Course Description

This course introduces students to the history of Islam and basic themes in Muslim societies in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

The class begins with an examination of Islam as a religion, and its ritual, legal, mystical, and philosophical traditions. It assesses the historical impact of Islam and Islamic societies with a focus on the period after the thirteenth century and considers the spread of Islam and Muslim interactions in comparative perspective.

The course examines the rise of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal empires and their lasting influence. Global encounters are studied through intellectual, artistic, scientific, and economic exchange and are evaluated to consider diversity through time and across regions. Reform, modernity, and the impact of colonization, followed by Islam in the American context comprise the last section of the class.

The materials for the course include primary and secondary textual sources, literature, art, and music.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this class, students will

• be able to identify major individuals, events, and themes relevant to the history of Islamic civilization
• develop historical and geographic knowledge about Islam as a belief system as well as cultural and civilizational concept
• be able to understand the processes of cause and effect in history
• understand the use of primary evidence and the critical approaches in historical analysis and interdisciplinary study
Course Requirements

**ATTENDANCE** Students are required to read the assignments before class each week and participate in class discussions. Attendance is mandatory and only 3 excused (documented) absences are allowed before grade is affected. Silent attendance does not earn full credit. Class work cannot be made up – it depends on being in class. Please be aware 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. Per the University’s Course Attendance policy (10.2.7), students are responsible for communicating with their instructors regarding absences. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify extended absences: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

- Use of electronic devices is prohibited in class.
- No student may record the class in any fashion unless they have written permission from the instructor and the recording device is visible to everyone in the classroom.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS** Students are expected to write two papers and submit them on Blackboard: **Paper 1** – Leo Africanus; **Paper 2** - Laughing All the Way to the Mosque.

Papers are to be written in the format of a book review (guideline on Blackboard). Each paper should be 3 pages, double-spaced; Times New Roman font 12, with 1 inch margins and if using outside sources, conform to the citation guidelines as per the Chicago Manual of Style. Papers should include discussion and analysis in light of material assigned in class as well as outside sources when necessary, and not solely summarize the book or class notes. Written assignments will be graded based on content and its accuracy, evidence used to support the analysis and interpretation, grammar, spelling, punctuation, clarity of thinking and writing, organization and presentation. Paper grading rubric is available on Blackboard.

**EXAMS** There are two exams during the semester that will focus on the material covered in class. In addition, the final exam is a take-home and consists of essay questions due on Blackboard. Students are expected to show the grasp of historical knowledge and cognizance of overarching themes covered during the semester. No makeups are available. In the case of a schedule conflict or an unavoidable delay in taking an exam or completing assignments, the student should discuss the issue with the instructor.

- There will be occasional in-class assignments related to readings.

**Grading**

Class Participation 15%
Exam I 20%
Exam II 20%
Paper I 15%
Paper II 15%
Final 15%
90-100 %  A (outstanding)
80-89 %  B (above average)
70-79 %  C (comprehension of the subject at an appropriate university level)
60-69 %  D (unsatisfactory performance, barely passing)
Below 60%  F (failure)

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. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/

Principles of academic integrity require that Rutgers University students:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Accommodation and Support
Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

Students with Disabilities: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as
possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/.

**Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu.

**Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does NOT have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

**Learning Resources**

**Rutgers Learning Center** (tutoring services)
Room 140, Bradley Hall
(973) 353-5608
https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center

**Writing Center** (tutoring and writing workshops)
Room 126, Conklin Hall
(973) 353-5847; nwc@rutgers.edu
https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center

**Required Texts**


Materials marked with an asterisk* are on Blackboard and are mandatory. Syllabus is subject to change. The most updated version is on Blackboard.

Class Schedule

Week 1. Introduction to Islamic Civilization

January 21 & 23
Introduction to class requirements and the idea of the Islamic world

Week 2. Rise of Islam and Empire

January 28 & 30
Robinson, 'Arib; Ibn Muqla; Science and Islam* (in class)

Week 3. Transformations

February 4 & 6
Egger, Ch. 1, *The Great Transformation*
Ibn al-Athir on Mongols in Iran*

Week 4. Law and Practice

February 11 & 13
Hallaq, *An Introduction to Islamic Law* *
Robinson, Karima al-Marwaziyya;

Week 5. Philosophy; Diversity & Unity

February 18 & 20
Robinson, al-Ghazali; Ibn Rushd; al-Hilli; Ibn Taymiyya
Chittick, Ibn Arabi*
Ibn Battuta’s Hajj*

Week 6. Expressions of Faith

February 25 & 27
Green, *Sufism: A Global History*
Robinson, al-Hallaj; Rumi
Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World* (in class)

Week 7. From Iberian Peninsula to West Africa

March 3 & 5
Egger, Ch. 4, *The Umma in the West*
Robinson, al-Idrisi; Ibn Khaldun
Week 8. The Ottoman Empire

March 10 & 12

EXAM I – March 10
Egger, Part II, The Muslims Ascendancy and
The Central Muslim Lands (up to page 111 - "Arabian Peninsula")
Robinson, Mehmed II
A Visit to the Wife of Suleiman the Magnificent*

SPRING BREAK - March 14-22

Week 9. Persia/Iran and Central Asia

March 24 & 26
Egger, Ch. 5, Central Asia and Iran
Robinson, Shah Isma’ili;
PAPER 1 DUE – March 26

Week 10. South Asia

March 31 & April 2
Egger, Ch. 6, South Asia
Robinson, Mahmud of Ghazna
Traveling Salesmen, Traveling Taxmen*

Week 11. The Indian Ocean Basin

April 7 & 9
Egger, Ch. 7, The Indian Ocean Basin
When Asia Was World Economy*

Week 12. Renewal and Reform

April 14 & 16
Egger, Part III - The World Turned Upside Down and Reform and Renewal
Ahmad S. Dallal, Islam without Europe, Introduction*

Week 13. European Imperialism

April 21 & 23
Egger, Ch. 9, The Loss of Sovereignty
Mocha* and Killing the Golden Goose*
EXAM II – April 23

Week 14. Islam in America

April 28 & 30
Turner, African Muslim Slaves and Islam in Antebellum America*
Bayoumi, This Muslim American Life, 23-74*
PAPER II DUE May 3

FINAL due on Blackboard – May 12