islamic Culture*, Brigham Young University Museum of Art, 2012
- 4) Hillenbrand, Robert. *Islamic Art and Architecture*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1998.
- 5) Safadi, Yasin Hamid. *Islamic Calligraphy*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1987.
- 6) Ward, Rachel. *Islamic Metalwork*, London: Thames & Hudson, 1993.
- 7) Ettinghausen, Richard. *Islamic Art and Archeology: Collected Papers*, 1984
- 8) Ettinghausen, Richard, *Arab Painting*, Rizzoli, 1977
- 9) Watson, Oliver, *Persian Lustre Ware*, London: Faber and Faber, 1985