

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ARCHITECTURE AND PAINTING
M.A. MEDIEVAL INDIAN HISTORY
COURSE NO: 31418
CREDITS: 4
(2 ASSIGNMENTS: 2 CREDITS; END SEMESTER: 2 CREDITS)

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; Ghaznavid 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

1. Monica Juneja ed., *Architecture in Medieval India: Forms, Contexts, Histories*. Permanent Black, Ranikhet, 2001, 2008, Introduction
2. Hilal Ahmad, *Muslim Political Discourse in Postcolonial India. Monuments, Memory, Contestation*, Routledge, 2014.
3. Bernard Cohn Bernard Cohn, 'Transformation of Objects into Artifacts, Antiquities and Art in Nineteenth Century India', in Barbara Stoller Miller ed., *The Powers of Art. Patronage in Indian Culture*. OUP, Delhi, 1992, pp. 301-327.
4. Tapati Guha Thakurta, *Monuments, Objects, Histories: Institutions of Art in Colonial and Postcolonial India*, Cultures of History 2, Columbia University Press, New York, 2004.

5. Finbarr Barry Flood, *Objects of Translation: Material Culture and Medieval "Hindu-Muslim" Encounter*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2009 Introduction.
6. 'The Origins of the Qutb Mosque and Qutb Minar. A Nineteenth Century Controversy. Debate between Alexander Cunningham and J.D. Beglar' (Finbarr Barry Flood, ed., *Piety and Politics In the Early Indian Mosque*, OUP, Delhi, 2008, pp. 97-120)
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, pp. 140-82) ([Can be downloaded from academia.edu](#))
9. Alka Patel. 'Architectural Cultures and Empire. The Ghurids in Northern India', *Bulletin of the Asia Institute*. Vol. 21, 2007, pp. 35-60. ([Can be downloaded from academia.edu](#))
10. _____, 'Architectural Histories Entwined: The Rudra-Mahalaya/Congregational Mosque of Siddhpur, Gujarat', *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 63, No. 2 , 2004, pp. 144 -163. ([Can be downloaded from academia.edu](#))
11. _____, 'Merchants, Ghazis, and the Inception of an 'Islamic' Architecture in South Asia', Himanshu Prabha Ray, ed., *Sacred Landscapes in Asia. Shared Traditions. Multiple Histories*, India International Centre, Manohar, New Delhi, 2007, pp. 80-106.
12. _____, 'The Historiography of Reuse in South Asia', *Archives of Asian Art*, Volume 59, 2009, pp. 1-5. ([Remote Access, JNU Library, Project Muse](#))
13. _____, 'Expanding the Ghurid Architectural Corpus East of the Indus: The Ja ges'vara Temple at Sa dad i, Rajasthan', *Archives of Asian Art*, Volume 59, 2009, pp.56. ([Remote Access, JNU Library, Project Muse](#))
14. _____, *Building Communities in Gujarat. Architecture and Society during the Twelfth to Fourteenth Centuries*, E.J.Brill, Leiden, 2004.
15. *South Asian Studies*, 2016. [Routledge, Taylor and Francis, JNU Library, Remote Access. The entire volume is useful](#)
16. Romila Thapar, Somanatha. *The Many Voices of a History*. Penguin Viking, New Delhi, 2004.
17. Richard Eaton and Philip Wagoner, *Power, Memory, Architecture: Contested Sites on India's Deccan Plateau, 1300-1600*. OUP, New Delhi, 2014.
18. Richard H. Davis, *Lives of Indian Images*. Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1997.
19. _____, 'Indian Art Objects as Loot', *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 52, No. 1, 1993, pp. 22-48
20. Finbarr Barry Flood, ed., *Piety and Politics in Early Indian Mosques*. *Oxford in India Readings. Debates in Indian History and Society*, OUP, New Delhi, 2008.
21. _____, 'Ghurid monuments and Muslim identities: Epigraphy and exegesis in twelfth century Afghanistan', *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Vol. 42, No.3, 2005, pp.263-94.

