

Dr. Jon Cowans  
Class meets: TTh 4-5:20, Conklin 342

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Office hours: Tue & Thu 3:30-4, 5:30-6

## **THE WEST, ISLAM, AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

21:510:339 Sec. 01 (Fall 2015) Index #19173

This course examines the historical relationship between Europe/the West and the Islamic world/the Middle East from the advent of Islam to today. Learning goals include the ability to describe how Muslims and Westerners have viewed each other over various periods of history and what the main issues have been in this relationship.

### **READINGS**

**Course reader**, available **only** at Affordable Copies, 49 Halsey St., 973 802-1007

### **GRADING**

**TESTS:** There will be a midterm on Thursday Oct. 8 and a final exam on Tue. Dec. 22, 6:20-9:20pm, each consisting of a series of short essays. The final is comprehensive but emphasizes the material from after the midterm.

**LECTURE QUESTIONS:** At the end of each lecture, you are required to hand in a 3x5 card with one or two brief questions or comments concerning the material covered in the lecture. Grades are based on the number handed in; if you hand in cards for 90% of the sessions, your score will be 90. To receive credit, your card must contain a question or comment on that session.

**ABSENCE PENALTY:** Your overall course grade will fall by a half-letter for each unexcused absence starting with the fourth one. Arriving late or leaving early is “pro-rated”: arriving or leaving halfway through class is a half-absence. It is your duty to provide written documentation for absences, and no excuses are accepted after final grades are turned in. Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class and should withdraw by the deadline to avoid getting an F in the class.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Everyone is required to participate regularly in class discussions, asking questions or making relevant comments. You will receive separate scores for each half of the semester, and your final score will average the two. Scores reflect both the quality and quantity of your participation, but you must speak at least once in each session for a score of 90 or higher. Quality of participation primarily means an ability to answer specific questions on the assigned readings. Please pay attention throughout the whole session; sleeping in class and using any cell phone or similar device will lower your score. No laptops are allowed in this class.

**QUIZZES:** As the class is built on discussion of the readings, it is essential that you come to class having done all the readings carefully. There will thus be several unannounced quizzes during the semester. Each will contain a few short but specific questions about the day’s assigned readings. The lowest grade on the quizzes will not count.

Students will be required to sign the Rutgers Honor Pledge, to be distributed in class.

Lecture questions .....	5%
Class participation .....	10%
Quizzes .....	20%
Midterm .....	25%
Final exam .....	40%
	100%

**Thu. 9-3: Introduction**

**Tue. 9-8: The Rise of Islam** [16 pages of reading]

The Early Muslim Conquests and Relations with the Conquered (Reading-1)  
Contemporary Accounts of the Muslim Conquests (R-2)  
The Success of the Arab Conquests (R-3)

**Thu. 9-10: The Crusades** [20]

The Concept of Jihad before the Crusades (R-4)  
The Origins of the First Crusade (R-5)  
An Account of Pope Urban's Sermon at Clermont (R-6)  
The First Crusade (R-7)

**Tue. 9-15: The Crusades** [18]

Islam and the Crusades (R-8)  
Saladin and the Franks (R-9)  
An Epilogue on the Crusades (R-10)  
The Results of the Crusades (R-11)

**Thu. 9-17: Mutual Perceptions in the Middle Ages** [16]

The Crusaders' Perceptions of their Opponents" (R-12)  
How the Muslims Saw the Franks (R-13)  
Theological Debates in the Middle Ages (R-14)

**Tue. 9-22: Medieval Spain** [13]

Civilization in Moorish Spain (R-15)  
Market Regulations in Muslim Spain (R-16)  
Pelayo and the Beginnings of the Reconquest (R-17)  
Conversions and Intellectual Life in Muslim Spain (R-18)

**Thu. 9-24: Medieval Spain II** [17]

A Land of Three Religions (R-19)  
The Siete Partidas (R-20)  
Surrender Treaty of the Kingdom of Granada (R-21)  
The Transmission of Knowledge; Reflections on Moorish Spain (R-22)

**Tue. 9-29: Spain's Expulsion of the Muslims** [8]

A Morisco Plea (R-23)  
The Moriscos of Granada (R-24)  
Decree of Expulsion of the Moriscos (R-25)  
On the Expulsion of the Moriscos (R-26)

**Thu. 10-1: Europe & the Ottomans, 1500-1800** [14]

The Ottoman Obsession (R-27)  
The Changing Balance of Power, 1500-1800 (R-28)  
The Conversion of the Jews of Persia (R-29)

**Tue. 10-6: Napoleon & Egypt** [16]

Travels in Egypt (R-30)  
Proclamations in Egypt (R-31)  
Chronicle of the French Occupation (R-32)  
Memoirs of the Egyptian Expedition (R-33)

