Prof. Renata Holod
ARTH 417
Spring 2012
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5 PM

LATER ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE (1260 - 1700):
GREAT MONUMENTS FROM CAIRO TO AGRA
An introduction to aspects of Islamic architecture through study of its main late
medieval and early modern monuments, this lecture/ workshop course is designed
for students with little or no background in the history of architecture and/ or the
history of Islamic civilization.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE:
The course meets twice a week. Except for weeks 1 and 2, when the entire three
contact hours will be taken up lectures from Prof. Holod, the first meeting will
consist of a lecture by the professor, and will be followed a discussion session
during the second meeting on short topics led by students posted the prior week on
the courseweb.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:
WEEK 1 (January 12)

Introduction:
A discussion of the nature of an architectural monument in the thirteenth/
fourteenth century. Topics included will be inherited models, typologies and
contexts; architecture and structure; architecture and sites, urban and rural;
arboriculture and social context; architecture and craft traditions. All these issues
will be framed by a historic overview of the Islamic world and its transition from the
middle periods to those of the ‘gun-powder empires’.

WEEK 2 (January 17, 19)

Sultaniyye (NW Iran): a new capital for a new dynasty, the Ilkhanids.
The great dome of the mausoleum complex of Oljeitu, the nature of its
structure, processes of its construction and the meaning of its ornamental programs.
Mongol rulers and their local agents: channels of cultural transmission and
innovation.

WEEK 3 (January 24, 26)

Provincial centers
Architecture of the provincial elites; fall-out from capital-building processes;
distinguishing the regional, local and capital building and ornamenting traditions.

WEEK 4 (January 31, February 2)
Samarkand (present-day Uzbekistan)
The formation of the new Timurid aesthetic and its component parts; the shrine complex of the Shah -i Zinda as continuity; the Bibi Khanum Mosque, the center in a new capital zone for a destroyed city.

**WEEK 5 (February 7, 9)**
Later Timurids in Herat (present –day Afghanistan) and elsewhere
Women as architectural patrons, the example of Gawhar Shad and her complexes; shrines as locations of patronage and piety

**WEEK 6 (February 21, 23)**
Cairo
The complex of Sultan Hasan; the design and construction of Mamluk complexes, and their architects and builders; local traditions and imported ideas.

**WEEK 7**
Cairo
Its stone domes; the Mamluk city, its vistas, residences and functions.

March 4: MID –TERM EXAMINATION
FIRST PAPER DUE

**WEEK 8 (March 13, 15)**
Istanbul and Sinan
The Byzantine and Ottoman prelude to Sinan’s great complexes; Suleymaniye and Selimiye, and the experiments of the intervening smaller complexes; the organization of the building and design processes

**WEEK 9 (March 20, 22)**
Istanbul, Sinan and his successors; biographies and creating a history of architects and architecture; Istanbul and the Bosphorus

**WEEK 10 (March 27, March 29)**
Isfahan
Capital building and landscape traditions intersect; an early modern capital for Iran; Shi’ism as state religion.

**March 30-31: SYMPOSIUM Masons At Work**
**Attendance obligatory**

**WEEK 11 (April 3, 5)**
Isfahan
The seventeenth- early eighteenth century look and looking, the coffee and feasting culture; is there an Isfahan school?
WEEK 12 (April 10, 12)
Fathepur Sikri, Akbar’s capital experiment: shrine, palace, garden, camp and market.

WEEK 13 (April 17, 19)
Agra and Taj Mahal: city, river, garden and dome

SECOND PAPER DUE

WEEK 14 (April 24, 26)
Conclusions: geometric, structural, ornamental and landscape concepts and their realizations.

FINAL EXAMINATION TBD

REQUIREMENTS:
1. Participation in discussion sessions (10%) on the basis of assigned readings
2. Two short, 5 - page papers presenting two different buildings, to be posted on discussion board; check posted list for choices (40%)
3. Mid-term test (20%)
4. Final examination (30%)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

REFERENCE:

Encyclopaedia of Islam, 2nd edition
Available in electronic form

With sections on Islamic religion, law, society, economy, and appendix with invaluable explanation of names, titles, and the Islamic calendar. 
(IN THE VAN PELT Middle East SEMINAR ROOM, 5th floor)

*Hillenbrand, Robert Islamic Architecture: Form, Function and Meaning (New York, 1994)


**READINGS FROM:**


Necipoglu, Gülru *The Topkapi Scroll* (Santa Monica, CA: 1995) NA 2706. A793 N43 1995


Petruccioli, Attilio *Fatehpursikri* (Milan: 2008)

Rizvi, Kishvar *The Safavid Dynastic Shrine: Architecture, Religion and Power in Early Modern Iran* (British Institute of Persian Studies)

NA2543.W65 T59 2006

WEB RESOURCES:

http://archnet.org/

http://wwwiranica.com

http://www.isfahan.org.uk/