22. _____, Objects of Translation. Material Culture and Medieval “Hindu-Muslim” Encounter, Permanent Black, Ranikhet, 2009.
23. Sunil Kumar, ed., Demolishing Myths or Mosques and Temples? Readings on History and Temple Desecration in Medieval India. Three Essays Collective, New Delhi, 2008.
24. Katherine Kasdorf, ‘Transporting Sculptures and Transferring Prestige: Hoysala-Style Reuse in the Belur Āṇḍāḷ Shrine’, South Asian Studies, 2016, pp. 1-27. (Routledge, Taylor and Francis, JNU Library, Remote Access. The entire volume is useful)
25. Catherine Asher, ‘The Architecture of Raja Man Singh: A Study of Sub-Imperial Patronage’, (Monica Juneja, ed. Architecture in Medieval India. Forms, Contexts and History), Permanent Black, Delhi, 2008, pp.370-97
26. Anthony Welch, Hussein Keshani, Alexandra Bain, ‘Epigraphs, Scripture, and Architecture in the Early Delhi Sultanate’, *Muqarnas*, Vol. 19, 2002, pp. 12-43
27. Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi, ‘Iranian Influence on Medieval Indian Architecture’, Irfan Habib, ed., A Shared Heritage. The Growth of Civilizations in India and Iran, Tulika, New Delhi, 2002, pp.127-49.
28. _____, ‘Medieval Indian Architecture: Its History and Evolution’, Symposium: History of Visual Arts: Architecture, Sculpture and Painting, Indian History Congress, 73rd Session, Mumbai, 2012
29. Percy Brown, Indian Architecture. (Islamic Period), Taraporevala Sons & Co., Bombay, 1956
30. Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi. Marks and Symbols of Professionals on Mughal Monuments. (Himanshu Prabha Ray, ed. *Sacred Landscapes in Asia. Shared Traditions and Multiple Histories*. IIC and Manohar, 2007, chapter VI. Also see Rezavi’s book on Fatehpur Sikri, *Fatehpur Sikri Revisited*. OUP, 2013)
31. _____, “Exploring the Mughal Garden at Fatehpur Sikri”, *Proceedings of Indian History Congress, 58th Session, Bangalore, 1997*, pp. 894-909.
32. Ebba Koch. 2001. *Mughal Art and Imperial Ideology. Collected Essays*. Delhi: OUP. (Download from the net)
33. _____.”Mughal Palace Gardens from Babur to Shah Jahan (1526-1648)”, *Muqarnas*, Vol. 14 (1997), pp. 143-165.
34. _____. The Taj Mahal: Architecture, Symbolism, and Urban Significance *Muqarnas*, Vol. 22 (2005), pp. 128-149.
35. _____. *The Mughal Waterfront Garden*, pp.1-21
36. Daud Ali and Emma Flatt, eds., *Garden and Landscape Practices in Precolonial India: Histories from the Deccan*. Delhi: Routledge. Introduction.
37. Alka Patel. Architectural Cultures and Empire. The Ghurids in Northern India. *Bulletin of the Asia Institute. Vol. 21*, 2007, pp. 35-60(Can be downloaded from academia.edu)
38. Rajiv Sharma and Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi. 1993. Aspects of Hydraulic Engineering in Medieval Rajasthan. A Case Study of Water System in Jaigarh Fort.(Art and Culture. Felicitation Volume in Honour of Professor of Nurul Hasan)
39. Yaaminey Mubayi. 2016. Ellora-Daultabad-Khuldabad. Water and Sacred Spaces. (Jutta Jain-Neubauer ed. 2016. *Water Design: Environment and Histories. Marg Quarterly, Vol. 68, No.1, Sept.2016*, pp. 129-41)

40. Jutta Jain-Neubauer. Characteristics of a Stepwell (Monica Juneja, ed. *Architecture in Medieval India. Forms, Contexts and History*. Permanent Black. Delhi, pp.473-526)
41. Ebba Koch. 1997. The Mughal Waterfront Garden. 1997. (*Gardens in the Time of the Great Muslim Empires: Theory and Design*, edited by Attilio Petruccioli, Leiden; New York: E.J. Brill, pp.140-60.)
42. Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi. Marks and Symbols of Professionals on Mughal Monuments. (Himanshu Prabha Ray, ed. *Sacred Landscapes in Asia. Shared Traditions and Multiple Histories*. IIC and Manohar, 2007, chapter VI. Also see Rezavi's book on Fatehpur Sikri)
43. Carla M. Sinopoli and Kathleen D Morrison. Dimensions of Imperial Control. The Vijayanagara Capital. (*American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 97, No. 1* (Mar., 1995), pp. 83-96) Can be downloaded from academia.edu)