

## **HARC0227: Final Project Guidelines**

24 March 2015

Your final research project is to research and assemble a thematically-organized digital album (*muraqqa*) and write an accompanying research essay and short catalogue entries, along the lines of Sumathi Ramaswamy's "Going Global in Mughal India;" see <http://sites.duke.edu/globalinmughalindia/>.

You may choose any theme you like for your album, and you can search for topics by looking through your textbooks, some of the gorgeous catalogues in the library, or in such collections as the Metropolitan Museum, the Smithsonian Freer-Sackler, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The British Library, etc. I would like you to choose a theme/thesis that you will explain in your essay (no repeat projects, please) and choose a minimum of 5 paintings to illustrate the theme. I would also like you all to meet with me individually about your project topic in the week after break; I will arrange extra office hours for those meetings.

Suggested topics: depictions of Hindu deities from a variety of different schools of painting (Krishna, Vishnu *avatars*, Shiva, Ganesh, the goddess, etc.); different scenes from the *Ramayana* (from different styles of painting, including Mughal); European/Christian influences on Mughal art; portraits of Hindu/Mughal rulers; yogic/ascetic imagery; early photography and its relationship to painting; royal audience (*darbar*) scenes; images of animals; elephants in painting; *Bhagavata Purana* depictions; depictions of women; *ragamala* images; scenes of festivals (Holi, Diwali); landscape/nature imagery; East India Company painting; representations of battles; images of tents and/or varieties of textiles; images of courtly entertainment; *Gita Govinda* images; compare/contrast different Mughal paintings of similar subjects; compare/contrast Mughal/Deccani or Rajput/Deccani paintings, etc. etc. The sky and your imaginations are the limit!