

Rutgers University-Newark
Federated Department of History

**History of Islamic Civilization I
(up to 1500 C.E.)**

Course Number (510:287:02)

Fall Semester 2017

Tuesday, Thursday, 10:00 AM - 11:20 CON-342

Dr. Mayte Green-Mercado

E-mail: mayte.green@rutgers.edu

Office: Conklin Hall 315

Office Hours: T TH- 2:00-3:00, or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of the history of Islamic civilization. In this course, we will study social, economic, and cultural aspects of the history of the Middle and Near East region, between the sixth and fifteenth centuries. The treatment of the subject will be roughly chronological, though themes such as law, science, and philosophy will recur throughout the course. In addition to lectures, the course will heavily draw upon discussion sessions, which will give students a hands-on approach to history. In these sessions, we will discuss in detail various historical problems presented in the text and lectures. We will also see different types of historical evidence and learn how they can be used for historical analysis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- name and identify individuals, events, themes, and issues of major importance in the history of Islamic civilization,
- demonstrate a basic level of competence in differentiating the major periods of the history of Islamic civilization and the significance of historical context,
- recognize the importance of cause and effect in history, and discuss the significance of change and continuity over time,
- develop an understanding toward the use of historical evidence by historians and display some familiarity toward different types of evidence,
- critically analyze historical evidence and articulate a synthesis with a thesis.

TEXTBOOKS:

- Vernon O. Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization*, 2004. (Required)
- James E. Lindsay, *Daily life in the Medieval Islamic World*, 2005. (Recommended)
- Daniel Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam*, 2009, second edition. (Recommended)
- Additional primary source readings will be posted on Blackboard.

- Also see: Internet Islamic History Sourcebook (compiled by Paul Halsall)

<<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/islam/islamsbook.html>>

ASSIGNMENTS:

You are expected to write two papers for this class. The first paper will be a short paper (3-4 pages; due **Sept. 28**). The second paper will be longer (6-7 pages, due **Dec. 21**). Detailed information regarding the papers will be announced in class AND posted on Blackboard.

LATE PAPERS AND/OR EMAILED PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

EXAMS:

There will be two exams for this course (**Test 1- Oct. 26** and **Test 2- Dec. 7**). In these tests, the emphasis will be placed on specific information such as important dates, names, and terms. The second test will only cover the material covered after the first.

GRADING:

10 % First paper
30 % Second paper
30 % First test
30 % Second test

GRADING STANDARDS:

90-100 % A (a genuinely outstanding achievement)
80-89 % B (above average achievement)
70-79 % C (comprehension of the subject at an appropriate university level)
60-69 % D (unsatisfactory performance, barely passing)
Below 60% F (failure)

COURSE POLICIES:

- Attendance at all regularly scheduled meetings of this class is expected. Rutgers catalog states that “the recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” Four UNEXCUSED absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade. More than four UNEXCUSED absences will automatically result in your failure. It is your responsibility to come to class and see that you are marked present for the classes you attend. In the event that you have a medical, legal, or family-related problem that might lead to an extended absence, you need to meet me in person and bring necessary documentation as evidence for your problem. Only then, we can discuss whether your absence can be excused or not. An email message explaining your problem will NOT be considered as an excuse of your absence. Ultimately, it will be the instructor’s judgment to decide whether an absence can be excused or not. If you miss a class due to a reason that you cannot document, please do not contact me to explain your case. Instead, consider it as one of your unexcused absences. Please remember that any student who

misses eight or more sessions through any combination of EXCUSED and UNEXCUSED absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

- You are expected to come to class having done the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. We will be using our main textbook (Egger) frequently in class; therefore, please bring it to each meeting. On discussion days, make sure to bring a copy of the assigned reading with you. Any student who does not have the textbook (Egger) or the primary source(s) may be asked to leave the classroom and marked absent for the class.
- The use of laptops or other electronic devices in this class requires the consent of the instructor. If you have a condition that necessitates the use of a laptop during class for the purpose of taking notes or accessing readings, please bring it to my attention along with a letter from The Office of Disability Services. Those students will be asked to sit in the front row of chairs in the classroom. Otherwise, the use of portable electronic devices, such as cell phones during class in a manner not compliant with classroom conduct (phone conversation, texting, and others) will not be tolerated. Students may be warned for such behavior initially. If repeated, they may be asked to leave the classroom and marked absent for the day.
- Punctuality and courtesy at all times are expected.
- If you have questions or concerns about this class, come and talk to me in my office hours. Please do not send email inquiries related to your absence or class materials. It is your responsibility to find out about the subjects covered in your absence and study them.
- If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an examination, you must contact me before the exam and have my consent to your absence. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment. With the exception of extreme cases there will be no early or make-up exams! As with all other exams, you must contact me in advance should an extreme emergency arise.

Rutgers University-Newark Academic Policies

Academic integrity: As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community.

• **Academic integrity policy:** <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

• **Disability Services:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must complete an intake meeting, and submit appropriate documentation. If your request for reasonable accommodations is approved, you will receive

a Letter of Accommodations (LOA), which you should present privately to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations are not retroactive and are effective only upon submission of the LOA to the instructor. Please begin the process by completing and submitting the Registration Form, Applying for Services, which is available at the website below.

