Religion and Politics in Indian Art and Architecture  
Global Seminar in India 2010

How did religion, ritual, patronage, and politics combine to influence art and architecture in India? We will examine architectural stylistic developments, and the emergence of new ideas produced under the political authority exercised by different religious groups. Patterns of patronage that developed under Islam and European rule in India had powerful consequences for art and architecture on the subcontinent. At the same time, enduring distinctions of caste, class, and race differences surfaced in architectural form and function.

Students will develop their understanding of these intersectional histories by studying some of India's most remarkable architectural sites, including: the 5th century Buddhist cave monastery at Ajanta, the 8th century rock cut Jain and Hindu temples at Ellora, the temples of the Chola dynasty in and near Madurai, the grand monumental architecture of the Mughals in Agra and Fatehpur Sikri, and colonial and post-colonial architecture in Goa, Mumbai and Delhi. Though the seminar is primarily based in Goa, the center of Portuguese rule in India, we will spend ten days in Madurai, where students will have the opportunity to meet artists who continue to work in traditional ways.

Requirements
Daily readings from the course pack and Vidya Dehejia’s Indian Art (Phaidon)  
Active participation in class discussions based on the readings  
Each week 4 hours community work at Mother Theresa’s Home in Goa and in Madurai working with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage  
Midterm exam  
One Final paper (approximately 1200-2500 words)

Grades
Participation in class: 30%  
Midterm: 30%  
Final paper: 40%

Schedule
Saturday 5 June  
Arrival in Goa  
Pick up from the Goa Dabolim Airport  
Hotel Fidalgo, Panaji, Goa: http://www.hotelfidalgo-goa.com/

Sunday 6 June  
08.00 Breakfast and orientation

Week 1  
Monday 7 June:  
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction  
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: Introduction  
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch  
13.00 – 14.30 Seminar: Early town planning  
Reading: Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 (pp. 25-36)
Tuesday 8 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction.
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: *Deities and the Oral Tradition*
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Seminar: *The Epics*
15.00 – 17.00 Community work
Readings:
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 2 (pp. 36-48) and 3

Wednesday 9 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: *Early Buddhist stupas and sculpture*
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Gandhara and a discussion on Aniconism
15.00 – 17.00 Community work
Readings:
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 4

Thursday 10 June:
08.00 – 09.15 Hindi language instruction
09.30 – 11.00 Seminar: *Cave monasteries and temples*
Readings:
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 5

**Departure from Goa for Aurangabad**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday:
Weekend excursion to the 5th century rock cut monasteries and 8th century temples in Aurangabad, Ajanta and Ellora

**Week 2**
Monday 14 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: *Darshan - Image and Temple*
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Seminar: Visit to the local temple for darshan
Readings:
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 6

Tuesday 15 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: *Representation and Spectatorship in early Indian art*
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Discussion: Feminine images in Indian art
15.00 – 17.00 Community work
Readings:
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 7

Wednesday 16 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: Temples and Bronze Images
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Discussion: The Sensuous is Sacred
15.00 – 17.00 Community work
Readings:
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 9

Thursday 17 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: Temples Cities
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.00 Seminar: Vijayanagara
Readings:
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 10

Friday 18 June, Saturday 19 June and Sunday 20 June: Explore on your own
Students may choose to explore several possibilities including visiting cities such as Mumbai (direct trains [7 hours] and flights [1 hour] from Goa). You could also stay in Goa, and explore its many towns, villages, and beaches.

Week 3
Monday 21 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Midterm Exam
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: Islam on the subcontinent
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Seminar: Sultanate art and architecture
Readings:
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 11

Tuesday 22 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 –11.30 Seminar: Islamic art and architecture on the Iberian Peninsula I
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Seminar: Early Mughal art and architecture
15.00 – 17.00 Community work
Readings:
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 13 (pp. 299-319)

Wednesday 23 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: Islamic art and architecture on the Iberian Peninsula II
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Seminar: The Height of Mughal art and architecture
15.00 – 17.00 Community work
Readings:
Ebba Koch, “Netherlandish naturalism in Imperial Mughal painting,” in Apollo, No. 152, November 2000, pp. 29-37
Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 13 (pp. 319-334)

Thursday 24 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: Monumental Memorials
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Discussion session
Readings:

Friday, Saturday and Sunday:
Weekend excursion to the 16th and 17th century Mughal monuments in and around Agra.
[Late Thursday evening or early Friday morning departure from Goa]

