

HA2G4-15 The Arts of India's Royal Courts

26/27

Department

SCAPVC - History of Art

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Rosie Dias

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

50% coursework, 50% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module will explore the patronage of art and architecture at India's royal courts from the era of Mughal expansion to the end of British rule in the subcontinent.

Module aims

This module will offer an overview of the developments in the visual arts at India's royal courts from the sixteenth to early twentieth centuries during the periods of successive Mughal and European conquest, expansion and colonialism. Concepts of kingship evolved and shifted across time and space in the subcontinent, and the symbolic language deployed by rulers expressed itself through a rich array of visual objects and architectural projects. Patronage of the arts by India's princely states engendered not only artistic developments and innovations, but supported political processes, religious identity and economic and social structures. Beginning with the Mughal empire and ending at the moment just prior to Independence, the module will move across the diverse ethnic, religious and cultural boundaries of India's princely states to explore the varied categories, forms and functions of painting, architecture and the decorative arts in the royal courts.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Introduction: What is “Indian” art?;

From Power to Elegance: architecture of the Mughal emperors;

Painting and the Decorative Arts in the Mughal court;

Rajput painting and the representation of courtly life;

Bhava: mood and landscape in Mewar painting;

Trip to V&A;

Cultural hybridity in eighteenth-century Lucknow;

Ranjit Singh and the Patronage of Art in the Punjab;

Baroda and the institutionalisation of “fine” art;

Indian Princes and the West;

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the diversity of the regional courts of South Asia and their systems of patronage
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the subjects, meanings and techniques of Indian court painting from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries
- Show an understanding of the political, religious and social functions of the art and architecture produced for South Asian courts
- Present an argument, initiate and sustain group discussion through intelligent questioning and debate at an appropriate level
- Ability to undertake research and to write up the results in the form of a well-structured argument at an appropriate level
- Familiarity with essential ICT skills
- Ability to collaborate effectively with others
- Show understanding of diverse viewpoints
- Ability to find, select, organize and synthesize evidence
- Ability to formulate a sustained argument
- Think conceptually and independently at an appropriate level
- Sophisticated visual analysis
- Bibliographical skills at an appropriate level
- Critical analysis of cultural artefacts in their context

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the diversity of the regional courts of South Asia and their systems of patronage
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the subjects, meanings and techniques of Indian court painting from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries
- Show an understanding of the political, religious and social functions of the art and architecture produced for South Asian courts
- sophisticated visual analysis
- critical analysis of cultural artefacts in their context

Transferable skills

- present an argument, initiate and sustain group discussion through intelligent questioning and debate at an appropriate level
 - ability to undertake research and to write up the results in the form of a well-structured argument at an appropriate level
 - familiarity with essential ICT skills
 - ability to collaborate effectively with others
 - show understanding of diverse viewpoints
 - ability to find, select, organize and synthesize evidence
 - ability to formulate a sustained argument
 - think conceptually and independently at an appropriate level
 - bibliographical skills at an appropriate level
-

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
External visits	1 session of 2 hours (1%)
Private study	130 hours (87%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Required and recommended reading for seminar presentations, research for written assessment and revision for examinations.

Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Field trips, placements and study abroad	Trip to V&A or other collection in London	Department	£0.00

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group C2

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessed Essay 2000 word essay	40%		No
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Engagement	10%		No
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Online Written Assignment (Open Book) Summer Term Exam Assignment	50%		No

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback and dedicated feedback tutorials

[Past exam papers for HA2G4](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UHAA-V3R3 Undergraduate History of Art with Italian

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHAA-V401 Undergraduate History of Art
- Year 2 of UHAA-V3R3 Undergraduate History of Art with Italian