

The Near and Middle East

HIS 381

Fall 2010

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 PM, Bryan 216

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:00 PM

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Description:

The late 19th and 20th centuries sparked great interest in the civilizations of the Islamic Middle East, heretofore shrouded in orientalist mysteries of harems and sultans. Scientific, geographical, and archaeological exploration of the region up to and following World War I in many ways coincided with the imperialist and colonialist political and economic interests of European powers during this period. These kernels forming the field of Islamic Archaeology like the study of Islamic history, parallel the increasing interest of the West in the Islamic civilization of the Middle East. However in the last thirty years, the field of Islamic archaeology has grown significantly, incorporating material culture to examine social processes ranging from artistic traditions and technological innovations to urban and rural economies and trade. Additionally, interest in ethnographic applications to archaeology and the study of environmental changes in the landscape have expanded the field in new directions. Islamic history, long considered a textual one, rich with a written tradition which has come down to us today preserved in many sources on the history, law, religion, science, and economy of the periods has been challenged. Historical assumptions, such as the ‘destruction’ of the classical Middle East in the 7th century Islamic conquests, have been radically revised through important contributions from archaeological evidence. This course will survey the monuments, material culture, and settlements left behind of the Islamic world from Morocco to the Middle East to Central and Southeast Asia. We will start our journey from the very inception of Islam in the 7th century in the wake of the former Roman Byzantine and Persian Sasanian Empires and continue through the Late Antique and Medieval periods, through to the Early Modern 16-18th century period of the Ottoman Empire. We will study Islamic lands through the modern intellectual pursuit of archaeology. Beyond understanding Islamic history through its physical past, we will closely examine the relationship between archaeological and historical practice, observing how archaeological evidence complements or diverges from what we consider as ‘history,’ and how, as archaeologists and historians, we can broaden our perspectives and utilize other categories of evidence as tools to learning history.

Student Learning Objectives:

Students will develop a broad understanding of the major periods, historical monuments, diverse regions, and styles of Islamic culture through close examination of art and archaeology. They will also express understanding and be able to critically challenge historical assumptions of key concepts and theories that contributed to the formation of Islam with detailed archaeological viewpoints such as historical, geographic, aesthetic, and religious contexts for the rise of Islam (i.e. the Byzantine and Sasanian Empires) and explain various motivations for the conquests and spread of Islam. From learning interdisciplinary approaches to historical problems, students will broaden their methodological basis for learning history and global studies and implement it in writing.

Requirements:

There will be two 75 minute classes per week. Each class will consist of lecture and discussion of readings. Please read the assigned materials during the week assigned and come to classes prepared with questions and observations. Attendance is required, as lectures will frequently include material not covered in the assigned readings, for which you will also be responsible for on exams.

No prerequisite is required to take this course.

Readings:

Readings for each week are given on the attached syllabus. Readings listed under the lecture mean you will have read those *in advance* for that lecture day. Weekly assignments consist of readings from selected works drawn from your texts and additional articles on e-reserve. ***Please come prepared and able to comment on the readings in class.*** In addition to the assigned readings, additional readings have been placed on reserve and will be useful for those wishing to explore subjects (particularly for papers) in detail.

Required text: (used and new copies available from bookstore)

Milwright, Marcus. *An Introduction to Islamic Archaeology*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010

Walmsley, Alan. *Early Islamic Syria: An Archaeological Appraisal*. London: Duckworth Publishers, 2007.

**you can also search for these books used online, if you wish*

Highly Recommended text:

Cresswell, K.A.C. & J.W. Allan. *A Short Account of Early Muslim Architecture*. Cairo, American University Press, 1989.

Nicolle, David. *Historical Atlas of the Islamic World*. New York: Thalamus Publishing, 2003.

Study aids, though not a requirement for the course, might be useful in understanding historical backgrounds to the course, preparing for exams, researching the final paper, and providing useful basic reference information for Islamic history and civilization. They include:

The Encyclopaedia of Islam (First Edition (EI1), 1913-1942, New (Second) Edition (EI2), 1954 (1960)-2004, Third Edition, continuing). Jackson Library stacks Tower 8 DS37.E523, vols. 1-12.

