Introduction to Islamic History and Civilization, 1200 C.E. - present

Topics in Pre-Modern World History II (HIS 207) Spring 2010
Lecture: Monday and Wednesday 9:00-9:50 AM
Curry Building 225
Discussion: 01 and 02: Friday 9:00-9:50 AM; 03 and 04: Friday 10:00-10:50 AM
01 Eberhard Building 554
02 Nursing Building 328
03 Stone Building 352
04 Eberhardt Building 554

Instructor:
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:00-11:00 PM
Office Phone: 336-334-3986

Teaching Assistants:
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Discussion Sections: 01 and 04 - Friday 9:00-9:50 AM, and 10:00-10:50 AM
Office Hours: Wednesday 10-11

Katrin Deil (k_deil@uncg.edu)
Discussion Sections: 02 and 03 - Friday 9:00-9:50 AM, and 10:00-10:50 AM
Office Hours: Monday 10-11

Description:
By the tenth and eleventh centuries, Islamic civilization from Spain to Central Asia had reached its peak with a system of elaborate cities, expansive trade networks, and profound achievements in arts and architecture, science, literature, law, political and religious thought. However, by the twelfth century, contact with western European world with the onset of the Crusades and with the eastern world with the advent of Turkic nomads fundamentally transformed the course of Islamic civilization. In this course we will examine how these changes reverberated through medieval and modern Islamic history in two parts. The first part will familiarize students with the dynamic history and changes in Islamic cultural process from time of the Crusaders through the legacy of the Mongols. The second part will explore the transition of the medieval to modern Islamic world, focusing on the formation of the “gunpowder” Ottoman, Safavid, and Moghul Indian empires and the effects of nationalism in shaping the modern Middle East. Throughout the course we will focus on themes of tradition and change in Islamic society with the assimilation, influence, and conflict of non-Arab and non-Muslim cultures. Our
approach will be interdisciplinary. We will look at the history, art and architecture, archaeology, environment, literature, and religion of Islamic civilization.

Student Learning Objectives:
- Students will be able to identify the major periods, events, terms, and facts of Islamic history since 1200 C.E.
- Students will express understanding of some key concepts and theories that contributed to the expansion of Islam: they will be able to describe the historical, geographic, aesthetic, and religious contexts of the pluralistic Islamic world and explain various motivations for the spread of Islam.
- Students will also be able to trace the developments of Islamic civilization through various examples of cultural and social production.
- By developing an informed historical perspective and by reflecting on the dynamic between Western and non-Western experience, students will be able to challenge and historicize current ideas and stereotypes of Islam.

Requirements:
There will be two 50 minute lectures per week on Monday and Friday. Each week will end with a discussion session on Friday for 50 minutes that will be led by your teaching assistants. 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. Please read the assigned materials during the week assigned and come to classes prepared with questions and observations. Readings will be discussed in greater depth in the discussion sessions and so it is required that you do the readings and come to Friday classes. No prerequisite is required to take this course.

Readings:
Readings for each week are given on the attached syllabus. These will mainly come from your textbook and other e-reserves that may not be all on the syllabus currently. I will alert you to these as they come up. 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. 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.

Lecture handouts will accompany most lectures and will provide an outline and, especially, terms and dates referred to in the lecture. These terms may also appear on your exams. Use these handouts as review sheets for exams.

Study aids, though not a requirement for the course, might be useful in preparing for exams, researching the group assignment, and providing useful basic reference information for Islamic history and civilization. They include:

Bosworth, C. E., The Islamic Dynasties. Jackson Library stacks Tower 8
D199.3.I8 No. 5

Required text: (used and new copies available from bookstore)
Eggers, Vernon O. A History of the Muslim World since 1260: The Making of a Global

Assignments:
Map Assignment: There will also be a map assignment at the beginning of the course
designed to introduce you to the geography of the Islamic world. It consists of a blank
map and an attached list of geographic features (countries, cities, bodies of water,
mountains, and other features) given out in class for you to take home and label. Late
maps will be penalized one letter grade.

Quizzes: There will be three pop quizzes based on the readings due for that day. They
will take up the first ten minutes of class in the discussion session (Friday). You will have
the option of dropping the lowest grade of these at the end of the course.

Examinations: There will be three examinations for the course. These will consist of
a number of brief identifications, short answer, and essay questions. Most lectures will
be accompanied by a handout providing an outline and including terms that occur in the
literature and you may not be familiar with. These terms will be essential to keep for
review for the identification tests.

Response Paper: A final response paper will be turned in on the day of the third exam
that is between 3-5 pages (800-1500 words, double spaced). The paper will respond to a
question that synthesizes many of the themes learned during the semester. This is not a
research paper and no outside reading is required. You will draw from your readings,
lectures, and discussion sections. Grading will be on your ability to construct a clear and
persuasive argument. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade.

