

HIST-A288-001
History of the Islamic Middle East I
7th–17th centuries
Fall 2004

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Gualtieri
Office Hours: MWF 10:30 –11:30 am (or by appointment)
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Course Description:

This course traces the major cultural, political and economic developments in the Middle East from the 7th to the 17th centuries. This period witnessed the transition to Islam in the Arabian Peninsula, its spread throughout the wider Middle East, the consolidation of great Islamic empires, and conflict with Western ones. We will focus on the ways in which Muslims shaped a unified civilization based on systems of belief, law and administration; their interaction with non-Muslim communities; and the diverse cultural expressions that flourished in the region in the period under consideration. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Texts and Readings:

Hourani, Albert. *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Warner Books, 1991).
Itzkowitz, Norman. *Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition* (University of Chicago, 1972)
Mernissi, Fatima. *The Veil and the Male Elite* (Addison-Wesley 1991)
Montesquieu. *Persian Letters* (Penguin 1993)

You will also be given handouts and asked to consult readings on the web. Web-readings (underlined on this syllabus) should be brought to class on the day they are assigned. This syllabus will be made available on LORA Schedule of Classes.

Grading System:

Participation: 10%
Quizzes: 20%
Writing Assignments: 30% (in-class and take-home)
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 20%

Note: Make-up exams and quizzes will not be given, except in rare cases and with documented explanation for your absence. Late work will be penalized.

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A
85-89 = B+
80-84 = B
75-79 = C+
69-74 = C
62- 68 = D+
56- 61 = D
Below 56 F

Participation: You are expected to come to class having completed the reading assignment. Discussion is an integral part of this class and you should be prepared to contribute to it.

Quizzes: There will be several multiple-choice/Short-answer quizzes given during the semester. I will drop your lowest score.

Writing Assignments: There will be periodic in-class writing assignments and one take-home assignment (a reflective paper of maximum 1250 words) based on Fatima Mernissi's *The Veil and the Male Elite*.

Statement on Academic Honesty:

“Plagiarism -- the use of another person's ideas or wording without giving proper credit -- results from the failure to document fully and accurately. Ideas and expressions of them are considered to belong to the individual who first puts them forward. Therefore, when you incorporate ideas or phrasing from any other author in your paper, whether you quote them directly or indirectly, you need to be honest and complete about indicating the source to avoid plagiarism. Whether intentional or unintentional, plagiarism can bring serious consequences, both academic, in the form of failure or expulsion, and legal, in the form of lawsuits. Plagiarism is a violation of the ethics of the academic community.”

From: William G. Campbell, Stephen V. Ballou, and Carole Slade,
Form and Style: Thesis, Reports, Term Papers, 6th Edition (Boston:
Houghton Mifflin, 1982), p. 52.

For more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, go to:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>

Mid-term and Final: The mid-term and final exams will consist of a term-identification section and an essay question. You will receive review sheets prior to each exam.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. More than four unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter grade. If you come late, you must provide me with a reasonable excuse for your tardiness in order to be able to sign in for that day. **Also, turn off all cell-phones and beepers before entering class.**

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who wish to receive accommodations in this class should contact Disability Services at 865-2990 as soon as possible so that warranted accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion.

Revisions of the Syllabus: I reserve the right to make minor revisions to this syllabus at any time during the semester.

Class Schedule and Readings:

Topic 1. A Framework for the Study of the Islamic Middle East

Week 1, August 30-Sep. 3

Mon. Introduction to the Course

Wed. The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity [Hourani, pp.1-14]

Fri. Pre-Islamic Arabia: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/arabia1.html>

Topic 2. The Transition to Islam

Week 2, September 6-10

Mon. Labor Day Holiday (No Class)

Wed. Muhammad in Mecca [Hourani 14-21; and

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/rodinson.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/muhammadi-sira.html>

Fri. Muhammad in Medina ["The Constitution of Medina" (handout)]