A glossary can be found at: <http://www.islamic-art.org/Home/Home.asp>

For images of Islamic buildings and sites: www.archnet.org

For ceramics: Islamic ceramics: <http://islamicceramics.ashmolean.org/>

Requirements:

Class Participation: The course will be structured around specific questions that present divergences or correlations between Islamic history and archaeology and in many cases are debates in the field. These questions will frame each lecture. We will introduce them at the start and look at the parameters of the debated topics and revisit them at the end of the lecture, reassessing these questions in light of the lecture and reading material. The classes then are not only lectures but also discussions and will only work well, naturally, with your class participation which will be graded.

Examinations: There will be two examinations for the course. These will consist of a number of brief slide identifications, short answer, and essay questions. Images will be placed in a power point file on Blackboard at several points throughout the semester. Note that not all images seen in class and not all the same images viewed in class may appear on Blackboard due to copyright issues. Also note that the glossary of Milwright's *An Introduction to Islamic Archaeology* (your textbook) will be important to understand basic terms (pp. 223-226) as well as Walmsley's *Early Islamic Syria* (your other textbook, pp. 154-155).

Short Paper Assignment: You will write a short summary/reaction paper (4-6 pages) about a section from Timothy Insoll's book *The Archaeology of Islam*, chapters of which will be on e-reserve. (Due to copyright restrictions only Chapters 2-4 are on e-reserve, the rest can be viewed from the book directly which is on library reserve). Possible topics will be on mosques and religious space, domestic space, daily life, art and trade, death and burial, and the "community environment" in the Islamic world. Papers will summarize the selected chapter and draw on your own ideas in reviewing the role of religious analysis in Islamic archaeology. You should consider information from lectures and Milwright's book (especially Chapter 6) and you may incorporate outside sources. ***Please come prepared to present this in class on the day the paper is due.***

Long Paper Assignment: You will write a slightly longer paper (8-10 pages) about an archaeological site or region of your choice. More details will come later in the semester. You will select a topic by Week 9 and submit it to me. The purpose of the assignment is for you to: 1) read excavation or survey reports, 2) implement research skills and access resources, and 3) to

develop your ability to communicate in written forms. The paper must contain at least three non-Internet references (including excavation or survey reports).

Grading will be as follows: Attendance and class participation (10%), 2 exams (25% each), short paper (15%), and long paper assignment (25%). Attendance is mandatory and I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. You may miss three classes during the semester, after which your class participation grade will be docked 3 points for each absence. If you miss more than six classes I will drop your final grade by three points and /or reserve the right to drop you from the course. All assignments must be turned in on time; those turned in late will not receive credit. If you must miss an exam you must let me know in writing *before* the date and there will be a make-up exam, otherwise you will receive a zero.

Class Rules:

Please do not come late to class as it disrupts the class for both your fellow classmates and for me. Cellular phones *must* be silenced or turned off in the classroom. If you disrupt class by talking on the phone or text messaging, you will be asked to leave. Laptops may *not* be used in the classroom. Please note that plagiarism (this includes copying internet text for papers), cheating, and other violations of academic integrity are serious offences and will not be tolerated in the class or anywhere else in the University.

The best way to contact me is by email. Please note that I will only check and respond to emails Monday through Friday during the work day; i.e. don't expect me to respond to an email at 2 am on a Saturday.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Enrollment in this course and submission of each written assignment constitute students' acceptance of UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy. Make sure you read and understand the policy, which is available at: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

If you have any questions about any aspect of this policy, including what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the professor.

UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as "representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise" (<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>). Plagiarism includes both 1) failure to cite sources for ideas and words you use; and 2) submitting all of parts of someone else's work as your own. Be sure to cite fully all material you use, whether you are paraphrasing or using a direct quote.

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

Part 1: The Early Islamic Period (7-10th Centuries)

Week 1: Introductions and Frameworks

Aug. 24. Class Organization, Intro to the Geography

Aug. 26. The Field of Islamic Archaeology, Art History and History, and a Brief History

Milwright: Ch. 1: 1-23; Walmsley: Ch. 1: 15-30; Ch. 4: 71-76; 149-153

Johns, J. "Archaeology and the History of Early Islam." *JESHO* 46.4 (2003) 411-436.

