

INDIA ARAB CULTURAL CENTRE
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

M. A International Studies Arab-Islamic Culture

Course Teacher: Dr. Nasir Raza Khan
Course Title: Introduction to Islamic Architecture
Duration: One Semester
Credit: 4 credit/100 marks
Level of Teaching: Post-Graduate
Method of Instruction: Lectures, Discussions
Mode of Evaluation: Assignment and End-Semester Examination

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The present course surveys the art and architecture of the Islamic world from the 7th to 17th Century. The course will introduce the different forms of Islamic architecture, like mosques, tombs and forts and their particular significance. It will also familiarise the students with various architectural styles that developed and took shape in different periods under the patronage of the then rulers. Islamic architecture evolved from the desert of Arabia to the oasis of Central Asia, Turkey and India, and from Africa to Spain

The course will also examine how particular monuments took shape in different areas and why the different styles developed with a distinct meaning. The course is structured keeping in mind a weekly plan with the details of the topics to be discussed, suggested monuments for discussion and the required reading list. The course attempts to inculcate understanding and awareness of the diversity of Islamic Architecture.

Unit-One: Early Islamic architecture in Arabia

The early mosques in Arabia, architectural style.

Historical background of Byzantine and Sasanian architecture,

Architectural legacy of Sasanian and Byzantine along with Arabian tradition

Unit-Two: The Umayyad (661–750), and their contribution in Islam architecture

Heritage of Umayyad in Syria grandest surviving Umayyad mosque, the Great Mosque of Damascus

The Dome of the Rock.

Unit-Three: The Abbasids, (750–1258)

Historical background of Abbasid revolution

Formation of new architectural style, Baghdad, the city of al-Mansur, Samara places and mosque

Architectural development in North Africa under the Abbasids and Mamluks; Great Mosques of Kairoun, Mosques of Three Doors, Tunisia, Mosque of Ibn Tulun, Cairo, Egypt

The Fatmids (909-1171) in Egypt and Spain, historical background of Fatmids, al-Azhar Mosque; Mosques of al- Hakim; Bab al-Nasr; Cairo.

Unit-Four: Islamic Architecture in Central Asia,

Advent of Turkic dynasty, beginning with Ghaznavids and Qarakhanids, Samanid Empire, (819–999) and Seljuks (1037–1194).

The Seljuk architecture in Central Asia (1037–1194) and Turkey (1060-1360)

Architecture under Timur (1370-1405) in Central Asia and Iran; describe the monumentality of Timurid architecture and set the stage for later developments under the Ottomans, Safivids, Mughals and Uzbeks

Schedule of Examination & Grading:

Midterm Exam	25 %
Final exam	75 %

Suggested Readings

- Brend, B. 1991. *Islamic Art*. London: British Museum Press.
- Hillenbrand, R. 1999. *Islamic Art and Architecture*. London: Thames and Hudson.
- Irwin, R. 1997. *Islamic Art in Context: Art, Architecture, and the Literary World*. New York: Harry N.Abrams, Inc.
- Milwright, M. 2010. *An Introduction to Islamic Archaeology*. Edinburgh.
- Robinson, F. 1996. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bacharach, J. 1996, 'Marwanid Umayyad Building Activities: Speculation on Patronage', *Muqarnas* 13:27-44.
- Blair, S.S. & J.M. Bloom. 1994. 'Chp. 9 – Architecture and the Arts in the Maghrib under the
- C.D. Anderson & M. Rosser-Owen. (eds.) *Revisiting al-Andalus: Perspectives on the Material Culture of Islamic Iberia and Beyond*. Leiden: Brill. pp. 169-92.
- Cook, M. (ed.) 2003-2010. *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, 6 Vols. Cambridge: University Press.
- Creswell, K. A. C. 1989. *A Short Account of Early Muslim Architecture*. Rev. and suppl. by James W. Allen.
- Ettinghausen, R. & O. Grabar. 2001. *Islamic Art and Architecture, 650-1250*. Rev. and suppl. by M. Jenkins-Madina, New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Hafsids, Marinids, and Nasrids, *The Art and Architecture of Islam, 1250-1800*. New Haven: Yale University Press. pp. 114-131.
- Hillenbrand, R. 1999. 'The Birth of Islamic Art: The Umayyads' in *Islamic Art and Architecture*, London: Thames & Hudson. pp. 10-37.
- Hillenbrand, R. 1999. 'Chp. 2 – The 'Abbasids.' *Islamic Art and Architecture*. London: Thames & Hudson. pp. 38-60