A widespread misconception of Islamic civilization is that it has given up figural imagery, because the religion of Islam bans any form of representation of a living being. While human and animal figures are indeed absent from mosques, Quranic manuscripts, and religious art— in general, they are the hallmark of the arts of the palace, the object, and manuscript illumination in Islam. By contrast in the religious arts, Arabic writing replaced the figural image as the sublime icon of sanctity. The course shall explore the evolution of the image and the attitudes towards figural representation in Islam from the beginnings, through the late Persian portrait, to conclude with the annihilation /exaltation of image in contemporary Islam.


Christiane J. Gruber, "Between Logos (Kalima) and Light (Nur): Representations of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Painting", *Muqarnas* 26 (2009), pp. 1-34.


General


Eva Baer, *The Human Figure in Islamic Art: Inheritances and Islamic Transformations*, Costa Mesa, CA 2004.


Oleg Grabar, *Masterpieces of Islamic Art: The Decorated Page from the 8th to the 17th Century*, Munich 2009.


Prophet Muhammad & Prophets in Art


Christiane J. Gruber, "Between Logos (Kalima) and Light (Nur): Representations of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Painting", *Muqarnas* 26 (2009), pp. 1-34.


Christiane J. Gruber and Frederick S. Colby, *The Prophet's Ascension: Cross-Cultural Encounters with the Islamic Miʿraj Tales*, Bloomington, IN 2010.

Arabic Script & Calligraphy


**Arab Painting**


Ernst Herzfeld, *Die Malerein von Samarra*, Berlin 1927.


**Persian Painting & Shahnama**


**Qajar & 18th-19th Century**


Willem M. Floor, *Wall Paintings and Other Figurative Mural Art in Qajar Iran*, Costa Mesa, CA 2005.


Web Resources:

**Basic terminology in Islamic Art:**
http://www.islamic-art.org/Glossary/glossary.asp

**Museum with No Frontiers (MWNF):**
http://www.museumwnf.org/

**Qantara (Bridge) - Islamic Art in the Mediterranean:**

**Images of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic and Western Arts:**
http://zombietime.com/mohammed_image_archive/

**Islamic Calligraphy:**
http://calligraphyqalam.com/index.html

**The Iranian *Shahname* Epic:**
http://shahnama.caret.cam.ac.uk/new/jnama/page/
http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/gallery/shahnameh/index.html