

**Course:** ARCH 489 -Visual Cultures of Islamic South Asia  
**Time:** M 6:30-9:00 pm  
**Instructor:** Dr. Stephen Caffey  
**Office:** ARCA Langford A314

**Semester:** Spring 2010  
**Location:** ARCA Langford 323  
**Contact:** via elearning email  
**Office Hours:** M 3:00-5:00 pm or by appointment

**Course Description:** This course surveys the myriad forms of visual expression produced in South Asia prior to and during the reigns of the Mughal emperors (c. 1526-1857). Works to be considered include Mughal miniature painting, Mughal mosque, palace and tomb architecture; khilats, jama, tents and carpets; thrones; weapons, jewelry and precious objects; and various forms of durbar, procession and spectacle. Thematically the course engages 1) artistic expressions of power, faith and pleasure associated with Islamic rule in its specifically South Asian contexts; 2) the visual traditions and practices of non-Muslim communities, including but not limited to Hindu and Jain; and 3) the presence of the British, whose influence gained greater potency following the transfer of the diwani to the British East Indian Company in 1765.

**Prerequisites:** ARTS 149 or ARCH 249, junior or senior classification, or permission of the course instructor.

**Class Format:** Each 3-hour seminar includes a brief lecture by the instructor followed by discussions of the readings. Each week, students will be expected to comment on the readings and propose questions to the class. Each seminar session begins promptly at the scheduled time and runs the full two hours and 30 minutes. In some cases the material presented in the lecture will closely follow the images and concepts in the readings. In other cases, the instructor and guest lecturers will present material that does not appear in the textbook. Students will be responsible for all material covered in the text, in online resources and in all lecture/discussion sessions.

**Course Objectives:** Students who attend all lecture/discussion sessions, complete all readings and perform satisfactorily on all exams will gain the following:

- an improved understanding of and sensitivity to the presence of and the shifting roles played by visual culture in South Asia during the rule of the Mughal emperors
- some of the basic vocabulary necessary to articulating formal and critical analyses of the various forms of visual culture produced in South Asia during the period under consideration
- a broadened understanding of the diversity and range of architectural and iconographic influences that permeated the visual cultures of the region under Islamic rule
- an increased sense of the contents, intents, contexts, and critical/aesthetic reception relevant to the visual cultures of South Asia, both within and outside Muslim contexts
- an improved appreciation for the diversity and complexity of art, artists, patrons and audiences that combine to form the images, objects and structures that comprise the realms of visual expression connected to the era, to the region and to the religious, cultural, and political traditions that defined the era and its peoples.

**Course Textbook:** Catherine B. Asher, *The New Cambridge History of India: Architecture of Mughal India*, *The New Cambridge History of India* 1:4 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992).

**Electronic Resources:** Most required readings and all optional readings will be posted on elearning.tamu.edu, where students will also find the course syllabus, links to useful websites, important schedule change information, announcements, discussion boards, study questions, exam reviews and grades. Video content will be posted at <http://mediamatrix.tamu.edu>.

For an online orientation to elearning, visit <http://itsinfo.tamu.edu/resources/elearning-orientation/>

For access to video content, log on with NetID at [https://cas.tamu.edu/cas/login?service=https://mediamatrix.tamu.edu/cas\\_service.php](https://cas.tamu.edu/cas/login?service=https://mediamatrix.tamu.edu/cas_service.php)

For panoramic views of many of the architectural monuments covered in this course, visit: <http://www.world-heritage-tour.org/asia/south-asia/india/map.html>

**Attendance:** Texas A&M University considers [class attendance](#) a matter of personal responsibility on the part of each student. Please see Exams, Student Evaluations and Course Grades below for information relevant to class participation.

**Courtesy Reminders:** In order to foster an environment in which all seminar participants can succeed, please observe the following guidelines:

- Please arrive a few minutes before each lecture/discussion session begins. Upon arrival, please move to a seat on the side of the room opposite the entrance. If you arrive after the class has begun, please move into the first available seat as quietly as possible.
- Please remain seated until the instructor signals that the class has ended. If you know beforehand that you must leave early, please sit in an aisle seat in the balcony and depart as quietly as possible.
- Please silence and stow all cell phones before the lecture/discussion begins. Please do not make or receive calls or send or receive text messages during class. Please mute the speakers on all laptop computers.
- Please turn off and stow all other electronic devices (iPods, MP3 players, PDAs, portable gaming devices, etc.) before the lecture/discussion session begins and keep them stowed until the instructor ends the session. Please remove and stow all headphones, headsets and earbuds before the lecture/discussion session begins and keep them stowed until the instructor ends the session.
- Please refrain from any and all behavior that distracts fellow students or otherwise disrupts the lecture/discussion session.
- Each student should feel free to ask questions, respond to instructor questions and to engage in discussion. Toward that goal, please limit comments to ideas expressed.