Peterson, A. "What is 'Islamic' Archaeology." *Antiquity* 79 (2005): 100-106.

QUESTION 1: How did Islamic archaeology become tied in with Western interest in the "Orient"?

Week 2: The Near East in Transition - The Sixth and Seventh Centuries

Aug. 31. The World Before Islam and the Islamic Conquests

Milwright, Ch. 2: 30-34; Walmsley: Ch. 2: 31-47

Cameron, A. *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity*, 152-96

Kennet, D. "On the Eve of Islam: Archaeological Evidence from Eastern Arabia." *Antiquity* 79 (2005): 107-120.

QUESTION 2: Did the Islamic Conquests cause the Decline of the Middle East?

Sept. 2. The Navel of the Earth: Mecca and Madina in the Jazirat al'Arab (Arabian Peninsula)

Milwright, Ch. 2: 24-29

Wheatley, P. *The Places Where Men Pray Together*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004 (Ch. 1: The Roots of Islamic Society, pp. 3-32.

QUESTION 3: Did Islam as a religion start perfectly formed?

Week 3: Umayyad Syria - Foundations

Sept. 7. Pleasure retreats or Pioneering towns? The "Desert Castles"

Milwright, Ch. 2: 34-43; Ch. 5: 75-80

Bacharach, J. "Marwanid Umayyad Building Activities" *Muqarnas* 13 (1996): 27-44.

Genequand, D. "Umayyad Castles: the shift from Late Antique Military Architecture to early Islamic Palatial Building." in H. Kennedy (ed.) *Muslim Military Architecture in Greater Syria*, 3-25.

Grabar, O. "Umayyad 'Palace' and the 'Abbasid 'Revolution'," in *Early Islamic Art, 650-1100*, Volume I, *Constructing the Study of Islamic Art* (Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2005). First published in *Studia Islamica* 18 (1963): 5-18.

QUESTION 4: Was the Umayyad Caliphate marked by decadence and excess?

Sept. 9. The "Desert Castles", Part II and New Islamic Foundations: Ramla and Ayla

Walmsley, Ch. 4: 90-96; 104-107

Whitcomb, D. "Amsar in Syria? Syrian cities after the Conquest." *ARAM* 6 (1994): 13-33.

Whitcomb, D. "An Urban Structure for the Early Islamic City" *Cities in The Pre-Modern Islamic World* (2007), 15-26

QUESTION 5: Can we say that the first century of Islam was marked by an improvised or planned approach to urbanism?

Week 4: Umayyad Syria - Transformations

Sept. 14. Urban Spiritual Centers: Jerusalem and Damascus

Khoury, N. (1993). "The Dome of the Rock, the Ka'ba, and Ghumdan: Arab Myths and Umayyad Monuments." *Muqarnas* 10: 57-65.

Rabbat, Nasser. "The Meaning of the Umayyad Dome of the Rock." *Muqarnas* 6 (1989): 12-21.

A Virtual Walking Tour: Haram al-Sharif, guided by Oleg Grabar

<http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200901/al-haram/default.htm>

QUESTION 5: How did the Umayyads physically and ideologically reconcile with the pre-existing Byzantine and Christian presence?

Sept. 16. Pre-existing Umayyad Settlements: Qinnasrin, Tabariyya, Baysan, Istakhr, and 'Amman

Walmsley Ch. 4: 76-90, Ch. 5: 126-132

Cytryn-Silberman, K. "The Umayyad Mosque of Tiberias." *Muqarnas* 26 (2009): 37-61.

Schick, R. "Archaeological Sources for the History of Palestine: Palestine in the Early Islamic Period: Luxuriant Legacy." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 61.2 (1998): 74-108.

QUESTION 6: What was the nature of contact and adaptation between new Islamic communities in pre-existing formerly Byzantine (and Christian) cities?