**Thu. 10-8: Midterm**

**Tue. 10-13: French Conquest and Colonization of Algeria [14]**

French Conquest and Colonization of Algeria (R-34)  
Parliamentary Report on Algeria (R-35)  
Speech to the *Alliance Française* (R-36)  
Letters on Colonial Policy (R-37)

**Thu. 10-15: The West and Islam in the Nineteenth Century [18]**

Europe and the Ottoman Empire (R-38)  
Impressions of London (R-39)  
Islamic Union (R-40)  
Reports on Christians and Jews in Muslim Lands (R-41)

**Tue. 10-20: Britain and Egypt, 1882-1914 [16]**

The British Occupation of Egypt (R-42)  
Our Route to India (R-43)  
What the National Party Wants (R-44)  
Egyptian Nationalism (R-45)

**Thu. 10-22: World War I and Mapmaking in the Middle East [17]**

The Jewish State (R-46)  
The Sick Man Dies (R-47)  
Iraq and Oil (R-48)  
Memo to the Versailles Peace Conference, 1919 (R-49)  
Resolutions of the General Syrian Congress, 1919 (R-50)

**Tue. 10-27: The Founding of Israel [12]**

British Government White Paper on Palestine, 1939 (R-51)  
Speech to the London Palestine Conference of 1939 (R-52)  
The End of the Mandate and the 1948 Arab-Israeli War (R-53)  
The Israeli Declaration of Independence (R-54)

**Thu. 10-29: The US and Middle Eastern Nationalism: Iran (1953) and Egypt (1952-56) [14]**

US Foreign Policy toward Iran during the Mussadiq Era (R-55)  
The Suez War (R-56)  
The Revolution of July 1952 (R-57)  
BBC Speech on the Suez Crisis (R-58)

**Tue. 11-3: The French-Algerian War [16]**

Algeria, the Land and the People (R-59)  
The Algerian War and Revolution (R-60)  
Modern Warfare (R-61)

**Thu. 11-5: no class meeting**

**Tue. 11-10: The West and the Arab-Israeli War of June 1967 [18]**

The Six-Day War (R-62)  
UN Speech of June 6, 1967 (R-63)  
The 1967 Arab-Israeli War: US Actions & Arab Perceptions (R-64)  
Nasser's Speeches of May 25 & 26, 1967 (R-65)

**Thu. 11-12: The Iranian Revolution and the Hostage Crisis, 1979-1980** [18]

On the Shah's Regime (R-66)

The Iranian Revolution and the Hostage Crisis (R-67)

Interviews with Iranian Revolutionaries (R-68)

**Tue. 11-17: The US, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf** [16]

The US in the Persian Gulf (R-69)

Saudi Arabian Government Statements on the Oil Industry, 1958 & 1975 (R-70)

The Middle East: Geostrategy and Oil (R-71)

Osama Bin Laden, "On Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Sanctuaries" (R-72)

**Thu 11-19: The First Gulf War** [18]

Washington and Saddam Hussein (R-73)

Iraqi Military Assets (R-74)

Saddam Hussein and US Ambassador Glaspie, "Conversation of July 25, 1990" (R-75)

The Most Unnecessary War in American History (R-76)

The Case for Intervention (R-77)

**Tue. 11-24: 9/11 and Recent U.S. Policy** [19]

Osama Bin-Laden, "Message to the Americans" (R-78)

President Bush, "Speeches, 2001-2003" (R-79)

Being a Muslim-American after 9/11 (R-80)

Ansar al-Sunnah, "Statement on Democracy in Iraq" (R-81)

America, the West, and Democracy in the Middle East (R-82)

**THANKSGIVING**

**Tue. 12-1: Europe & Islam** [13]

Muslims in Europe: A Congressional Research Service Report (R-83)

An Open Letter on the Islamic Scarf Affair (R-84)

Program of the National Front (R-85)

Across Europe, Worries on Islam (R-86)

**Thu. 12-3: Contemporary Israel/Palestine** [15]

The United States and Palestine, 1967-2003 (R-87)

President George W. Bush, "Statement on the Palestinian Question, June 2002" (R-88)

The Hamas Charter (R-89)

Has Israel Sought Peace? (R-90)

Europe and the Israel Question (R-91)

**Tue. 12-8: A Clash of Civilizations?** [17]

Islam and the Modern World (R-92)

The Roots of Muslim Rage (R-93)

The Clash of Ignorance (R-94)

Muslim Views of the USA: Polling Data, 2006-2010 (R-95)

**Thu. 12-10: Hollywood and the Muslim World** [18]

Reel Bad Arabs (R-96)

Muslims on the Silver Screen (R-97)

Opinions and Letters on *The Siege* (R-98)

Film: *The Siege* (1998)