Grading will be as follows: Attendance and class participation (15%), map
assignment (10%) and quizzes (10%), 3 exams (15% each), and final response paper
(20%).

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,
whether excused or unexcused, 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.

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

I. THE MIDDLE ISLAMIC PERIOD:
CRUSADERS, MAMLUKS, AND MONGOLS (12-14th CENTURIES)

Week 1: Geography and Early Islamic History
W January 20th
Course Introduction and Overview of Early Islamic History

F January 22nd
Early Islamic History and the Geography of the Middle East

Reading:
·Eggers, p. xviii-xxiv
·Cleveland, p. 5-35

Week 2: Crusaders and Mamluks
M January 25th
The Crusades and the Turks
Map Assignment due

W January 27th
The Mamluk Regime in Egypt and Syria

F January 29th
Discussion and PBS Documentary: Islam, Empire of Faith

Reading:
·Eggers, xxiv-xxx
·Eggers, 13-17
· “The Tale of Ma’ruf the Cobbler.” A Thousand and One Nights (al Layla wa Layla).

Week 3: The Mongols
M February 1st
Chinggis Khan and the Mongol Conquests

W February 3rd
The Mongols in Russia and Central Asia and Iran

F February 5th

Reading:
· Eggers, 1-13

Week 4: Politics and Society in the Middle Islamic Period
M February 8th
Politics in the Middle Periods

W February 10th
Society in the Middle Periods

F February 12th
Discussion and Film: Grass: A Nation’s Battle For Life (1925)

Readings
· Eggers, 34-61

Week 5: The Mongol Successors
M February 15th
Mongol Successors I: The Sarbidars

W February 17th
Mongol Successors II: Timur, the Later Timurids, and the Turkmens

Readings:
II. THE LATE ISLAMIC PERIOD:
OTTOMANS, SAFAVIDS, AND MUGHALS (15-17TH CENTURIES)

Week 6: The Ottoman Empire
M February 22nd
The Rise of the Ottoman Empire

W February 24th
Ottoman Empire at its Height

F February 26th
Discussion

Readings:
·Eggers, 21-25, 63-65

Week 7: The Ottoman Empire II
M March 1st
Early Ottoman Capitals and Architecture

W March 3rd
Ottoman Art and Culture

F March 6th
Discussion and PBS Documentary: Islam, Empire of Faith

Readings:
·Eggers, 67-101
·Robert Ousterhout, “The East, the West, and the Appropriation of the Past in Early Ottoman Architecture,” Gesta 43.2 (2004): 165-176

Week 8: SPRING BREAK
M March 8th through F March 12th
NO CLASS
Week 9: The Safavids
M March 15th
The Safavids: Religious Order to Empire

W March 17th
Safavid Rule in Iran

F March 19th
Discussion

Readings:
· Eggers, 153-180

Week 10: The Delhi Sultanate
M March 22nd
Islam in India

W March 24th
The Mughal Dynasty

F March 26th
TEST 2

Readings:
· Eggers, 17-20, 181-219
· Cambridge History of Islam, Vol. 2: 30-34; 35-64

III. THE MODERN PERIOD:
ISLAM AND THE WEST, IMPERIALISM, AND NATIONALISM
(18-21st CENTURIES)

Week 11: West and East
M March 29th
Islam and the West: Spain, North Africa, and Mediterranean/Trans-Saharan Trade
Readings:
· Egger, 108-142
W March 31st
Islam and the East: Africa, East Asia, and the Indian Ocean Trade
Readings:
·Egger, 220-255

F April 2nd
NO CLASS

Week 12:
M April 5th
The Islamic and Ottoman Heritage

W April 7th
The Expansion of Islam and the Rise of Western Europe

F April 9th
Discussion

Readings:
TBA

Week 13: The Loss of Sovereignty
M April 12th
Reform in the Ottoman Empire and Egypt
Readings
·Eggers, 257-314

W April 14th
Islamic Modernism, Despotism, and Imperialism
Readings
·Eggers, 315-368

F April 16th
NO CLASS

Week 14: The Emergence of States and Nationalism
M April 19th
The Emergence of Modern States

W April 21st
The Development of States and Nationalism

F April 23rd
Discussion
Readings
· Eggers, 369-403, 412-457

Week 15: Topics in Modern Islam: Gender, and Sexuality
M April 26th
Gender: Guest Speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Bucar (Dept. of Religious Studies)
Readings:
· Eggers, 403-411

W April 28th
Sexuality

F April 30th
REVIEW

M May 3rd
TEST 3
RESPONSE PAPERS DUE by 10 AM