Week 5: 'Abbasid 'Iraq – Grand Urbanism

Sept. 21. The Flowering of Baghdad and Early 'Abbasid Urbanism

Walmsley, Ch. 4: 99-104

Northedge, A. "Archaeology and New Urban Settlement in Early Islamic Syria and Iraq" *The Byzantine and Early Islamic Near East: Land Use and Settlement Patterns* (1992), 231-265.

Lassner, J. "Notes on the Topography of Baghdad" *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 83.4 (1963), 458-469.

QUESTION 7: Was the 'Abbasid Caliphate marked by a period of decline? How did it reposition itself from the former Umayyad Caliphate?

Sept. 23. "He Who Sees It Shall Be Delighted": Samarra and Later 'Abbasid Urbanism

Milwright, Ch. 5: 80-83

Northedge, A. "Remarks on Samarra and the archaeology of large cities." *Antiquity* 79 (2005): 119-129.

Denoix, S. (2008). "Founded Cities of the Arab World from the Seventh to the Eleventh Centuries" in *The City in the Islamic World, v. 1*. S. K. Jayyusi et. al. (eds.). Leiden: Brill, Pp. 116-139.

QUESTION 8: By the late 9th/early 10th century, did the 'Abbasids weaken significantly?

Week 6: 'Abbasid Expansionism – the Northern Provinces of al-Jazira and al-Thughur

Sept. 28. The Bread Basket of al-'Iraq: the Jazira and its settlement system

Walmsley, Ch. 4: 96-99

Bartl, K. "Balih Valley Survey: Settlements of the Late Roman/Early Byzantine Period and Islamic Period." In *Continuity and Change in Northern Mesopotamia from the Hellenistic to the Early Islamic Period: Proceedings of a Colloquium Held at the Seminar für Vorderasiatische Altertumskunde, Freie Universität Berlin, 6th-9th April, 1994*, edited by K. Bartl and S. Hauser. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag, 1996, 333-48.

Toueir, Kassem. "Heraqlah – A Unique Victory Monument of Harun al-Rashid" *World Archaeology* 14.3 (1983): 296-304.

QUESTION 9: Was Islamic civilization confined only to its cities as a urban based religion?

Sept. 30. The Spaces Between the Teeth: The Byzantine-Islamic Frontier (*al-thughūr*) and Northern Syria

Eger, A. "Islamic Frontiers, Real and Imagined. *Al- 'Usur al-Wusta*. The Bulletin of the Middle East Medievalists 17.1 (2005): 1-6, 10.

Eger, A. "The Early Islamic Period (mid 7th-mid 10th centuries)" In Gerritsen, F., A. U. de Giorgi, A. Eger, R. Özbal, and T. Vorderstrasse. "Settlement and Landscape Transformations in the Amuq Valley, Hatay: A Long-Term Perspective." *Anatolica* 34 (2008), 267-274.

Decker, Michael, "Frontier Settlement and Economy in the Byzantine East," *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 61 (2007): 217-267.

QUESTION 10: Was the frontier a war-torn no-man's land?

Week 7: The Umayyad West

Oct. 5. **MID-TERM EXAM**

Oct. 7. "The Ornament of the World": An Umayyad City and Palace in al-Andalus

Bloom, J. "The Revival of Early Islamic Architecture by the Umayyads of Spain," In *The Medieval Mediterranean: Cross-Cultural Contacts*, ed. Marilyn J. Chiat and Kathryn L. Reyerson (St. Cloud, MN, 1988), 35-41.

SELECT ONE:

Khoury, Nuha N. "The Meaning of the Great Mosque of Cordoba in the Tenth Century" *Muqarnas* 13 (1996): 80-98

Hillenbrand, Robert. "The Ornament of the World': Medieval Cordoba as a Cultural Centre" in *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*, ed. Jayyusi, Brill: Leiden, 1994, 112–135

QUESTION 13: How did the Umayyads of Spain establish and legitimate themselves as caliphs?