- **Applying for Services:** <http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services>
- **Documentation Guidelines:** <http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>
- **Letter of Accommodations (LOA):** <http://ods.rutgers.edu/my-accommodations/letter-of-accommodations>
- **Office of Disability Services (ODS)**
Suite 219, Paul Robeson Campus Center
(973) 353-5375
odsnewark@rutgers.edu

Religious Holiday Policy: Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work of exams according to an agreed-upon schedule.

Learning Resources

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)
Room 140, Bradley Hall
(973) 353-5608
<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc>
- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
Room 126, Conklin Hall
(973) 353-5847
nwc@newark.rutgers.edu
<https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>

Week 1 Introduction

- Sept. 5 Introduction, discussion of the syllabus, and course policies
- Sept. 7th What do we mean by Islamic Civilization? Geography, Languages, Sources and Periodization

Week 2 The Near Eastern Context of the Rise of Islam

- Sept. 12 **Pre-Islamic Near East: The Byzantine and Sassanian Empires**
Vernon O Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 1-15.
Daniel W. Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam*, second edition, 33-48.
- Sept. 14 **Pre-Islamic Arabia**

Egger, 16-22; Brown, 19-32.

Primary Source:

McNeill, W. and Marilyn Robinson Waldman (eds.). *The Islamic World*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973, 9-13. [Ibn al-Kalbī: From the Book of Idols].

Week 3 The Rise and Expansion of Islam

Sept. 19 **Muhammad and the Qur'an**

****At home watch film** *The Message*, dir. Moustapha Akkad (1977).

Egger, *A History of the Muslim World*, 20-31.

Brown, *New Introduction to Islam*, 51-63; 69-82.

Primary Source:

Ibn Ishāq. *The life of Muhammad: a translation of Ibn Ishāq's Sīrat rasūl Allāh / with introduction and notes by A. Guillaume*. (Karachi & New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), 231-233. ("The Covenant Between the Muslims and the Medinans and with the Jews").

Sept. 21 **The Age of Conquests and Early Institutions**

Egger, 33-44; Brown, 105-112; Lindsey 60-70.

Primary Source

Balādhurī on the Arab Conquests

Week 4 The Question of Legitimacy in the Formation of Islamic Empire

Sept. 26 **The First Fitna (Civil War)**

Brown, 113-118.

Primary Source:

The History of al-Ṭabarī, vol. XV, "The Crisis of the Early Caliphate," 181- 207 (accounts about the mutiny against 'Uthman).

Sept. 28 **The Early Umayyad Caliphate**

*****First paper due (bring hard copy to class and submit electronic copy using Turn-it-in within 24 hours)*****

Egger, 44-61.

Primary Source:

Ḥasan al-Baṣrī: Letter to 'Umar II, in *The Islamic World*, 79-81.

Week 5 The Caliphate and the Ummah

Oct 3 **The Second *Fitna* (Civil War) and the Later Umayyads**

Brown, 118-128; Lindsey, 87-97.
History of al-Ṭabarī, vol. XIX, “The Events of the Year 61 (680/681) [Battle of Karbala] excerpts.

- Oct 5 **A Rift within the Ummah and the Development of Shi‘i Islam**
Egger, 62-69.
Primary Source:
Charles Pellat (transl.), *The Life and Works of Jāhiz*, 62-66. (“Shi’ite Doctrine and Imamate”).

Week 6 The ‘Abbasid Caliphate

- Oct 10 **The ‘Abbasid Revolution**
Egger, *A History of the Muslim World*, 69-83.
Brown, 129-134.

- Oct 12 **The ‘Abbasid Caliphate**
***Before class, watch Documentary *Islam, Empire of Faith* Part 2 (The Awakening)**

Egger, *A History of the Muslim World*, 85-89.

Primary Sources:
Tale from A Thousand and One Nights
Ibn al-Sā‘ī, *Consorts of the Caliphs. Women and the Court of Baghdad*, ed. Shawkat M. Toorawa (New York: NYU Press, 2015), excerpts.

Week 7 The Empire Cannot Hold Three Caliphs

- Oct. 17 **Crisis in the ‘Abbasid Caliphate**
Egger, 89-93; Lindsey, 70-81.

Primary Source:
Ibn Miskawayh, *From the Experiences of the Nations, in The Islamic World*, ed. William McNeill and Marilyn Robinson Waldman, 178-180.

- Oct. 19 **The Fatimids**
Egger, 94-98.
Tahera Qutbuddin, “Fatimids” in *The Cultural Sociology of the Middle East, Africa, and Asia*, vol. 2 Africa, ed. Edward Ramsamy (Los Angeles, Sage Publications, 2011), 37-40.

