

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:

Dr. A. Asa Eger

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Office: MHRA Building, Room 2108

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:00-11:00 PM

Office Phone: 336-334-3986

Teaching Assistants:

Chris Graham (cagraham@uncg.edu)

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:

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.

The Cambridge History of Islam. Jackson Library stacks Tower 8 DS35.6.C3, vols. 1-2
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
Community*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008.

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

- Ibn Taghribirdi. Selected Obituaries. *History of the Kings of Egypt (al-Nufum al-Zahira fi Muluk Misr wa al-Qahira)*. Ed. And trans. William Popper, selected, revised, and annotated by J. Woods. Vols. 5-7, 13-14, 17-19, 22 (1915-1960). READ 10
- “The Tale of Ma’ruf the Cobbler.” *A Thousand and One Nights (alf 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

Discussion and Documentary: *The Secrets of Genghis Khan* (2003)

Reading:

·Eggers, 1-13

·Ibn al-Athir. “Year 617 (C.E. 1220-21): Account of the Irruption of the Mongols into the Lands of Islam.” *al-Kamil fi al-Ta’rikh*. Edited by K.J. Tornberg, trans. J. Woods. Vol. 12. 1851-1876). Pp. 233-235

·Rashid al-Din. “The Mongol Conquest of Baghdad.” *Jami’ al-Tavarikh*. Edited by Bahman Karimi, trans. J. Woods. (1959). Pp. 698-715.

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

·Ibn Khaldun. *The Muqaddimah: An Introduction to History* (abridged edition). Trans. F. Rosenthal, ed. N.J. Dawood, some passages restored R. Dankoff. (1969). Selections pp. 1-22.

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:

·Eggers, 26-33, 102-107, 143-153

·Ibn Khaldun. "Meeting with Timur." *Ibn Khaldun and Tamerlane*. Trans. By Walter J. Fischel, annotated by J. Woods. 1952. Pp. 29-47.

F February 19th

TEST 1

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

·Finkel, Caroline. *Osman's Dream*. Pp. 1-80.

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

·Aptullah Kuran, "A Spatial Study of Three Ottoman Capitals: Bursa, Edirne, and Istanbul," *Muqarnas* 13 (1996): 114-131

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

·Eskander Beg Monshi. *History of Shah 'Abbas the Great (Tarik-e 'Alam-ara-ye 'Abbasi)*. Translated by R.M. Savory, adapted and abridged by R. Dankoff. Vol. 1. (1978). 1-17.

·Fazl Allah b. Ruzbihan Khunji-Isfahani. *Persia in A.D. 1478-1490 (Tarikh-I Alam-Ara-yi Amini)*. Trans. V. Minorsky, revised and augmented J. Woods, adapted and abridged R. Dankoff (1992). 18-23.

·Domenico Romano. "The Travels of a Merchant in Persia," in *A Narrative of Italian Travels in Persia, in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries*. Trans. and edited by C. Grey. (1873), 23-28.

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 21th

The Development of States and Nationalism

F April 23nd

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