

COURSE DETAIL

THE ARTS IN THE AGE OF THE GREAT CALIPHS 650-1250

Country

United Kingdom - Scotland

Host Institution

University of Edinburgh

Program(s)

University of Edinburgh

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Art History

UCEAP Course Number

101

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

THE ARTS IN THE AGE OF THE GREAT CALIPHS 650-1250

UCEAP Transcript Title

ART:CALIPH 650-1250

UCEAP Quarter Units

8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

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 Campus

University of Edinburgh

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Edinburgh College of Art: Art History

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