Week 8: 'Abbasid Expansionism – the Eastern Provinces (al-'Ajam)

Oct. 12. Gateway to the East: The Persian Gulf, Khuzistan, and Fars

Whitehouse, D. et al. *Siraf: History, Topography and Environment*. Oakville, CT: David Brown Book Co., 2009. [Ch. 1 and 6]

Priestman, S.M.N. "The Rise of Siraf: Long-term Development of Trade Emporia within the Persian Gulf." In *Proceedings of the International Congress of Siraf Port, November 14-16, 2005*. Bushehr Branch of Iranology Foundation and Bushehr University of Medical Sciences 2005, 137-56.

QUESTION 11: How and with whom did the 'Abbasids develop maritime trade?

Oct. 14. The Silk Route and the Turks: Al-Jibal, al-Daylam, and al-Mashriq

[short reaction papers due]

Milwright: Ch. 5: 85-90

Karev, Yury. "Samarqand in the Eighth Century: The Evidence of Transformation." In *Changing Social Identity with the Spread of Islam: Archaeological Perspectives*. Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2004, 51-66.

DEBATE:

Bulliet, R. W. "Pottery Styles and Social Status in Medieval Khurasan" *Archaeology, Annales and Ethnohistory*. A. B. Knapp. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1992, 75-82

Whitcomb, D. "Toward a *Common Denominator*: An Archaeological Response to M. Morony on Pottery and Urban Identities." In *Identity and Material Culture in the Early Islamic World*. Ed. by I.A. Bierman. Los Angeles: UCLA, 1995, 47-68

QUESTION 12: How did the new Arabs assimilate with preexisting Persian communities during the Umayyad Caliphate? How did the eastern Turkic frontiers change during the 'Abbasid Caliphate?

Part II: The Middle and Late Islamic Periods (10th-16th centuries)

Week 9: Problems in Islamic Archaeology - Religious Practice and Rural Settlement

Oct. 19. The Islam in Islamic Archaeology: Archaeology of Religious Practice

[Long Paper Topics Due]

Milwright, Ch. 6; Walmsley, Ch. 5: 120-126

Grabar, Oleg (2006a), "The Architecture of the Middle Eastern City from Past to Present: The Case of the Mosque," in O. Grabar, *Islamic Art and Beyond* Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, Chapter X, Pp. 103-120.

QUESTION 14: Can we interpret Islamic monuments and material culture as Muslim?

Oct. 21. Beyond the City: Rural Settlement, Land Use, and Irrigation in the Islamic World

Milwright, Ch. 4; Walmsley, Ch. 4: 107-112, 113-116, 132-136, 146-148

Butzer, K., et al. "Irrigation Agrosystems in Eastern Spain: Roman or Islamic Origins?" *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. Vol. 75.4 (1985): 479-509.

Morony, M. (1992). *Land Use and Settlement Patterns in Early Islamic Syria and Iraq. The Byzantine and early Islamic Near East: Land use and settlement patterns*. G. R. D. King and A. Cameron. Princeton, NJ, Darwin Press. 2: 221-230

QUESTION 15: Was there a Green Revolution? How did rural life and settlement in the country differ from that the city, specifically in terms of rates of continuity or change?

Week 10: The Transition from Early to Middle Islam – al-Misr

Oct. 26. The Emergence of Cairo: The Urban System of Misr and the Maghreb

Milwright, Ch. 5: 83-85, 90-96

Whitcomb, D. "An Umayyad Legacy for the Early Islamic City: Fustat and the Experience of Egypt." In *Umayyad Legacies*, ed. Antoine Borrut. Brill: Leiden, 2010, 403-416

QUESTION/DEBATE 16: What was the nature of Egypt's role in the Islamic Empire during the Early Islamic period?

Oct. 28. The New Medieval World City: Fatimid al-Qahira and the Red Sea Ports

Whitcomb, D. "Egypt and the Spice Trade," *Archaeology* 34 (1981): 16-23.

QUESTION/DEBATE 17: How did al-Qahira grow and supplant Baghdad in the 10th century?

Week 11: Settlements and Fortifications at the Periphery

Nov. 2. Muslims and Christians over Land: Byzantine, Armenian, and Arab Settlements on the Syro-Anatolian Frontier and the Andalusian Frontier

Foss, Clive. "Lycia in History." *Cities, Fortresses, and Villages in Byzantine Asia Minor*. Brookfield, VT: Variorum, 1996.

