This course will examine the rich and vibrant tradition of painted imagery in the Islamic world through illustrated manuscripts as well as frescoes, ceramics and other diverse media. Materials to be examined will date from the early Islamic period to the modern era, looking at a series of case studies that will open discussion of questions concerning representational practice within Islam. Key issues will include the role and representation of the human form in the Islamic world, the illustration of narrative tales and scientific texts, and the circulation of topographical imagery through pilgrimage. The course will also question the nature of image-making itself and the uses (and abuses) to which images are put. Undergraduate assessment will take the form of a midterm and a final exam, reading responses, and a research paper and class presentation on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor.