

Syllabus
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. The seminar is primarily based in Goa, the center of Portuguese rule in India, though we will also spend ten days in Madurai, where students will have the opportunity to meet artists who continue to work in traditional ways.

Students will be evaluated on their understanding of the historical information, themes, and conceptual issues presented in the readings, lectures, and discussions sessions. They will also be evaluated upon their ability to apply critical thinking skills in discussion and in the composition of essays.

Requirements

Daily readings

Active participation in class discussions

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

Group Project

Final Paper

Grades

Midterm: 25%

Group Project on Hindu temples in Goa and short individual papers: 30%

Final Paper: 30%

Participation in class: 15%

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***

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:

Susan S Wadley, “Women and the Hindu Tradition,” in *Signs*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Women and National Development: The Complexities of Change (Autumn, 1977), pp. 113-125

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:

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 – 09.30 **Seminar: *Cave monasteries and temples***

Departure from Goa for Aurangabad

Readings:

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.

Walter Spink, “The Archaeology of Ajanta,” in *Ars Orientalis*, Vol. 21, pp. 67-94.

Friday and Saturday:

Weekend excursion to the 5th century rock cut monasteries and 8th century temples in Aurangabad, Ajanta and Ellora.

Sunday:

Departure from Aurangabad for Goa

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, "Darshan: Image and Temple," in *Indian Art* (1997) pp.137-152.

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:

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.

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:

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 **Discussion: group projects – progress and problems**

Readings:

Mallica Kumbera Landrus, "Vijayanagara art: A Political and Historical Metaphor," in *Sagar* 10 (2003) pp. 78-101.

Friday 18 June, Saturday 19 June and Sunday 20 June: **Explore on your own**

You 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:

08.00 – 09.30 **Midterm Exam**

09.30 – 10.00 Break

10.00 – 11.30 **Seminar: *Sultanate art and architecture***

11.30 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.30 **Seminar: *Early Mughal art and architecture***

Readings:

Vidya Dehejia, "Linear Abstractions: Art and the Sultans of India," in *Indian Art* (1997) pp. 247-272.
Vidya Dehejia, "Visions of Paradise: The Luxury of Mughal Art," in *Indian Art* (1997) pp. 299-319.

Tuesday 22 June:

08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction

10.00 – 11.30 **Seminar: *The Height of Mughal art and architecture I***

11.30 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.30 **Seminar: *Islamic art and architecture on the Iberian Peninsula I***

15.00 – 17.00 Community work

Readings:

Vidya Dehejia, "Visions of Paradise: The Luxury of Mughal Art," in *Indian Art* (1997) pp. 319-334.

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.

Wednesday 23 June:

08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction

10.00 – 11.30 **Seminar: *The Height of Mughal art and architecture II***

11.30 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.30 **Seminar: *Islamic art and architecture on the Iberian Peninsula II***

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.

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.

Thursday 24 June:

Early morning departure for Delhi

Coach from Delhi to Agra and Fatehpur Sikri

Late afternoon and evening: Explore Agra on your own

Friday and Saturday:

16th and 17th century Mughal monuments in Fatehpur Sikri and Agra.

Sunday

Return to 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

Note: Topic for Final paper with a bibliography is due today. You can not change your topic, but you may make changes to your bibliography before handing in the paper on 15 July.

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:

Note: Since a bus has to be booked for the temple visits on Friday, your choices (1 per group) must be submitted today.

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 discussions: *Churches in the city of Old Goa*** [Archaeological Survey of India] 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": Braganza 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: *The British Raj***

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.

Giles H.R. Tillotson, "Orientalizing the Raj. Indo-Saracenic Fantasies," in *Marg* vol.46, pp. 15-34

Thursday 1 July:

08.30 – 09.45 Hindi language instruction

10.00 – 11.30 **Seminar: *Corbusier in Chandigarh***

11.30 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.30 Talk by a local architect TBA

Readings:

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

Friday 2 July

Visit the temples chosen the groups in class (your choices should be made by Tuesday 29 June)

Saturday 3 July

Prepare to leave Goa for Madurai

Sunday 4 July:

Flight to Madurai

Madurai Orientation

Week 5

Note: While we are in Madurai, you will learn from local scholars as well as meet with local traditional artists. This is also the last week to discuss your final paper topic with me.

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:

Leslie C Orr, Jain and Hindu “Religious Women” in early medieval Tamil Nadu,” in Indian History, John Cort (ed.), (Albany: State University of New York 1995), pp. 187-212

Richard H Davis, “The story of the disappearing Jains,” in Indian History, John Cort (ed.), (Albany: State University of New York 1995), pp. 213-224

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 *Lecture and Discussion session on site at the Meenakshi Amman temple*

12.15 – 13.30 Lunch

14.30 – 16.30 Community work

Readings:

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

C.J. Fuller, “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:

Stephen P. Huyler, “The Experience: Approaching God” in The Life of Hinduism, John Stratton and Vasudha Narayanan eds. (Berkeley: University of California Press 2006) pp. 33-41.

Robert Eric Frykenberg, “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 Stapatists 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

Leave Madurai around 3 PM for Thanjavur

Readings:

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

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.
Note: Last day to discuss your paper

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:

Crispin Branfoot, “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:

Work on Final Paper
Evening at Seed

Thursday 15 July:

Submit Final Paper before departure for Delhi
Morning departure from Madurai for Delhi
Late afternoon arrival in 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. Some plans may be affected by the monsoons in India. Depending on local scholars, some small changes to the syllabus may be made in early June. You will receive a final copy of the syllabus on the first day of class.