Can be accessed online:
<http://nelc.uchicago.edu/sites/nelc.uchicago.edu/files/Fatimids.pdf>

Primary Source:
al-Qadi Nu‘mān (d. 974), *Founding the Fatimid State: The Rise of an Early Islamic Empire*, ed. Hamid Haji [Commencement of the Mission; The account

of the beginning of the mission (*da'wa*) in the Yemen, the [*dā'ī*] in charge of it, and the factors which allowed him to accomplish his mission], 17-34.

Week 8 A Third Caliphate in the West

Oct 24 **The Umayyads of al-Andalus**
Egger, 98-112.

Primary Sources:

Declaration of an Andalusī Caliphate, in *Medieval Iberia*, ed. Olivia Remie Constable, 87-90.

Ibn Hazm, "On Forgetting a Beloved," in *Medieval Iberia* 103-106.

Oct. 26 **Test 1**

Week 9 Filling the Power Vacuum, 950-1100

Oct 31 **Buyids and Ghaznavids**
Egger 142-148

Primary Source:

al-Mawardī, "On the Appointment of Provincial Governors," in *The Ordinances of Government: A Translation of al-Aḥkām al-Sulṭāniyya w' al-Wilāyāt al-Dīniyya*. Translated by Wafaa H. Wahba (Reading, UK: Garnet Publishing Ltd., 1996), 32-37.

Nov 2 **Saljuks**
Egger, 148-154

Primary Source:

Jahiz, "The Merits of the Turks," in *The Islamic World*, 111-19.

"Nizam al-Mulk: A Mirror for Princes." In *Islamic Central Asia. An Anthology of Sources*. S. Levi and R. Sela (eds.) Bloomington, University of Indiana Press, 92-94.

Kai Ka'us ibn Iskandar (11th cent.), Qabus Nama, "Rules for the Vizierate" [from Reuben Levy, *A Mirror for Princes*, 211-218.]

Week 10 Christian Encroachment and Muslim Responses

Nov 7 **Barbarians at the Gate, 1100-1260: The Crusades**
Egger 172-182.

Roy Mottahedeh and Ridwan al-Sayyid, "The Idea of Jihad in Islam before the Crusades," in *The Crusades from the Perspective of Byzantium and the Muslim*

World, ed. Angeliki E. Laiou and Roya Parviz Mottahedeh. Washington, DC, Dumbarton Oaks, 2001, 23-29. (Online access available at: http://www.doaks.org/publications/doaks_online_publications/Crusades/CR02.pdf)

Primary Sources:

“Usāma: From Memoirs.” In *The Islamic World*. Edited by William H. McNeill and Marilyn Robinson Waldman. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 185-206. [Memoirs of Usāma ibn Munqidh (1095-1188)].

Nov 9 **Berber Empires in the Western Islamic World**
Egger 182-188.

Primary Source:

“Ibn Tumart and the Rise of the Almohads” In *Medieval Iberia*. Olivia R. Constable (ed.), 239-243.
“The Almohad Creed,” 244-251.

Week 11 Synthesis and Creativity I

Nov 14 **Islamic Institutions: Law**
Egger, 114-122; Brown 147-171.
Primary Sources:
Shāfi‘ī on the Sources of Law
Mālik: the Medinan School

Nov 16 **Science and Medicine**
Lecture by Dr. Nükhet Varlık

Week 12 Synthesis and Creativity II

Nov 21 **Sufism**
Egger, 123-138; Brown, 193-216.

Primary Source:

al-Hallāj: Anecdotes, the Sufi Martyr.

Nov 23 NO CLASS

Week 13 Alternatives to the Classical Islamic Principles of Governance I

Nov 28 **Philosophy**
Discussion of Primary Source:
Ibn Ṭufayl, “Ḥayy ibn Yaqzān.” In *Medieval Islamic Philosophical Writings*, ed. Muhammad Ali Khalidi. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, 99-153.

Nov 30 **Mongol Conquests**
Egger 194-198; 257-269; Brown, 226-233.

Primary Sources:

“The Secret History of the Mongols: Temujin’s Origins,” and “Hayton: Temujin and the Rise of the Mongol Empire,” in *Islamic Central Asia*, ed. Scott C. Levi and Ron Sela, 111-125.

Week 14 Alternatives to the Classical Islamic Principles of Governance II

Dec 5 **Mamluks**
Egger 269-273

Black, Anthony. “Mamluk Ideology and the Sultan-Caliph.” In *The History of Islamic Political Thought*. New York: Routledge, 141-144.

Primary Source:

Shihab al-Din al-Nuwayri, “On the History of the Mamluk State,” in *The Ultimate Ambition in the Arts of Erudition*, 248-259; 266-267; 271-277.

Dec 7 **Test 2**

Week 15 The Islamic World in the Age of Mongol Prestige

Dec 12 Mongol Successor States: The Timurids
Egger, *A History of the Muslim World*, 290-316.

Primary Source:

“Timur’s Rise and Rule.” In *Islamic Central Asia. An Anthology of Sources*. S. Levi and R. Sela (eds.) Bloomington, University of Indiana Press, 161-175. [Includes: Ibn Arabshah, Ibn Khaldun].

Dec 14 Reading Day

Dec 21 **Second paper due (submit electronic copy using Turn-it-in by 11:29 a.m.)**