

Rutgers University—Newark
Federated Department of History
Spring Semester 2022
Class Time: MW 10:00-11:20

Prof. Mayte Green-Mercado
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Virtual Office Hours: by appointment
Hill Hall 204



Window with the *shahādah*, the Muslim profession of faith, carved stucco and colored glass
Egypt, 1800-80. Museum no. 1202-1883

HIST 287 HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION, I

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of the history of Islamic civilization. In it we will study social, economic, and cultural aspects of the history of the region of West Asia, North Africa, and South-Western Europe between the sixth and thirteenth 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 read different types of historical evidence and learn how they can be used for historical analysis.

LEARNING 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.

All readings for this course will be available on Canvas.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: 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/>

Assignments:

- There will be **weekly online quizzes** based on the readings for each week. These quizzes will be administered online, and they should be completed before class.
- Final Project: Timeline of the history of Islamic Civilization. Students will use the digital tool **Timeline JS** to create a timeline of the history of Islamic Civilization. For this project, students will work on individual biographies, which will be added to the timeline. These biographies will be organized in clusters, pertaining to a particular historical period or dynasty. In addition to working on the individual biographies, students will work in groups to create an introduction to the dynasty or period when the character they have been assigned lived. Each student will present their biographies to the class on the last week of the semester. Each presentation will be no more than 10 minutes long. Students will be assigned biographies for their projects. No students can work on the same biography.
- There will be **TWO** exams (midterm and final).

Grading:

Online quizzes	20%
Digital Project	25%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	30%

A	100-90	B	85-80	C	75-70	F	59-0
B+	89-86	C+	79-76	D	69-60		

RESOURCES, SUPPORT, AND ASSISTANCE:

Technology Resources for Students
<https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students/>

Counseling Center: The Rutgers-Newark Counseling Center provides a number of counseling and consultative services to enrolled and eligible undergraduate and graduate students. For students, if you are seeking individual or group therapy, you can expect to find

a safe, supportive space to collaboratively identify and begin to change the thoughts, behaviors, and beliefs that prevent you from being your best self.

<http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu>

Disabilities: Rutgers welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form:

<https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

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.

Food: PantryRUN, the campus food pantry, helps students who have difficulty affording enough healthy food to remain focused on their studies and stay healthy. You can find hours and information here: <https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/pantryrun>.

Writing: The Rutgers University-Newark Writing Center provides tutoring for students who want to strengthen their reading, writing, and research skills and offers individual sessions and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers University-Newark campus. More details here:

<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>.

Important safety information:

In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, **masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others**, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). **Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth**. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: [myRutgers Portal](#).

****This syllabus is subject to change****

WEEK 1 Introduction and Organization

W 1/19 **Introduction, discussion of the syllabus, and course policies**
What do we mean by Islamic Civilization? Geography, Languages, Sources and Periodization.

WEEK 2 The Near Eastern Context to the Rise of Islam

M 1/24 **Pre-Islamic Near East: The Byzantine and Sassanian Empires**
****(Monday Schedule, 2:30-3:50)****
Textbook: Vernon O Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 1-15.
Suggested Podcast: "The Sassanid Empire," *In Our Time*, BBC

W 1/26 **Pre-Islamic Arabia**
Textbook: Egger, 16-22.
Primary Source:
"Ibn al-Kalbī: From the Book of Idols" in *The Islamic World*, eds. McNeill, W. and Marilyn Robinson Waldman (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973): 9-13.
Suggested Podcast: "Antara ibn Shaddad," *In Our Time*, BBC

WEEK 3 The Rise and Expansion of Islam (ca. 570-632 C.E.)

M 1/31 **Muhammad, The Prophet**
Textbook: Egger, 20-31.
Biography: Chase Robinson, "Muhammad, the Prophet," in *Islamic Civilization in Thirty Lives* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2016): 20- 31.
Primary Source: "The umma Document," in Donner, *Muhammad and the Believers*, 227-232.

