# COURSE DETAIL

| THE ARTS IN THE AGE OF THE GREAT CALIPHS 650-1250 |
| --- |
| **Country**<br>United Kingdom - Scotland |
| **Host Institution**<br>University of Edinburgh |
| **Program(s)**<br>University of Edinburgh |
| **UCEAP Course Level**<br>Upper Division |
| **UCEAP Subject Area(s)**<br>Art History |
| **UCEAP Course Number**<br>101 |
| **UCEAP Course Suffix** |
| **UCEAP Official Title**<br>THE ARTS IN THE AGE OF THE GREAT CALIPHS 650-1250 |
| **UCEAP Transcript Title**<br>ART:CALIPH 650-1250 |
| **UCEAP Quarter Units**<br>8.00 |
| **UCEAP Semester Units**<br>5.30 |

**Course Description**
This course considers the monuments and arts of the major imperial dynasties of the early and medieval Islamic empire. Our focus is the period from roughly 650, with the establishment of the Umayyad dynasty and the construction of the Dome of the Rock, to the Mongol invasions of the thirteenth-century and the infamous Sack of Baghdad. The course is organized around the cosmopolitan courts of the four early imperial dynasties (the 'great caliphates') and their allies and vassals, from North Africa to Central Asia. The emphasis of the course is on exploring the rise of Islamic art out of Antiquity and the astonishing development of an international Islamic visual language within a context of medieval global networks. Close attention will be paid to architecture and works across a range of media, and we will ask what these vibrant material and visual expressions reveal about early and medieval Islamic societies. We will consider a variety of themes, such as connections to Antiquity, visual culture as a means of self-fashioning, interchanges with non-Muslim polities, conceptions of earthly sovereignty, man's relationship with the divine, women and gender, the connections between the arts and other spheres of cultural production, etc.

**Language(s) of Instruction**
English

**Host Institution Course Number**
HIAR10165

**Host Institution Course Title**
THE ARTS IN THE AGE OF THE GREAT CALIPHS 650-1250

**Host Institution Course Details**

**Host Institution Campus**
University of Edinburgh

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**
Edinburgh College of Art: Art History

**Course Last Reviewed**

Print