Glick, Thomas. *From Muslim Fortress to Christian Castle*. New York: Manchester University Press, 1995, Ch. 5 (92-124).

QUESTION 18: How did the concept of incastellamento alter settlement in the Middle East?

Nov. 4. Muslims and Christians over Sea: The Ribat System of North Africa and Palestine

El'Ad, A. "The Coastal Cities of Palestine During the Early Middle Ages," *The Jerusalem Cathedra* 2 (1982): 146-67.

Khalilieh, Hassan S. "The *Ribāt* System and its Role in Coastal Navigation," *JESHO* 42.2 (1999) 212-225

QUESTION 19: Were the ribats a system of religious frontier forts for Holy War?

Week 12: Crusader and Islamic Military Architecture

Nov. 9. Crusader Archaeology: Castles, Towns, Farms, and Rural Settlements

Boas, A. *Crusader Archaeology: The Material Culture of the Latin East*. New York: Routledge, 1999, Chapters 3 and 4 (60-122).

QUESTION 20: How did the Crusaders adapt to life in the Near East?

Nov. 11. Islamic Castles? Ayyubid and Mamluk Military Architecture

Michaudel, B. "The Development of Islamic Military Architecture during the Ayyubid And Mamluk Reconquests of Frankish Syria," in *Muslim Military Architecture in Greater Syria*, 106-121

Tabbaa, Y. "Defending Ayyubid Aleppo" in *Muslim Military Architecture in Greater Syria*, 176-183.

QUESTION 23: How was Islamic military architecture similar (or influenced by) Crusader architecture

Week 13: The Medieval Islamic World

Nov. 18. The New Islamic City: Mamluk Secular and Religious Architecture and Material Culture

Tabbaa, Y. (1997). *Constructions of Power and Piety in Medieval Aleppo*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997. (Introduction and Ch. 1, Pp. 1-26.)

Williams, J.A. "Urbanization and Monument Construction in Mamluk Cairo." *Muqarnas* 2 (1984): 33-45

QUESTION 22: What institutions are reflected in Middle Islamic urban secular & religious life?

Nov. 20. Craft, Trade, and Industry in the Medieval Islamic World

Milwright, Ch. 7 and 8; Walmsley, Ch. 5: 117-120

Henderson, J. and e. al. (2005). "Experiment and innovation: early Islamic industry at al-Raqqa, Syria." *Antiquity* 79: 103-45.

Burke, Katherine Strange. "A Note on the Archaeological Evidence for Sugar Production in the Middle Islamic Periods in Bilad al-Sham." *Mamluk Studies Review* 8.2 (2004): 109-118

QUESTION 21: What can analysis of material culture tell us about economy that texts cannot?

Week 14: (NO CLASS)

Nov. 23. Instructor at a conference – NO CLASS

Nov. 25. Thanksgiving - NO CLASS

Week 15: Late Islamic Horizons – Ottoman and Colonial Archaeology

Nov 30. Ottoman Archaeology

Milwright, Ch. 9 & 10; Walmsley, Ch. 6: 137-148

Baram and Carroll, "The Future of the Ottoman Past," Baram and Carroll, eds. 2000 *A Historical Archaeology of the Ottoman Empire: Breaking New Ground*, 3-38.

Peterson, A. "Ottoman Hajj Forts" in *The Archaeology of Jordan*, MacDonald et al, eds. Sheffield, 2001, 685-691

Ziadeh-Seely, G. "The Archaeology of Ottoman Ti'innik." Baram and Carroll, eds. 2000 *A Historical Archaeology of the Ottoman Empire: Breaking New Ground*, 79-91.

QUESTION 24: How has the field of Islamic archaeology impacted the Middle East?

Dec. 2. Colonial Archaeology and The Politics of Islamic Archaeology, Conclusions

Peterson, A. "Politics and narratives: Islamic archaeology in Israel," *Antiquity* (2005): Vol. 79, No.306, pp. 858-863

Saunders, Nicholas and Neil Faulkner. "Fire on the Desert: Conflict Archaeology and the Great Arab Revolt in Jordan, 1916-1918. *Antiquity* 84.324 (2010): 514-527.

