

ARTH 2680/6680 and SAST 2680/6680: ART AND EMPIRE IN INDIA, 1750-1900
WF 10:15-11:45
Fall 2023

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Jaffe 305
Office hours: Wednesday 12-1 pm, and by appointment



Francesco Renaldi, *Muslim Lady Reclining*, 1789, oil on canvas. Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection.

Course description:

This course surveys transformations in visual culture between the Mughal and British empires in India from the mid-eighteenth through the nineteenth centuries. We shall consider changes in artistic production, patronage, publics, and viewing protocols in the contexts of the court and bazaar. We shall examine the emergence of new technologies and its impact on visual forms, media, and genres, focusing on the interplay of photography, print, and painting. We shall explore the role of institutions –the art school, the museum, and the archeological survey– and the professions and practices they engendered. We shall analyze how architecture and urban planning created new built environments and social relationships in colonial India. We shall view objects first-hand in the Penn Museum, Penn Libraries, and Philadelphia Museum of Art. This is a reading- and writing-intensive course. Students with a background in related disciplines such as literature, history, religious studies, anthropology, architecture, cinema and media studies, and South Asian Studies are especially welcome.

Course requirements:

Your grade for the course will be assessed on the basis of class participation and quizzes (25%); two papers (25% each, 2000 words each); and an in-class unit exam (25%). All assignments must be completed for a passing grade.

If you need an extension on a paper, please contact the instructor at least 48 hours in advance of the deadline. You must have a valid reason such as a medical or family emergency. All papers must be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in a 12-point Times font.

For each day (including weekends) your paper is late, 5 points will be deducted from your grade, that is, a 100 will become a 95, a 95 will become a 90, etc. Papers submitted on the day they are due but after the deadline are also late.

Course materials:

The textbook for the course is Barbara D. Metcalf and Thomas Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002), available as an ebook through Penn Libraries (other editions are fine). Other required reading will be available on Canvas. All required and recommended readings are on reserve in Fisher.

Course policies:

All scheduled lectures, readings, and screenings are subject to change. You are responsible for any changes mentioned in class, including changes to the class schedule or course policies.

No screens (laptops, iPads, etc.) are allowed in class. Please arrive in class on time and turn off your cell phones in advance.