

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

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Humanities Discipline: Art History

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World Religion: Islam

Teaching Module Title: Fundamental Traditions in Islamic Art

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Understand and be able to identify the key aspects of Islamic Art
2. Understand the main features of a mosque
3. Be able to identify the how Islamic Art influences non-sacred spaces

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/orna/hd_orna.htm

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-islam/beginners-guide-islamic/a/introduction-to-islam-2> (the entire section)

<http://www.shangrilahawaii.org/islamic-art-collection/about><http://www.shangrilahawaii.org/islamic-art-collection/about-islamic-art/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/art/art_1.shtml

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYr-L-HTzjo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pg1NpMmPv48>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geyoQMi6c1g>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What is Mecca and why it is important to Muslim pilgrims?
2. What is the role/history of the Kaba?
3. How does spolia play a part in mosque architecture? What connections can we draw from our discussion of early Christians use of spolia?
4. How does calligraphy play an important role in Islamic art?
5. Why is geometry a crucial feature in Islamic art?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

For the written assignment for this module, students are to write a compare/contrast paper (2 pages) explaining how Muslim traditions in art have become integrated into non-religious areas. I would urge students to note the architectural features of mosques and try to think of other ways in which these features have been use in non-Islamic buildings. They could also do a compare/contrast paper regarding how calligraphy is being worked into Islamic street art.