

## **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-go.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

Susan Huntington, "Early Buddhist Art and the Theory of Aniconism," in *Art Journal* (Winter 1990), pp. 401-408.

Vidya Dehejia, "Aniconism and the Multivalence of Emblems," in *Ars Orientalis* 21 (1991), pp. 45-66.

Thursday 10 June:

08.00 – 09.15 Hindi language instruction  
09.30 – 11.00 **Seminar: *Cave monasteries and temples***

Readings:

Vidya Dehejia: Chapter 5

Sonit Bafna, "On the Idea of the Mandala as a Governing Device," in *Indian Architectural Tradition in Proceedings, ACSA West Regional Meeting* (1999), pp. 308-314.

**Departure from Goa for Aurangabad**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday:

Weekend excursion to the 5<sup>th</sup> century rock cut monasteries and 8<sup>th</sup> 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

Michael W. Meister, "Fragments From a Divine Cosmology: Unfolding Forms on India's Temple Walls," in *Gods, Guardians, and Lovers: Temple Sculptures from North India A.D. 700-1200*, Vishakha N. Desai and Darielle Mason (eds.), (New York: The Asia Society Galleries 1993) pp. 94-115.

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

Darielle Mason, “A Sense of Time and Place, Style and architectural Disposition of Images on the North Indian Temple,” in *Gods, Guardians, and Lovers: Temple Sculptures from North India A.D. 700-1200*, Vishakha N. Desai and Darielle Mason (eds.), (New York: The Asia Society Galleries 1993) pp. 116-37.

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

Padma Kaimal, “Early Chola Kings and Early Chola Temples: Art and the Evolution of Kingship,” in *Artibus Asiae*, Vol. 56, No. 1/2 (1996), pp. 33-66.

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

Mallica Kumbera Landrus, “Vijayanagara art: A Political and Historical Metaphor,” in *Sagar* 10 (2003) 78–101.

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:

Oleg Grabar, "Two Paradoxes in the Islamic Art of the Spanish Peninsula," in *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*, Salma Khadra Jayyusi ed. (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994), pp. 583-591.

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:

Oleg Grabar, "Architecture and Art," in *The Genius of Arab Civilization: Source of Renaissance*, John R. Hayes, ed. (Oxford: Phaidon Press, 1976), pp. 77-102.

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:

Wayne Begley, "The Myth of the Taj Mahal and a New Theory of its Symbolic Meaning," in *The Art Bulletin* 61, No. 1 (Mar., 1979), pp. 7-37.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday:

Weekend excursion to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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:

P.P. Shirdokar, "Socio-Cultural Life in Goa During 16th Century," in *Goa and Portugal: their cultural links*, Charles J. Borges, Helmut Feldmann eds. (New Dehli: Ashok Kumar Mittal, 1997), pp. 23-40.

Mallica Kumbera Landrus, "Taking ownership with Architecture," in *Vanamala* (2006), pp. 97-107.

Tuesday 29 June:

08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction

10.00 – 11.30 **Seminar: *Portugal and the World in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries***

11.30 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.40 **On site discussion: *Churches in the city of Old Goa***

Encompassing the Globe: Portugal and the World in the 16th & 17th Centuries II (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2008)

Dauril Alden, *The Making of an Enterprise: the Society of Jesus in Portugal, its empire, and beyond: 1540-1750* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1996), pp. 41-52.

Glenn J. Ames, "Pedro II and the "Estado da India": Braganzan Absolutism and Overseas Empire, 1668-1683," in *Luso-Brazilian Review*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (Winter, 1997), pp. 1-13

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:

Gauvin Alexander Bailey, "Jesuit Art and Architecture in Asia," in *The Jesuits and the Arts, 1540-1773*, John W. O'Malley and Gauvin Alexander Bailey eds. (Philadelphia: Saint Joseph's University Press, 2005), pp. 313-332; 349-355.

Paul Axelrod, Michelle A. Fuerch, "Flight of the Deities: Hindu Resistance in Portuguese Goa," in *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (May, 1996), pp. 387-421.

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

Sunand Prasad, "Le Corbusier in India," in *Le Corbusier Architect of the Century*, pp. 278-337.

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:

Cort, John, "Open Boundaries, Jain Communities and Cultures," in *Indian History*, John Cort (ed.), (Albany: State University of New York 1995)

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:

Ramanujan, A.K., “Introduction,” in *Speaking of Siva* (Penguin Books 1973), pp. 19-55.

Fuller, C.J., “Gods and Goddesses,” in *The Camphor Flame* (Princeton University Press 1992) pp. 29-56.

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 Vasudha Narayanan eds. (Berkeley: University of California Press 2006) pp. 33-41.

Frykenberg, Robert Eric, “Construction of Hinduism as the Nexus of History and Religion” in *Defining Hinduism A Reader*, J. E. Llewellyn (Routledge 2005), pp. 125-147.

Thursday 8 July

08.30 – 10.00 ***The Stapati 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:

Branfoot, Crispin, “Expanding Form: The Architectural Sculpture of the South Indian Temple, ca. 1500-1700” in *Artibus Asiae*, Vol. 62, No. 2 (2002), pp. 189-245.

**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 Thanjavur.

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 Kotal Alakar Temple**

10.30 – 12.15 **Discussion on the Kotal Alakar and other temples in the area**

12.15 – 13.30 Lunch

14.30 – 16.30 Community service

### Reading:

Branfoot, Crispin, “Approaching the Temple in Nayaka-Period Madurai: The Kūṭal Aḷakar Temple” in *Artibus Asiae*, Vol. 60, No. 2 (2000), pp. 197-221.

### 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.**