❋ Algeria ❋
Islamic Art
RESEARCH PROJECT

overview
So how is this going to actually work?

Choose a Theme or Topic Area: read over all of the theme areas in this handout and combine and refine ideas and areas you're interested in to decide on a thematic area you would like to explore.

Develop Questions: Why are you interested in this theme/topic in the first place? What do you know? What do you want to know? What are you curious about, or have always wondered about your topic? These questions will drive the formation of your thesis, which we'll begin Week 6 in the library workshop.

Collect and Record Data: this will be an ongoing process, probably all the way until you complete your paper.
The evolution of your questions and writing will influence the type and quantity of information you collect as you go forward.

Use Data: You will go back and forth between collecting and using data throughout the project. Not everything you collect will be used–at times you'll discover that you collected the wrong type of information, or a new area opens up in your work that you need to explore.

Explain and format findings related to questions: You'll be interpreting, synthesizing, and writing about connections among the information you find that relate to your central questions/thesis.

DUE DATES:
See the Research Project Timeline Handout for all due dates.

Key concepts of the project:
Understand the role of citizens in the definition and development of community.
Become better informed about and develop a perspective on some of the issues relating to Islam and colonialism.
Become aware of the role of power and privilege in determining what we honor and value as history.
Develop and translate 2D designs into 3D sculpture based on study of Islamic art influences.
Become a more critical reader.
Develop process skills in and use research and writing to present ideas and reflections in a clear manner.
Critically evaluate, analyze, and interpret various sources of information around a particular topic.
Identify and critique patterns across time, culture, and texts.

The Assignment
Write a 5-7 page (excluding bibliography and resources) research paper on a topic related to Algeria/Islamic Art, following the writing process and due dates listed on the timeline.

research methods

There are many approaches to research—an essential part of every business and profession—and many ways to document your findings. You will gather your research in three main ways:

Print, historical and statistical research
- What types of information do you need to gather from reading and other forms of library research (books, professional and academic journals, internet, demographic and economic statistics, newspaper archives, photography archives, etc.)?
- What print materials can you gather directly from an organization?
- How can you use research to verify information gathered?

Observation
- What types of information can you gather through observation?
- How can you verify data gathered through observation?

Interviews and conversation
- What types of information can you gather through interviews and conversation?
- How can you best decide who to speak with/interview to get a good sample of individuals involved with a topic?
- How can you verify data gathered through these means?

There are several required sources that you should plan on including in your research project:
¤ One text relating to your topic that helps provide context for your paper.

¤ At least 2 articles from academic journals or professional publications.

¤ At least 2 forms of Primary Source Documentation
- Photographs
- Artwork
- Newspaper articles
- Legal documents
- Public Records: legislation, court records, international legal findings, etc.
- Maps
- Letters

getting started □□□

The why of your research is the most important part. In developing your thesis question(s), you will be beginning to establish the direction your content will take. Through research and writing, you will be providing an interpretation of the answer to those questions that will need to interest the reader into wanting to discover the answers along with you. We'll brainstorm some questions together, and it's important to begin recording your questions as we go along so that you can begin to develop a strong focus.

Potential Research Topic Areas

- Islamic functional art
- Islamic decorative art
- Islamic wearable
- Algerian/Islamic secular architecture
- Algerian/Islamic religious architecture
- An ethnic or cultural group
- Population growth and distribution
- Land use and the environment--changes in the land
- Flora and fauna
- Algerian political history
- Forms of government over time
- Political leaders
- Geography as it relates to social history
- War and revolution
- Climate and terrain as they relate to social or economic issues
- Algerian religious traditions
- Colonialism--before, during or after
- Natural resources: their presence and use/misuse
- Agricultural: farming traditions, major crops, markets and trade
- Religious/social/cultural/political celebrations
- Relationship of Algeria to neighboring countries
- Educational issues
- Health and medicine
- Women in society--presently or historically
- Agriculture: major crops and farmers
- Pivotal events in history
- Business and industry
- Work--domestic, industry, labor, craft, artisans
- Home life
- Transportation: the railroad , public transportation, personal forms, the highway system
- Interpretive dance. Of course.

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Criteria for the Assignment:

Questions to ask yourself as you go along, and which will be used to evaluate your work

• Is it interesting--to you, to other students, to the community?

• Is it significant--does it capture key issues, events, people, places, important trends?

• Is it useful--is it an original idea/area of study, or is the same info already out there? To students, teachers, people from elsewhere?

• Is it analyzed versus being merely collected? Is the commentary and interpretation/ organization insightful, accurate, and supported with an annotated bibliography?

• Is there good organization of information, and is it accessible to the audience for whom it is written?

• Are you following the writing process laid out in the timeline by handing in assignments, getting feedback, and revising your work on a regular basis?