Dec. 9. 9:30 AM. **FINAL EXAM and LONG PAPERS due.**

Brief Timeline of Islamic History (all dates in A.D. or C.E.)

570	Birth of Muhammad in Mecca
622	<i>Hijra</i> of Muhammad to Medina
632-661	Patriarchal or Rightly-Guided (Rashidun) Caliphs
661-750	Umayyads Mu'awiya (661-680) 'Abd al-Malik (685-705)
750-861	'Abbasids al-Mansur (754-775) Harun al-Rashid (786-809) al-Mu'tasim (833-842) al-Mutawakkil (847-861)
868-905	Tulunids (first Egyptian dynasty) -Ahmad b. Tulun (868-884)
(909)-1171	Fatimids (third Egyptian dynasty, North African)
1077-1307	Saljuqs (N. Syrian/Turkish rule)
1099	Crusaders (first concept of jihad, first instance of religious war) -inhabited Levantine coasts, Palestine
1127-1222	Zangids (N. Syrian/Turkish rule, from Aleppo) -Nur ad-Din Zangi (1118-1174)
1171-1250	Ayyubids (fourth Egyptian dynasty, N. Syrian/Turkish) -Salah ad-Din (1174-1193), Battle of Hattin 1187
1250-(1517)	Mamluks (fifth Egyptian dynasty, N. Syrian/Turkish)
1206-1405	Mongols (Central Asian/Turkic) -1258 destruction of Baghdad by Ilkhanid Mongols, 'Ayn Julut
1363-1506	Timurids (Central Asian/Turkic)

1299-1922 Ottomans (Anatolia and Levant)

Long Paper Topics

Sites:

Egypt and Nubia and Sudan

Alexandria

Fustat (Cairo)

Istabl Antar (Cairo)
al-Qahira (Cairo)

Quseir al-Qadim

Farama (Pelusium)

Al-Tur

Qasr Ibrim

Jordan

Aqaba-Ma'an Survey

Kerak Plateau Survey

Hesban Region Survey

Moab Survey

Abila

Ajlun

'Amman

Aqaba

Dhiban

Hesban

Humayma

Jerash

Kerak

Pella

Petra

Qasr Burqu'

Qasr Hallabat

Qusayr 'Amra

Aydhab

Palestine

'Akka (Akko/Acre)

Arsuf (Apolonia)

Belmont

Bet Shean (Baysan/Scythopolis)

Burj al-Ahmar

Caesarea (Qaysariya)

Gaza

Haram al-Sharif (Jerusalem)

Armenian Garden (Jerusalem)

Walls and Gates of Jerusalem

David's Citadel (Jerusalem)

Khirbet al-Mafjar

Ramla

Tabariya (Tiberias)

Elat

Subayta (Shivta)

Lebanon

Anjar

Beirut

Syria

Balikh Valley Survey

“Dead Cities”

Khabur Valley Survey

Aleppo

Damascus

Dibsi Faraj

Madinat al-Far (Hisn Maslama)

Al-Mina

Palmyra (Tadmur)

Qal’at Jabar

Qasr al-Hayr Gharbi

Qasr al-Hayr al-Sharqi

Raqqa

Rusafa

Tuneinir

Iraq

Diyala Plain Survey

Baghdad

Basra

Ctesiphon

Hira

Kufa

Mosul

Maghreb

Ajdabiyah (Corniclanum)

Medinah Sultan (Surt)

Samarra

Ukhaidir

Iran

Hajiabad

Isfahan

Istakhr

Nishapur

Qasr-i Abu Nasr (Old Shiraz)

Shiraz

Siraf

Arabia and the Gulf States

Bahrain

Julfar (Ras al-Khaima)

Oman

Darb Zubayda Survey

Madina

Rabadha

Aden

San’a

Spain

Alhambra

Cordoba

Seville

Madinat al-Zahra

Ptolemais (Tolmaytha)

Qsar es-Seghir

Sijilmasa

Carthage