In addition to these instructor guidelines, Texas A&M University has enacted and enforces [official policies](#) regarding classroom conduct.

**Exams, Student Evaluation and Course Grades:** Two exam scores, class participation and one final research paper/analysis/design project comprise the ARCH 489 final course grade. Each essay format exam will be worth 30% of the final course grade, with the paper/design project worth 25%. As indicated in the attendance section of the syllabus, class participation comprises 15% of the final course grade. Details on exams and grading rubrics for exams, class participation, papers and design projects will be made available prior to the first exam.

Midterm Exam	30% (essay format)
Final Exam	30% (essay format)
Final Project	25% (research paper/structural analysis/model)
Class Participation	15% (contributions to discussion + weekly in-class reading quizzes)

**Grading Scale:** 90-100 = A      80-89.999 = B      70-79.999 = C      60-69.999 = D      0-59.999 = F

Grades will post on [elearning.tamu.edu](http://elearning.tamu.edu) within 10 days of each exam. Exam booklets and signed honor code agreements will remain in the instructor's office for a period of one year per department policy. Students who wish to consult with the instructor regarding exam grades may drop by during scheduled instructor office hours or schedule a special appointment via [elearning](mailto:) email.

**Make-Up Exams for Excused Absences:** In the event of an [excused absence](#) on a scheduled exam date, the instructor will offer a make-up exam to be completed within 30 calendar days from the exam date absence.

**Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days:** Texas House Bill 256 (effective 9/1/03) states "An institution of higher education shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence." The Dean of Faculties has provided a list of days of religious observance for the semester, and examinations have not been scheduled on those days.

**Make-Up Exams for Unexcused Absences:** If a student misses an exam and is unable to provide the documentation required for an excused absence, the instructor [is under no obligation](#) to provide an opportunity for the student to make up the exam. However, the instructor *may* offer a make-up exam at his discretion.

**Accommodating Special Needs: American Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall or call 845-1637. For additional information see <http://disability.tamu.edu>

**The Aggie Honor Code and Academic Integrity:** “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student automatically assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: [www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor](http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor).

Academic integrity is encouraged in keeping with Texas A&M University policies. On each exam, you will be asked to sign the following pledge: “On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.” Students cheating or illicitly obtaining/providing answers on an exam or quiz will receive a grade “0” for the exam and possibly a grade of “F” for the entire course. All suspected violations will be reported to the Honor Council to determine whether further sanctions are necessary.

Additional information may be found by clicking on the following links:

Academic calendar -- <http://calendar.tamu.edu/academic/?q=Academic+Calendar&search=search&submit=Submit&limit=100>

Final Exam Schedule -- [http://admissions.tamu.edu/registrar/General/FinalSchedule.aspx#\\_Spring\\_2010](http://admissions.tamu.edu/registrar/General/FinalSchedule.aspx#_Spring_2010)

Student Rules -- <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/>

Course Catalogue -- <https://howdy.tamu.edu/cp/home/displaylogin>

**Please note: most communication relevant to the course will take place on [elearning.tamu.edu](http://elearning.tamu.edu). Please check the site, including email inbox and announcements, daily.**

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ARCH 489 Lecture/Discussion Schedule (required/optional readings and viewings posted on elearning.tamu.edu). Please note that the schedule is subject to change, depending upon the richness of class discussion. Any changes to the schedule will be posted under Announcements on elearning.tamu.edu.

Week 1 (1/25/10)	Introductions, Preview of Course Themes
Week 2 (2/1/10)	Indo-Islamic Visual Cultures of the Pre-Mughal Era
Week 3 (2/8/10)	The Mughals in Geopolitical Contexts
Week 4 (2/15/10)	Mughal Encounters with Extant Iconographies and Forms
Week 5 (2/22)	The Mughal Miniature Tradition
Week 6 (3/1)	Mughal Architecture - an overview
Week 7 (3/8)	Exam 1 (Midterm)
Week 8 (3/15)	Spring Break - NO CLASS
Week 9 (3/22)	Research Approaches
Week 10 (3/29)	The Mughal Garden
Week 11 (4/5)	Mughal Material Culture: Tents, Thrones, Clothing, Weapons, Carpets, Jewelry and precious objects
Week 12 (4/12)	Procession, Spectacle, Darbar
Week 13 (4/19)	Mughal Tomb Architecture
Week 14 (4/26)	Mosque & Palace Architecture
Week 15 (5/3)	Anglo-Indian Neoclassicism: Visualizing the Raj
Week 15 (5/7)	Exam 2 (cumulative final) Final Projects Due by 5:00 pm
17 May 2010	Grades Posted on elearning

**Please note:**

Under no circumstances will final grades be released or reported via phone or email prior to posting on elearning.