

HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION I
(up to 1258 C.E.)
Fall 2016
(21:510:287)
Section 2: MTH 1-220pm
Hill Hall 101

Mohamed Gamal-Eldin
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Office Hour: By appointment only
Office: TBD

TEXTBOOKS:

- Vernon O. Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization*, 2004. (Required)

- Daniel Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam*, 2004. (Recommended)

- Amin Maalouf, *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes*. (Required)

- Primary source readings can be found here: *Internet Islamic History Sourcebook* (compiled by Paul Halsall)

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of the early history of Islamic civilization. In this course, we will study social, economic, and cultural aspects of the history of the lands and peoples that span geographically from present day Morocco to Iran and Central Asia; otherwise understood to be the Middle and Near East region. Our timeframe extends from the sixth to the thirteenth centuries. The treatment of the subject will be roughly chronological, though themes such as law, science, art, architecture and philosophy will recur throughout the course. This course is not a study of Islam, in its religious form per se, but the history of peoples and empires that were informed by the Islamic tradition.

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. Finally, we will learn how to make an argument by reading primary source materials and using our secondary resources. By the end of this course students should expect to have a stronger understanding of Islamic Civilizations and 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,
- name and identify regions, cities, towns and lands that make up 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.

ASSIGNMENTS:

You are expected to write **two** papers for this class.

The first paper will be a short paper (3-4 pages, due Sept. 29). The second paper will be longer (6-7 pages, due Dec. 12). Both papers will be submitted via *Turn-It-In* on Blackboard, as well as bringing in a hardcopy to class or office. Detailed information regarding the papers will be announced in class AND posted on Blackboard. **LATE PAPERS OR EMAILED PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS YOU HAVE A VALID EXCUSE.**

EXAMS:

There will be **two** tests and **one** map quiz for this course, which will assess your mastery of specific information such as important dates, names, and terms, but will be in the format of an essay exam, with both short and long essays. The subjects covered for the tests will be cumulative up to the last class lecture class before exam. In other words the final exam will cover **all** of the material studied over the semester.

GRADING:

- 10% Class Participation
- 10 % First paper
- 30% Second paper
- 20 % First test
- 20 % Second test
- 10% Map Quiz

GRADING STANDARDS:

- 95-100 % A+ (a genuinely outstanding achievement)
- 90-94 % A (an outstanding understanding of the subject)
- 85-89 % B+ (above average achievement)
- 80-84 % B (strong, yet average comprehension of the subject)
- 75-79 % C+ (comprehension of the subject at an appropriate university level)
- 70-74% C (satisfactory understanding of the subject)
- 65-69 % D+ (unsatisfactory performance, barely passing)
- 60-64% D (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.”

More than 4 (four) UNEXCUSED absences will automatically result in the loss of half of your overall grade (i.e. B+ will become a B) and from 6 (six) and above absences to the loss of a whole grade (for example, B to C). Thus, 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 8 (eight) or more sessions through any combination of EXCUSED and UNEXCUSED absences will not earn credit in this class.

○ 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.

○ Punctuality and courtesy at all times are expected.

○ Academic dishonesty of *any sort* will not be tolerated. It is your responsibility to comply with the university's policy on academic integrity. To review the policies go to:
http://judicialaffairs.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

In compliance with Rutgers Honor Code, you should include the following pledge in every assignment you submit: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).”

Print Name

Sign

Date

○ 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 abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities and the accessibility of online information. If you have not already done so, you will need to contact the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on campus to provide services and administer exams with accommodations for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Robeson Student Center. I look forward to talking with you soon to learn how I may be helpful in supporting your academic success in this course. For more information on disability services at Rutgers, go to <http://disabilityservices-uw.rutgers.edu/>

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to amendment or change at the discretion of the instructor.

Introduction

Sept 8	Introduction; discussion of the syllabus and course policies
Sept 12	Why do we study the history of Islamic civilization? Geography, Languages, Sources, and Periodization

The Near Eastern Context of the Rise of Islam

READ: Egger, pp. 1-20; Brown, pp. 10-34; Primary sources (*The Hanged Poems*--see *Internet Islamic History Sourcebook*).

Sep 15	The Byzantine Empire
Sept 19	The Sasanian Empire
Sept 22	The Arabian Peninsula: Geography, Trade and Life Pre-Islam & discussion of primary sources

The Rise of Islam

READ: Egger, pp. 20-32; Brown, pp. 53-96.

Sept 26	Muhammad; The Qur'an; <i>Hadith</i> (MAP QUIZ)
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Synthesis and Creativity

READ: Egger, pp. 114-138; Brown, pp. 116-174; Primary sources (*Shaybani on War and Peace & Malik: the Medinan School & Shafi'i on the Sources of Law & Ghazli: Deliverance from Error* --see *Blackboard*).

- Nov 7 Law and Legitimacy in Early Islam
- Nov 10 Science and Medicine
- Nov 14 Sufism & Discussion of primary sources
- Nov 17 **NO CLASS (MESA CONFERENCE)**

Filling the Vacuum of Power, 950-1100

READ: Egger, pp. 142-171; Brown, pp. 177-183.

- Nov 21 The Buyid Sultanate and The Ghaznavids
- Nov 22 The Saljuqs and Migrations of the Oghuz

Barbarians at the Gates, 1100-1260

READ: Egger, pp. 172-198; Primary sources (*Jahiz on the Turks, Singing-girls, and Landlords & Books* -- see *Blackboard*).

- Nov 28 The Crusades
- Dec 1 Discussion of primary sources

The Consolidation of Traditions & The Muslim Commonwealth

READ: Egger, pp. 199-256 *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes* by Amin Maalouf

- Dec 5 Intellectual Life, Agriculture and Urban Life
- Dec 8 Discussion of *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes* Part I
- Dec 12 Discussion of *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes* Part II
*****Second paper due in class*****

Final Exam is December 22nd 3-6pm