The only part of Europe in this group of lectures is Iberia...

- Islam spread from Arabia to the Near East, Persia and North Africa. The Umayyads rebuilt the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, and sponsored hypostyle prayer halls with tall minarets. The Buddhist religion spread through the Chinese Empire and eastern Asia. Empress Wu Zetian sponsored monasteries and pagodas, and political stability protected the Silk Routes. The Maya culture reached its apex with ever greater monuments, which strained resources. (OUP)
- by the end of the 9th century Islam was the largest political entity west of China. (Wiley)
600 - 800 CE

OUTLINE:

7.1 THE SPREAD OF ISLAM: HYPOSTYLE MOSQUES AND SOARING MINARETS

Mecca and the Kaaba: The Cities of Muhammad and His Followers
The Umayyad Period: Jerusalem and Damascus
The Dome of the Rock
The mosque: Great Mosque of Damascus, Kairouan
The Abbasid Succession: New Capitals in Baghdad and Samarra
Carpets

7.2 TANG CHINA, EAST ASIA

7.3 THE MAYA, CENTRAL AMERICA

Islam: the religion that developed around the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad, began in the semi-nomadic setting of the southern edge of the great Arabian Desert. Within a century of the Prophet's death, Islamic rulers amassed an empire through military conquest and conversion that included most of the southern half of the Roman Empire plus all of the Persian Empire. (OUP); lit. submission to the one God Allah (Gardner)

kaaba: Arabic for cube. A small cubical building in Mecca, the symbolic center of the Islamic world. (Gardner)

mosque: an Islamic prayer hall, (OUP); masjid “place of prostration” (Stokstad)

Note:

- Islam, the religion that developed around the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad, began in the semi-nomadic setting of the southern edge of the great Arabian Desert. Within a century of the Prophet’s death, Islamic rulers amassed an empire through military conquest and conversion that included most of the southern half of the Roman Empire plus all of the Persian Empire. (OUP)
- During the early centuries of Islamic history the Muslim world’s center was ancient Mesopotamia, but later expanded to Damascus, and Baghdad, and beyond. In the Middle East and North Africa, Islamic art largely replaced Late Antique art, the last phase of Greco-Roman art. (Gardner)
- The cross regional economic zone from Japan and China through southeast Asia to India produced a huge outlay of trade and wealth. The emerging Islamic caliphates extended the reach of this wealth westward. Although the Arabs were initially illiterate their conquests put them in contact with a multitude of civilizations, features of which they assimilated with rapidity: Indians – numbers; Persians – construction; Byzantines – vaulting; Armenians - stone masonry. (Wiley)
- In Moslem communities a social pattern emerged that public life was reserved for men. Women's place was in the private part of the household, which had consequences in the layout of buildings. (Fletcher)
- Islamic architecture is the product of a major historic event the rapid conquest of diverse territories by a people with no architectural tradition, and the consequent synthesis of styles in many circumstances. (Fletcher)
In 610 Muhammad received revelations that led him to found Islam in the desert outside Mecca, and in 622 he and his followers fled to Medina the “hijira” or emigration. In Medina Muhammad built a house that became the gathering place, or first mosque. (Stokstad)

At the time of Muhammad’s birth in 570 the Arabian peninsula was peripheral to both the Romans and the Sassanians. By his death the Moslems ruled all or part of Arabia, Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Egypt. (Gardner)

Islamic armies entered Spain in 711. They continued to France, where they were pushed back by Charles Martel in 732 in Tours. They remained in Spain until 1492. They battered away at the Byzantine empire until they captured Constantinople in 1453. In Chapter 12 we’ll look at Central Asia. (Moffett)
Title: The Expansion of Islam to 850 C.E.

Note: We'll look at Morocco, Egypt, Spain and Persia in later lectures.

(By 651 Islamic forces ended 400 years of Sassanian rule in Persia. (see legend, above) By 732 they had reached Poitiers, where they were halted by the forces of Charles Martel, the grandfather of Charlemagne. In 751 the Muslims reached the Indus. In Córdoba they flourished until 1031, and lasted until 1492. The Byzantines resisted until the collapse of Constantinople in 1453. (see inset). Gardner)

Source: Pearson Publishing
Title: The Califate in 750


UMAYYAD, Syria; al-Andalus, 661-750, 756-1031
- Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem
- Great Mosque of Damascus
- Great Mosque of Córdoba

Note:
- The Umayyads ruled from Damascus for a brief period over the whole of the Islamic realm, the only time it was so unified. (Wiley)
Title: The Abbasid Caliphate in the 9th century

ABBASID, Iraq, 750-1258
- Great Mosque of Kairouan, Tunisia
- Baghdad
- Great Mosque, Samarra

Source: Britannica

Note:
- The conflict between the Abbasids and the Umayyads created a divide in Islam that persists to this day. (Wiley)
In 630 Muhammad returned to Mecca with an army of 10,000 routed his enemies and established the city as the spiritual capital. (Stokstad)

The Kaaba, a pre-Islamic cult site that became the focus of Muslim pilgrims. The box like structure was rebuilt during the life of Muhammad, the black silk veil was placed over it toward the end of the 7th cent.

