The course aims to discuss some important themes related to the study of architecture and painting in medieval Indian history. It will examine the development of medieval Indian architecture and painting within the frame of imperial ideologies and medieval polities, cross-cultural influence, social and cultural histories, issues of representations and finally in relation to the colonial and nationalist discourse.

The discussion on architecture will go beyond the exclusive study of monuments and emphasize upon aspects of power, religious identities and memories of the past and notions of heritage. This course will look at the political and cultural aspects of some select monuments in medieval and early modern Indian history, which have become contested sites in the present day. Going beyond the mere description of the structure, an attempt will be made to examine the structures within the broader spatial landscapes, in which the structures were located, attitudes of the communities in and around the monuments, narratives associated with and afterlife of the monuments. The relation with the imperial ideology will also be examined through architectural layouts of capital cities and royal gardens that were a part of the imperial project to control spaces and redesign the natural landscapes.

Similarly the issues of patronage and political legitimation will be discussed through visual representations in paintings. The themes in the Mughal and Deccani paintings, the transformation that they underwent, the European influences and interaction with the regional schools will receive attention. It will also be emphasized that the visual ideology was not only influenced by social, political and economic factors alone; the intellectual factors of that time also had an impact. This was reflected in the subjectivity of the artists and their individual approach towards a theme.

Since the field of architecture and painting is vast, only certain case studies will be focused upon to illustrate the abovementioned ideas. A separate handout comprising a reading list and an outline of the individual theme will be provided during the classes on that particular theme.

**Theme I**

1. Historical Trends and Historiography: Colonial and Nationalist Perspectives; Later Approaches in the Study of Architecture
2. Sources of Architecture: A Critical Study

**Theme II**

1. TEMPLE DESECRATION AS EXPRESSIONS OF POLITICAL CONQUESTS: Acts of temple desecration in the early medieval period; Somanatha temple and its history; Ghanznavid and Ghurid Conquests; temple desecration in the medieval period; Objects of Loot
2. MOSQUES IN MEDIEVAL PERIOD: the development of the early medieval mosque structure, select medieval mosques, social and political control, architectural forms—domes and arches

3. ARCHITECTURAL RE-USE, CONTESTED PASTS AND MEMORIES AS POLITICAL ASSERTION: Revival of old architectural forms and legacies in new buildings, different perceptions of the monument and its complex; assertion of power and expression of political ideologies:
   A) the Qutb and history of Delhi
   B) Vijayanagar-Bahamani relations: history of Bijapur, Raichur Doab, Warangal fort and the city of Hyderabad

Theme III

1. ARCHITECTURAL LAYOUT OF CAPITAL CITIES AND SITES OF IMPERIAL CONTROL: Palaces and Forts
   A) Fatehpur Sikri, Delhi and Hampi.
   B) Secondary sites and Metropolitan Region

2. LANDSCAPES OF POWER: Gardens as Reorienting Nature: Aesthetics and Control

3. ARCHITECTURE OF EVERYDAY LIFE: Stepwells and Water Systems, Control of Water; Select Temples and Tombs

Theme IV

MUGHAL, DECCANI AND RAJASTHANI PAINTINGS:
Regional School of Painting; Patronage and Rise of New Themes; Imperial Style and its Impacts; Miniature Paintings; Cross Cultural and Intellectual Influences; Rise of Local Workshops, Growth of Local Styles, Artist and the Issue of Subjectivity; Local Legends and Narrative Art


7. Mohammad Mujeeb. ‘The Qutb Complex as a Social Document’ (Finbarr Barry Flood, ed., *Piety and Politics In the Early Indian Mosque*, OUP, Delhi, 2008, pp. 120-129; Also in Monica Juneja, ed. *Architecture in Medieval India. Forms, Contexts and History*. Permanent Black, Delhi, 2008, pp.290-300.)

8. Sunil Kumar. ‘Qutb and Modern Memory’ (Finbarr Barry Flood, ed., *Piety and Politics In the Early Indian Mosque*, OUP, Delhi, 2008, pp. 150-178; Also in Suvir Kaul, ed. *The Partitions of Memory. The Afterlife of the Division of India*. Permanent Black, Delhi, 2008, pp. 140-82) (Can be downloaded from academia.edu)


35. __________. The Mughal Waterfront Garden, pp.1-21