Week 4
Monday 28 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: Politics, Religion and Society in early Portuguese Goa
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Seminar: Architecture under Portuguese rule in Goa
15.00 – 17.00 Community work
Readings:

Tuesday 29 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: Portugal and the World in the 16th and 17th centuries
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.40 On site discussion: Churches in the city of Old Goa

Wednesday 30 June:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: Hybridization under colonial rule
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Seminar: Portuguese legacy on Goan architecture
15.00 – 17.00 Community work
Readings:

Thursday 1 July:
08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction
10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: The British Raj
11.30 – 13.00 Lunch
13.00 – 14.30 Seminar: Corbusier in Chandigarh
Readings:
Giles H.R.Tillotson, "Orientalizing the Raj. Indo-Saracenic Fantasies," in Marg vol.46, pp. 15-34

Friday 2 July
An optional day trip will be organized to visit Hindu temples in Goa, including the only surviving temple that predates Portuguese rule

Saturday 3 July
Prepare to leave Goa for Madurai

Sunday 4 July:
Flight to Madurai
Madurai Orientation

Week 5
Monday 5 July:
07.30 Leave hotel to Visit the early Jain caves near Madurai
10.45 – 12.15 Impressions of Jainism on the religion and visual culture of Tamil Nadu
12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
14.30 – 16.30 Community work
Readings:

Tuesday 6 July:
08.00 – 9.00 Preparatory lecture about the temple at the hotel.  
09.15 leave for the temple.  
09.45 – 12.00 **Noon Lecture and Discussion session on site at the Meenakshi Amman temple**  
12.15 – 13.30 Lunch  
14.30 – 16.30 Community work  
Readings:  

**Wednesday 7 July:**  
08.00 – 10.15 **Visit Alagar Koil a temple dedicated to Vishnu**  
10.30 – 12.00 **Lecture and Discussion at Alagar Koil**  
12.00 – 13.00 Lunch  
18.00 – 19.30 Bharatha Natyam: Dance recital on the **Dasavatharam** *(Optional)*  
Lecture demonstration on religious symbolism for Saivites, Vaishnavites and Saktas.  
The Karanas depicted in sculptures and used in Dance forms. The Professor has  
Choreographed three dance pieces to bring out all these hand gestures, expressions and  
dance postures.  
Readings:  
Huyler, Stephen P., “The Experience: Approaching God” in The Life of Hinduism, John Stratton and  
Frykenberg, Robert Eric, “Construction of Hinduism as the Nexus of History and Religion” in Defining  

**Thursday 8 July**  
08.30 – 10.00 **The Stapatis and Stonemasons – fusion between the Aryan and Dravidian art and architecture**  
10.30 – 12.15 **Discussion session with the sculptors at work at the Meenakshi temple**  
12.30 – 13.30 Lunch  
Readings:  

**Leave Madurai around 3 PM for Thanjavur**  

**Friday 9 July:**  
08.00 – 10.30 Visit the Bragadeshwara temple  
11.00 – 14.00 Visit Saraswathi Mahal Library and Museum  
15.30 Leave for Kumbakonam  
19.30 Dinner in Kumbakonam  
20.30 Leave for Tanjavur.  

**Saturday 10 July:**  
07.30 in the morning leave for visit the Darasuram and Gangai Konda Cholapuram  

**Sunday 11 July:**  
08.30 – 12.00 Visit the Tanjore Painters and Veena makers  
12.30 Lunch  
14.00 Leave for Madurai.
Week 6
Monday 12 July
08.30 – 10.00 **The Nayaka period and the Kural Alakar Temple**
10.30 – 12.15 **Discussion on the Kural Alakar and other temples in the area**
12.15 – 13.30 Lunch
14.30 – 16.30 Community service
**Reading:**

Tuesday 13 July
8.30 – 10.00 *Meet the potter priest Arivanandam at his village temple*
   Hands on experience with a Potter's wheel
10.30 – 12.15 **Discussion with local scholars on a typical Dravidian place of worship**
12.15 – 13.30 Lunch

**Wednesday 14 July:**
Submit Final Paper
Evening at Seed

**Thursday 15 July:**
Leave Madurai for Delhi

**Friday 16 July:**
Explore Delhi independently

**Saturday 17 July**
Departure from Delhi for the US

Note: Depending on flights and other travel plans for fieldtrips, times listed may be adjusted at a later day.