Mecca and Medina: The Cities of Muhammad and His Followers: During the 7th century Islam spread rapidly, uprooting various pagan cults while seeking to convert Jews and Christians through intellectual persuasion, economic incentives, and military force. Mecca had long been a major cult site for the nomadic tribes of Arabia, attracting religious pilgrims to the Kaaba, a cubical granite house containing many idols. After many battles, Muhammad conquered Mecca and stripped the Kaaba of its pagan iconography (and idols). He taught that the angel Gabriel had given the sacred black stone (possibly a meteorite) to Abraham and that both Abraham and Ishmael participated in building the original structure. As the focus of Muslim prayers, the Kaaba represents the unity of the faithful. (OUP)
Title: View of Mecca with al-Masjid al-Harâm, the holiest site in Islam and the Ka'bah in the foreground

Architect: ‘Abd al-Ghaffar al-Sayyid, Physician of Mecca, photographer

Date: c. 1870s


Medium: albumen photographic print

Size: n/a

Note:
- The Ka’aba is unique with seven minarets. (Fletcher)
- When Mohammad returned from Medina in 630 he took control of the city, converted the population and destroyed the idols, preserving the small cubical buildings that had held the idols. The Arabs associated the kaaba with the era of Abraham and Ishmael, the common ancestors of the Jews and Arabs. (Gardner)
MECCA, ARABIA

Title: The Ka‘bah/ Kaaba, Mecca

Builders and Dates: Islamic tradition (commentators) states built by Adam (not mentioned Qur'an or Hadith) and rebuilt by Abraham and Ishmael / Rebuilt a number of times (Islamic tradition states 12 times/ 11 builders) / rebuilt 692 C.E. by Abd Allah al-Zubayr (624–692 CE) / Construction of the Ka‘bah in its present form is by the Ottoman Sultan Murad IV (1612-1640) in 1640 after flooding in 1639

Source: Photo 1880’s: https://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/untoldlives/2014/03/pilgrim-traffic-during-the-first-world-war.html

Medium: Masonry: granite with marble base, marble and limestone floor, black silk and gold curtain (kiswah)

Size: 11.03 m./36.2’ x 12.86 m./42.2’ x 13.1 m./ 43’ high

Kiswah: (Arabic: كسوة الكعبة, kiswat al-ka’bah) is the cloth that covers the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. It is draped annually on the 9th day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah, the day pilgrims leave for the plains of Mount Arafat during the Hajj. The term kiswah is Arabic for 'pall', the cloth draped over a casket. (wikipedia)

Note: on the kiswah: two-thirds of the way up runs a band of gold-embroidered calligraphy with Qur'anic text, including the Islamic declaration of faith, the Shahada), / Eastern corner of the Kaaba: the Ruknu l-Aswad "the Black Corner" or al-Hajaru l-Aswad the Black Stone: possibly a meteorite or a basalt lava (an agate) or natural glass
The Umayyad Period: Jerusalem and Damascus: Following the assassination of Ali, Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law, the rival Umayyad clan established a hereditary dynasty, attempting to bring stability to the new empire. Husayn, one of the sons of Ali, however, continued to demand his family’s right until his assassination at Karbala, Iraq, in 680, which precipitated the Shi’ite faction of Islam. Shi’ites maintain that only the blood relatives of the Prophet should be caliphs. (OUP)

with the Islamic conquest of Palestine and Jerusalem in the 7th cent. Caliph Abd al-Malik brought the best craftsmen to design the Dome of the Rock.
Title: Jerusalem, the old city

Architect: Abd al-Malik (r. 685–705), patron of the first great Umayyad monument.

Source: https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ficheiro:Map_of_Jerusalem_-_the_old_city_-_EN.png

Medium: map Size: n/a

kufic script: rectangular, intertwined lettering used to decorate Islamic religious buildings (OUP) after the city of Kufa, [Iraq] renowned for calligraphy (Gardner)

Note: Dome of the Rock, Temple Mount at the right, the Western or Wailing Wall to it’s lower left, and Church of the Holy Sepulchre to the center left.

What is confusing is that the Dome of the Rock looks very much like the original Church of the Holy Sepulchre, but they are two different places.

