**Islamic Gardens**

Amy Rebecca Gansell

This course explores gardens of the Islamic World, covering a breadth of historical, cultural, geographic, and environmental contexts. After being introduced to the Islamic world, the nature of specifically “Islamic” gardens is considered. While formal design and aesthetic experience is emphasized throughout, religious, social, and political implication of landscape design are studied through historic cases. Evidence for past gardens, archaeology, and garden conservation are addressed as well.

**Week 1 Introduction to Islamic culture, religion, and history**

Students are encouraged to browse entire books, outlining major themes. These books may be consulted for reference throughout the semester.

**Week 2 Introduction to Islamic gardens, Part 1: History and Symbolism**


**Week 3 Introduction to Islamic gardens, Part 2: Design and Layout**

- Emma Clark, Ch. 2 “Design and Layout” and Ch. 3 “Geometry, hard landscaping and architectural ornament,” in *The Art of the Islamic Garden* (Wiltshire, UK: Crowood Press, 2004), pp. 37-60, 61-86.

**Week 4 Introduction to Islamic gardens, Part 3: Plants and Water**

- Emma Clark, Ch. 4 “Water,” Ch. 5 “Trees and shrubs,” and Ch. 6 “Plants and flowers,” in *The Art of the Islamic Garden* (Wiltshire, UK: Crowood Press, 2004), pp. 87-112, 113-136, 137-169.
Week 5 Umayyad and Abbasid gardens of Syria and Iraq


Week 6 Spain


Week 7 Timurid gardens of Central Asia


Week 8 Mughal gardens of India and Pakistan

Week 9 Safavid gardens of Iran

Week 10 Seljuk gardens in Anatolia

Week 11 Ottoman gardens in Anatolia

Week 12 Garden carpets

Week 13: Field Trip

Weeks 14-15: Class presentations