W 2/2

Qur'ān and Hadīth

Textbook: Daniel Brown, *New Introduction to Islam*, 2nd ed. 77-87; 99.

Primary Source:

The Qur'an, Suras 99, 100, 101; Sura 4 vv. 1-11; Sura 12 "Joseph."
Genesis 37, 39, 42-45.

WEEK 4 The Question of Legitimacy in the Early Islamic Empire, 632-661 C.E

M 2/

The Age of Conquests and Early Institutions

Textbook: Egger, 33-44.

Podcast: "[The Arab Conquests](#)," *In Our Time*, BBC

W 2/9

The First Civil War (Fitna)

Textbook: Egger, 62-66.

Biographies:

"Ali, cousin, caliph, and forefather of Shi'ism," *ICTL*, 31-37.

"A'isha, wife of the Prophet," in *ICTL*, 37-41.

Primary Source:

Balādhurī, "Conversations with Mu'awiya (661-668)"

WEEK 5

The Umayyad Dynasty (661-750 C.E.)

M 2/14

The Second Civil War and the Early Umayyads

Textbook: Egger, 66-69.

Biography: "al-Ṭabarī, traditionalist rationalist," in *ICTL*, 85-90.

Primary Source: *History of al-Ṭabarī*, vol. XIX, "The Events of the Year 61 (680/681)," [Battle of Karbala] excerpts.

W 2/16

ʿAbd al-Malik and the Later Umayyads

Textbook: Egger, 44-61.

Primary Source: "Inscriptions in the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem," in Fred Donner, *Muhammad and the Believers*, 233-235.

Biography: "ʿAbd al-Malik, engineer of the caliphate," in *ICTL*, 42-48.

Short Video:

Heba Mostafa, [The Dome of the Rock: Original Mosaics](#)

WEEK 6

The ʿAbbasid Caliphate (750-1258 C.E.)

M 2/21

The ʿAbbasids

Textbook: Egger, 69-72; 85-89.

Biography:

"Ibn al-Muqaffaʿ, translator and essayist," in *ICTL*, 48-55.

"al-Ma'mun, caliph and patron," in *ICTL*, 60-68.

Podcast: "[The Imperial Caliphates](#)," Ottoman History Podcast

W 2/23

DISCUSSION OF PRIMARY SOURCES

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): 6-9; 99.

Biography: "Arib, courtesan of caliphs," in *ICTL*, 74-79.

Podcast: "[The Arabian Nights](#)," *In Our Time*, BBC

WEEK 7

The Empire Cannot Hold Two Caliphs

M 2/28

The Fāṭimids

Textbook: Egger, 72-80; 214-219.

Article: 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.

Primary Source:

Wilfred Madelung and Paul E. Walker (ed.), *The Advent of the Fatimids, A Contemporary Shi'i Witness. An Edition and English Translation of Ibn al-Haytham's Kitab al-Munazarat* (London, New York: I.B. Tauris, 2000): 63-73.

Podcast: "[Fragments of the Fatimid Caliphate](#)," *OHP*

W 3/2

The Ornament of the World: The Umayyads in al-Andalus

Textbook: Egger, 98-112; 166-168.

Biography: "Ibn Hazm, polemicist, polymath," *ICTL*, 128-134.

Primary Sources:

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

Podcast: "[Legacies of al-Andalus](#)," Ottoman History Podcast

WEEK 8

Filling the Power Vacuum (819-1062 C.E.)

M 3/7

Discussion of Projects and Study Guide

W 3/9

Midterm Exam

WEEK 9

Spring Break

M 3/14

NO CLASS

W 3/16

NO CLASS

WEEK 10

Filling the Power Vacuum (819-1062 C.E.)

M 3/21

The Samanid Dynasty

Article:

Luke Treadwell, "The Samanids: The First Islamic Dynasty of Central Asia," in Edmund Herzig and Sarah Stewart (eds.) *Early Islamic Iran. The Idea of Iran* (London and New York: I.B. Tauris, 2011), 3-15.

Podcast: "Avicenna," *In Our Time*, BBC

W 3/23

The Buyid Sultanate

Textbook: Egger, 142-144.