Week 3, September 13-17

Mon. The Emergence of a Muslim Polity [Hourani, pp. 22-37]

Wed. The Question of Succession , <http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/politics/firstfourcaliphs.html>

Fri. The Qur'an [Hourani pp. 59-71 and <http://ISLAM.ORG/mosque/arabicscript/1/1.htm>

[Listen to the recitation on this site]

Topic 3. Gender and Class in the Early Islamic State

Week 4, September 20-24

Mon. The Power of Hadith (Traditions of the Prophet) [Mernissi vi-62]

Wed. The Wives of the Prophet [Mernissi 63-140]

Fri. Religion, Gender, and Leadership [Mernissi, 141-195]

Week 5, September 27-Oct. 1

Mon. Social Stratification and Islamic Law [**Assignment on Mernissi Due**]

Wed. Slavery, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/lewis1.html>

Fri. Islam and Sexuality: <http://www.mwusa.org/publications/essays/sexuality.html>

<http://www.merip.org/mer/mer206/bruce.htm>

Topic 4. Expansion and Consolidation of "Islamdom"

Week 6, Oct. 4-8

Mon. Economy and Society in the Abbasid Empire [Hourani 38-58; and

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1000baghdad.html>

Wed. Law and Philosophy [Hourani, 59-80]

Introduction and Part 1 of: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1190averroes.html>

Fri. **MIDTERM**

Topic 5. Non-Muslim Communities in the Urban Environment

Week 7, October 11-13

Mon. The Christians of the Fertile Crescent <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/pact-umar.html>

Wed. The Jews of Egypt, Excerpts from the Cairo Geniza [http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/Taylor-Schechter/GOLD/princeton_images.html] Print and bring at least two documents to class

Topic 6. Fragmentation and Regional Florescence

Week 8, October 15-22

Fri. States and Dynasties [Hourani, 81-97]

Mon. Fall Break, No Class

Wed. Land and its use [Hourani 98-108]

Fri. The Life of Cities [Hourani 109-129]

Topic 7. The Crusades

Week 9, October 25-29

Mon. The Origins of the Crusades: Read Parts 1-4 of the article from the Catholic Encyclopedia, at <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04543c.htm>

Wed. The “Franks” through Arab Eyes: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/usamah2.html>

Fri. The Muslim Reconquest and the Crusader Legacy

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/fulk3.html>

Topic 8. The Sultanate Period

Week 10, Oct. Nov. 1-5

Mon. The Rise of the Mongols

Wed. The Mamluks [Hourani 130-146]

Fri. Islamdom beyond Arabia [Hourani 189-192]

Topic 9. Mysticism and the Arts

Week 11, Nov. 8-12

Mon. Wed: Poetry [Hourani, 193-205]

Wed.: Architecture and Calligraphy

Fri: The Role of the Sufi *tariqas*: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/islam/1902dervishes.html>

Topic 10. The Emergence of a New Imperial Framework: the Ottomans

Week 12, November 15-19

Mon. The Turkish Principality [Itzkowitz, 3-36; Hourani 207-230]

Wed. The Conquest of Constantinople

Fri. Ottoman Institutions, [Itzkowitz, 37-61] and

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1718montague-sultana.html>

Thanksgiving Holiday Nov. 22-26 (Monday’s class cancelled due to academic conference)

Topic 11: The Islamic World’s Changing Relationship with Europe

Week 14, Nov. 29-Dec. 3

Mon. Ottoman Decline? [Itzkowitz, pp. 63-85, Hourani pp. 249-262]

Wed: Reformist trends [Itzkowitz, pp. 87-109]

Fri: Confrontations with Europe

Topic 12: The Rise of Orientalism

Week 15, Dec. 6-10

Mon. *Persian Letters*, 17-115

Wed. *Persian Letters*, 115-220

Fri. Conclusions

THE FINAL EXAM IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 17 AT 9:00 AM