• The Umayyad project for the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem came with clear political motivations: since a rival clan controlled Mecca at that time, they sought to propose Jerusalem as an alternative pilgrimage site. The Dome of the Rock differed from most central-plan Christian churches in its use of two concentric ambulatories, which accommodated the pilgrims’ ritual of circling the rock under the dome. A frieze of interlacing kufic script encircled the base, distinguishing it as Islamic. (OUP)

• At Haram al-Sharif, Muhammad ascended to the presence of God on his night journey. The site is also associated with Solomon, the creation of Adam, and the sacrifice by Abraham of his son Isaac on a rock which is at the center of the Dome of the Rock. (Stokstad)
Note:

• The domed shrine built over the rock where Abraham nearly slew Isaac employed artists trained in Byzantine traditions. Appropriating a site holy to Jews and Christians, the Dome of the Rock manifested Islam’s view of itself as completing and superseding the prophecies of those faiths.

• The Dome of the Rock was erected to mark the triumph of Islam in Jerusalem, with its capture from the Byzantines in 638. It is not a mosque; also the site of the Temple of Solomon, destroyed in 516 BCE, and the rebuilt temple destroyed by Emperor Titus in 70 CE. (Gardner)

• A shrine rather than a mosque, on the summit of Mt. Moriah. Designed to emulate the Holy Sepulchre. (Fletcher)
Title: Kubbet es-Sakhra; the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

Architect: Umayyad Islamic, built by Caliph Abd al-Malik, (r. 685-705)

Date: 690, photo 1862 by Francis Bedford

Source: wikipedia

Medium: photo from the north

Size: Exterior walls: each approx. 60'/18 m. W and 36'/11 m. H, dome is 20 m. dia.

Note: n/a
Title: Kubbet es-Sakhra; the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

Architect: Umayyad, built by Abd al-Malik

Date: 690 domed shrine; arches, 11th cent.; tile cladding 16th cent.

Source: travelpast50.com/dome-rock-jerusalem

Medium: exterior view

Size: dome is 20 m. in dia.

Note: there are eight sets of access stairs to the temenos.

- The site is where Solomon had built the initial Jewish temple (destroyed by Neo-Babylonians in 586 BCE before the Babylonian exile; the Western wall is the remainder of the Second Temple, rebuilt by Herod the Great, and then later destroyed by the Romans. The entire temenos is on Temple Mount. (OUP)

- Unlike the plain exteriors of early Christian and Byzantine models it is crowned by a golden dome though the tiles are later. (Stokstad)
Title: The Dome of the Rock

꿏ة قبة الصخرة
(Masjid Qubbat As-Sakhrah), Jerusalem

Architect: Umayyad, built by Caliph Abd al-Malik, (r. 685-705)

Date: c. 690 CE and later

Source: Photo: Asim Bharwan, Karachi, Pakistan

Medium: Exterior walls: porcelain tiles (last major restoration in 1956-62) / Dome: said to originally made of gold, but was replaced with copper and then aluminum bronze alloy. The aluminum was covered with gold leaf in 1968 and 1994; view from the southwest

Size: Exterior walls: each approx. 60’ (18 m) wide and 36’ (11 m) high, dome: 20 m. dia.

Note: n/a
Title: Kubbet es-Sakhra; the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

Architect: Umayyad Islamic, built by Caliph Abd al-Malik, (r. 685-705)

Date: 690, Iznik tile is 16th century; photo 2013

Source: wikipedia

Medium: tiled façade, with Kufic script at top

Size: Exterior walls: each approx. 60'/18 m. W and 36'/11 m. H, dome is 20 m. dia.

Note: This is just the tiled upper part of the exterior wall.

- Islamic art revels in surface decoration and in manipulating line, color, and especially pattern, often highlighting the interplay of pure abstraction, organic form, and script. (Stokstad)
**Title:** Kubbet es-Sakhra; the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

**Architect:** Umayyad Islamic, built by Caliph Abd al-Malik, (r. 685-705)

**Date:** 690  
**Source:** left: OUP; right: wikimedia

**Medium:** plan

**Size:** Exterior walls: each approx. 60'/18 m. W and 36'/11 m. H, dome is 20 m. dia.

**tie-beam:** a horizontal timber for connecting two structural members to keep them from spreading apart, as a beam connecting the feet of two principal raters in a roof truss. (Ching)

**Note:**
- Two ambulatories to serve pilgrims, (which differed from central plan Christian churches).
- Two nine-square grids, rotated 45 deg. from each other create an eight-pointed star pattern. (OUP)
- Concentric ambulatories allow devout visitors to circumambulate the rock. (Stokstad)
- The plan is an octagon with a dome. None of the inscriptions in the Dome of the Rock refers to the rock itself. (Gardner)
- The central space is inaccessible. (Wiley)
DOME OF THE ROCK, JERUSALEM

- The Dome of the Rock is in the late Antique tradition, deriving from the Pantheon, Hagia Sophia and San Vitale, as well as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which itself resembled Santa Costanza. (Gardner)
- The dome is built of a double shell, each having 32 converging wooden ribs all resting on a cornice atop a masonry drum. The dome interior is plastered and adorned with painted and gilded designs (14th cent. reconstructions) and the exterior of the dome is sheathed with boards, lead and gold leaf. (Moffett)