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.

WEEK 11

Filling the Power Vacuum (977-1194 C.E.)

M 3/28

The Ghaznavids

Textbook: Egger, 145-151.

Biography: "Mahmud of Ghazna, conqueror and patron," in *ICTL*, 107-112.

Podcast: "[Shahnameh of Ferdowsi](#)," *In Our Time*, BBC

W 3/30

The Seljuks and the Migration of the Oghuz

Textbook: Egger, 151-154; 192-194.

Primary Sources:

"Ibn Khallikan: Biography of the Vizier Nizam al-Mulk," in *Islamic Central Asia*, 89-92.

"Nizam al-Mulk: A Mirror for Princes," 92-94

WEEK 12

Challenges to the Caliphate

M 4/4

Amazigh Empires: Almoravids and Almohads

Textbook: Egger, 182-188.

Biography: "al-Idrisi," *ICTL*, 153-160.

Podcast: "[The Almoravid Empire](#)," *In Our Time*, BBC

Primary Source:

"Ibn Tumart and the Rise of the Almohads," in *Medieval Iberia*.

W 4/6

Zangids, Ayyubids, and the Crusades

Textbook: Egger, 172-182.

Biography: "Saladin, anti-Crusader hero," in *ICTL*, 160-168.

Primary Source:

"Usāma: From Memoirs," in *The Islamic World*, selections.

Travels of Ibn Jubayr. A Medieval Journey from Cordoba to Jerusalem, trans. Ronald Broadhurst (London: I.B.Tauris, 2020), selections.

Podcast: "[The Crusades in an Islamic Context](#)," *OHP*

WEEK 13 **Synthesis and Creativity**

M 4/11 **Islamic Law and Theology**
Textbook: Egger, 114-122, 123-137.
Biographies:
“Karima al-Marwaziyya, hadith scholar,” in *ICTL*, 134-139.
“al-Ghazali, ‘Renewer’ of Islam,” in *ICTL*, 139-148.
Podcasts:
“[What is Islamic Law](#),” Ottoman History Podcast

W 4/13 **Philosophy and Mysticism**
Textbook: Egger, 199-214.
“Ibn Rushd (Averroes), Aristotelian monotheist,” in *ICTL*, 169-177.
Rabi‘a al-‘Adawiyya, renunciant and saint, in *ICTL*, 54-60.
“al-Hallaj ‘the Truth (922),” in *ICTL*, 79-84.
Rumi, Sufi ‘poet,’ in *ICTL*, 188-194.
Podcast: “[Rumi’s Poetry](#),” *In Our Time*, BBC
“[Rumi’s World](#),” *Ottoman History Podcast*

WEEK 14 **Alternatives to the Classical Islamic Principles of Governance**

M 4/18 **The Mamluk Dynasty**
Textbook: Egger 269-273.
Primary Source:
Shihab al-Din al-Nuwayri, “On the History of the Mamluk State,” in *The Ultimate Ambition in the Arts of Erudition* (excerpts).
Podcast: “[The Mamluks](#),” *In Our Time*, BBC
“[Life in the Mamluk Sultanate](#),” *Ottoman History Podcast*

W 4/20 **The Islamic World in the Age of Mongol Prestige**
(Lecture by Dr. Evrim Banbas, Bonn University)
Textbook: Egger, 194-198; 257-269.
Primary Source:
“The Secret History of the Mongols: Temujin’s Origins.”
Biography:
“Rashid al-Din, physician, courtier, and global historian,” in *ICTL*, 194-200.
“al-Hilli,” in *ICTL*, 200-205.
Podcast: “[The Mongols and Muslim Societies](#),” *OHP*

WEEK 15 **Timeline Presentations**

M 4/25 Presentations Groups

W 4/27 Presentations Groups

WEEK 16 **Timeline Presentations**

M 5/2 Presentations Groups

W 5/4 READING DAY

WEEK 17

M 5/9 FINAL EXAM 8:30-11:30