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| Course | ARHS 2350: Introductory Topics in Art History – Islamic Art |
| Term | Spring 2, 2007 |
| Instructor | Dr. Maryvelma O’Neil Telephone: 022 774 1190 Email: oneil@sunrise.ch |
| Catalog Description | This course introduces the arts of the Islamic lands from the 7th century rise of the Umayyad dynasty of Syria to the 16th century expansion of the Ottoman empire. By examining the socio-historical contexts within which Islamic art and architecture developed, the course will provide a basic understanding of its major themes and regional variations. |
| Prerequisites | None |
| Course Level Learning Outcomes | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To understand the pre-Islamic roots of Islamic art. 2. To survey the rise of Islam and to provide a thematic context for Islamic art and architecture. 3. To chart the development and use of the mosque, its role within Islamic society, its decoration and furnishing. 4. To examine the role of Islamic patronage; the role of figurative and non-figurative art. 5. To analyze the shifting relationship of Islamic art to religious practice and belief. 6. To highlight and assess the importance of art and architecture in the Islamic world’s contact with other cultures and western knowledge of Islamic art and architecture. |
| Texts | Robert Irwin, <i>Islamic Art in Context</i> , New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1997. Karen Armstrong, <i>Islam. A Short History</i> , London: Orion Publishing Group, 2002 |

| <p>Grading</p> | <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Element</th> <th style="text-align: right;">% of Grade</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mid-term exam</td> <td style="text-align: right;">40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final exam</td> <td style="text-align: right;">40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class participation. [Based on: a) quality and level of activity such as relevant questions and comments during class; b) attendance; c) ability to remain focused during class.]</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The UNDERGRADUATE catalog provides these guidelines and grading options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A, A- superior work in the opinion of the instructor • B+, B, B- good work in the opinion of the instructor • C+, C, C- satisfactory work in the opinion of the instructor • D+, D passing, but less than satisfactory work in the opinion of the instructor • I incomplete work in the opinion of the instructor • ZF An incomplete which was not completed within one year of the end of the course • F unsatisfactory work in the opinion of the instructor; no credit is granted • W withdrawn from the course • IP course in progress • NR not reported for the course • Z a temporary designation given by the registrar indicating that the final grade has not been submitted by the instructor. When the final grade is filed in the Office of the Registrar, that grade will replace the Z. | Element | % of Grade | Mid-term exam | 40% | Final exam | 40% | Class participation. [Based on: a) quality and level of activity such as relevant questions and comments during class; b) attendance; c) ability to remain focused during class.] | 20% | TOTAL | 100% |
|---|--|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----|------------|-----|---|-----|--------------|-------------|
| Element | % of Grade | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mid-term exam | 40% | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Class participation. [Based on: a) quality and level of activity such as relevant questions and comments during class; b) attendance; c) ability to remain focused during class.] | 20% | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 100% | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Policy Statements: University Policies</p> | <p>University policies are provided in the current course catalog and course schedules. They are also available on the university website. This class is governed by the university's published policies. The following policies are of particular interest:</p> <p><u>Academic Honesty</u> The university is committed to high standards of academic honesty. Students will be held responsible for violations of these standards. Please refer to the university's academic honesty policies for a definition of academic dishonesty and potential disciplinary actions associated with it.</p> <p><u>Drops and Withdrawals</u> Please be aware that, should you choose to drop or withdraw from this course, the date on which you notify the university of your decision will determine the amount of tuition refund you receive. Please refer to the university policies on drops and withdrawals (published elsewhere) to find out what the deadlines are for dropping a course with a full refund and for withdrawing from a course with a partial refund.</p> <p><u>Special Services</u> If you have registered as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom or testing accommodations, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of the accommodations you will require in this class so that these can be provided.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | <p><u>Disturbances</u> Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, disruption of class by inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course.</p> <p><u>Student Assignments Retained</u> <u>From time to time, student assignments or projects will be retained by The Department for the purpose of academic assessment. In every case, should the assignment or project be shared outside the academic Department, the student's name and all identifying information about that student will be redacted from the assignment or project.</u></p> <p><u>Contact Hours for this Course</u> <u>It is essential that all classes meet for the full instructional time as scheduled. A class cannot be shortened in length. If a class session is cancelled for any reason, it must be rescheduled.</u></p> |
| <p>Course Policies</p> | <p>Cheating and plagiarism</p> <p>Of course, students are expected to do their own work. Students who claim that someone else's work is theirs may face disciplinary action. Plagiarism can be avoided simply by the use of quotation marks when quoting and citation when paraphrasing someone else's work.</p> <p>Absenteeism</p> <p>Students who miss more than one class will have to make up additional work. Students who miss two or more classes may be advised to drop the course or may have their grade lowered commensurately.</p> <p>This syllabus may be revised or changed without prior notice by the instructor.</p> |

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| <p>Weekly Schedule</p> | <p>Week 1 Historical Background: Byzantine Empire, Sasanian Empire, Cultural Heritage, Islamic Sense of the Past (Ch. 1 Irwin)</p> <p>Week 2 Islamic World: Rise of Islam, Islam Established (Ch. 1 Armstrong, Ch. 2 Irwin)</p> <p>Week 3 Religious and Secular Architecture, Art and Artistic Taste: Development of the Mosque, Later Developments in Mosque Architecture, Architectural Patronage (Ch. 3 Irwin, Ch. 2 Armstrong)</p> <p>Week 4 Palace Life: Ummayyads and the Desert Palace, Abbasid Palaces, Baghdad and Samarra, Fatimid Cairo and its Palaces (Ch. 4, 5 Irwin), Mid-term</p> <p>Week 5 Artists, Guilds and Craft Technology: Apprenticeship and the Guild System, The State and the Labor Force, The Muslim Architect (Ch. 6 Irwin, Ch. 4 Armstrong)</p> <p>Week 6 A Literary Art: The Literary World, The Aesthetic Voice, Calligraphy, The Illuminated Manuscript (Ch. 7 Irwin)</p> <p>Week 7 Western Visions of Islamic Art: The Finds at Nishapur, Art as Historical Source, Understanding the Literature (Conclusion Irwin, Ch. 5 Armstrong)</p> <p>Week 8 Visit to Geneva Mosque, Final.</p> |
| <p>Additional Information</p> | <p>PLAGIARISM Students who are discovered cheating or committing plagiarism will be awarded a failing grade for the course, and may be subject to dismissal or further discipline.</p> <p>Reviewed and approved by Dr. Ayda Sakbani, Academic Director, Geneva, Switzerland. February 15, 2007</p> |