Description:
Patterns of patronage that developed under Mughal and European rule in South Asia had significant consequences for visual material and culture on the Indian subcontinent. Aware of the potential of art and architecture as means of self-representation, political powers asserted their status in diverse ways. To express multiple identities, they drew ideas from regional and trans-regional cultures. Objects and architectural sites will be examined in light of their cultural, political and socio-economic context, as well as stylistic developments, and the emergence of new ideas produced under the political authority exercised by the different religious groups. Using the collections in the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, the classes will be held in an Eastern Art study room with opportunities for students to handle and view objects that represent the period and are relevant to the topic discussed each week.

Assignments: Weekly essays (approximately 1500 words) are due Monday noon.

General Readings:
Catherine B. Asher and Cynthia Talbot, India Before Europe, 2006.
Anne D’Alleva, Methods and Theories of Art History, 2005.
Week 1: Introduction: Period before 1500
Readings:
Vidya Deheji, Indian Art, 1997, 4–296.
-----, A social history of the Deccan, 1300-1761: eight Indian lives, 2005.

Week 2: Mughal Paintings
Readings:
Milo C. Beach, Early Mughal Painting, 1987.
John Seyller, Workshop and Patron in Mughal India, 1999.
Andrew Topsfield, Paintings from Mughal India in the Bodleian Library, 1994.

Week 3: Mughal Architecture
Readings:
Catherine Asher, Architecture of Mughal India, 1992.
Michael Brand and Glenn D Lowry, Akbar’s India: Art from the Mughal City of Victory, 1985.
Elizabeth Moynihan, Paradise as a Garden, 1979.
Week 4: Rajput Art and Architecture

Readings:
* Molly Emma Aitken, *The Intelligence of Tradition in Rajput Court Painting*, 2010.*

Week 5: The Portuguese in India

Readings:
Sidh Losa Mendiratta (writes in Portuguese as well as English. Check his website)
*Also suggested with reference to the essay this week:*

Week 6: The British Raj

Readings:

Week 7: Nationalism and Modernity in Indian Architecture

Readings:


**Week 8: Tradition in Modern and Contemporary Art?**

**Readings:**


Essl Museum (ed.), Chalo! India – A New Era of Indian Art, 2009.


Alooer Mitha et al., Mapping Art South Asia – A visual and cultural dialogue between Britain and South Asia, 2006.

P.R. Ramachandra, Contemporary Indian Art, 1969.
