

A Rug Lover's Guide to a Changing World

The world of rugs has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. The predominantly red and blue traditional Persian rug has been joined by an incredible array of contemporary styles from Nepal, India, Turkey, Pakistan, China and other new weaving centers. Innovative rug styles have arisen from the influence of these cultures coupled with dramatic shifts in technology, production techniques, design, economics and politics, as rug experts and scholars Mehdi Abedi, Ph.D. and Lisa Slappey, Ph.D. will explore in this new course. To appreciate these diverse rugs and the stories they tell, course participants will be invited to see and handle a wide range of contemporary and traditional rugs. Whether you are an interior designer, a collector, a homeowner, a world traveler, or simply someone who appreciates the beauty and intrigue of rugs, this class will offer insights into the rapidly changing world of rugs.



Photo by Don A. Hoffman.

Topics will include the following:

- Anthropology of rugs
- Traditional vs. contemporary rug aesthetics
- Politics, international relations and rugs
- Global economics and rugs
- Technology
- Rise of consumerism: Competing concepts of disposability and social responsibility
- The future of the rug world

COURSE DETAILS

Section Dates: Six Mondays, March 7-April 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

Fee: If registering by February 22: \$180 After February 22: \$190 For Rice alumni: \$171

CEUs: 0.9

Instructors: **Mehdi Abedi, Ph.D.**, a cultural anthropologist and a recognized expert on Persian rugs, grew up in a family of weavers in Iran and remains active in collecting, selling and appraising rugs. He holds a Ph.D. from Rice and has taught classes for the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies for more than 25 years. **Lisa Slappey, Ph.D.**, has been engaged in marketing and teaching about handwoven rugs for more than 20 years. Her primary focus is on contemporary rugs. She holds a Ph.D. in English from Rice.