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.

REQUIRED TEXTS


• Selection of Primary Sources

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/

Students are required to view the Plagiarism video on Canvas and take the quiz by no later than October 4. The video is available in the Modules section of the Canvas site.

Assignments:
• There will be a series of short videos and quizzes in the module section of Canvas that you will have to complete before submitting paper 1 [Types of Sources; Why Citations Matter; Turabian Citations; Academic Integrity] Each quiz will count for half a credit point.

• Students will write ONE paper (500 words, 2 pages). The essay prompt will be posted on Canvas one week in advance. **No email submissions will be accepted.**

• Students will work in their groups to produce a final project, that they will present to the class on the last week of the semester. Each presentation will be no more than 20 minutes long. For the final projects, students will collectively create a timeline of the history of Islamic Civilization focusing on ONE figure of Islamic history, using the digital tool **Timeline JS.** Students will use the assigned biographies assigned in class, or in consultation with the Professor. A list of biographies will be provided. Students will select any biography **WITH THE EXEPTION OF** that of Muhammad. Each group will present on their biography. No groups can work on the same biography.

• There will be TWO exams (midterm and final).

• Participation in these discussions will count towards your final grade.
**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online training quizzes</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Group Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**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.

**This syllabus is subject to change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction and Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W, 9/1</td>
<td>Introduction, discussion of the syllabus, and course policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What do we mean by Islamic Civilization? Geography, Languages, Sources and Periodization.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>The Near Eastern Context to the Rise of Islam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W, 9/8</td>
<td>Pre-Islamic Near East: The Byzantine and Sassanian Empires</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>(Monday Schedule, 2:30-3:50)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Podcast:</strong></td>
<td>“The Sassanid Empire,” <em>In Our Time</em>, BBC</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>The Rise and Expansion of Islam (ca. 570-632 C.E.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>M, 9/13</td>
<td>Pre-Islamic Arabia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Textbook:</strong></td>
<td>Egger, 16-22.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Podcast:</strong></td>
<td>“Antara ibn Shaddad,” <em>In Our Time</em>, BBC</td>
</tr>
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| W, 9/15 | Muhammad, The Prophet |
| **Textbook:** | Egger, 20-31. |

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

**M, 9/20**  
**The Age of Conquests and Early Institutions**

**Textbook:** Egger, 33-44.

**Podcast:** “The Arab Conquests,” *In Our Time*, BBC

**W, 9/22**  
**The First Civil War (Fitna)**

**Textbook:** Egger, 62-66.

**Biographies:**
“ʿAʾisha, wife of the Prophet,” in *ICTL*, 37-41.

**Primary Source:** Balādhurī, “Conversations with Muʿawiya (661-668)”

**Week 5**  
**The Umayyad Dynasty (661-750 C.E.)**

**M, 9/27**  
**The Second Civil War and the Early Umayyads**

**Textbook:** Egger, 66-69.

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


**W, 9/29**  
**ʿAbd al-Malik and the Later Umayyads**

Textbook: Egger, 44-61.


**Short Video:**
Heba Mostafa, *The Dome of the Rock: Original Mosaics*

**Week 6**  
**The ʿAbbasid Caliphate (750-1258 C.E.)**

**M, 10/4**  
**The ʿAbbasids**

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

**Biography:**
“al-Maʿmūn, caliph and patron,” in *ICTL*, 60-68.

**Podcast:** “The Imperial Caliphates,” Ottoman History Podcast

**W, 10/6**  
**PAPER 1 DUE via Canvas**

**Primary Sources:**
- Tale from *A Thousand and One Nights*

**Biography:** “ʿArib, courtesan of caliphs,” in *ICTL*, 74-79.

**Podcast:** “*The Arabian Nights,*” *In Our Time*, BBC

### Week 7

**The Empire Cannot Hold Two Caliphs**

**M, 10/11**

**Shiʿi identities**

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

**W, 10/13**

**The Fāṭimids**


**Primary Source:**


**Podcast:** “*Fragments of the Fatimid Caliphate,*” *Ottoman History Podcast*

### Week 8

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

**M, 10/18**

**al-Andalus**

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

**Biography:** “Ibn Hazm, polemician, polymath,” *ICTL*, 128-134.

**Primary Sources:**


Podcast: “*Legacies of al-Andalus,*” *Ottoman History Podcast*

**W, 10/20**

**Midterm Exam**

### Week 9

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

**M, 10/25**

**The Samanid Dynasty**

**Article:**


**Podcast:** “Avicenna,” *In Our Time*, BBC

**Discussion of final project, selection of biographies, and demonstration of Timeline JS**

**W, 10/27**

**The Buyid Sultanate**

**Textbook:** Egger, 142-144.

**Primary Source:**

al-Mawardi, “On the Appointment of Provincial Governors,” in *The Ordinances of*
Week 10  Filling the Power Vacuum (977-1194 C.E.)

M, 11/1  The Ghaznavids  
Podcast: “Shahnameh of Ferdowsi,” In Our Time, BBC

W, 11/3  The Seljuks and the Migration of the Oghuz  
Primary Sources:  

Week 11  Challenges to the Caliphate

M, 11/8  Zangids, Ayyubids, and the Crusades  
Primary Source:  
Podcast: “The Crusades in an Islamic Context,” Ottoman History Podcast

W, 11/10  Amazigh Empires: Almoravids and Almohads  
Textbook: Egger, 182-188.  
Podcast: “The Almoravid Empire,” In Our Time, BBC  
Primary Source:  
“Ibn Tumart and the Rise of the Almohads,” in Medieval Iberia.

Week 12  Synthesis and Creativity

M, 11/15  Islamic Law  
Biographies:  
“Karîma al-Marwâzîyya, hadith scholar,” in ICTL, 134-139.  
Podcasts:  
“What is Islamic Law,” Ottoman History Podcast

W, 11/17  Theology, Philosophy, and Mysticism  
Biographies:
Rabiʿa al-ʿAdawiyya, 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 13                Project Organization

M, 11/22    Discussion of projects
W, 11/24    THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14                Alternatives to the Classical Islamic Principles of Governance

M, 11/29    The Mamluk Dynasty
                        (Wednesday schedule)
Primary Source:
Podcast: “The Mamluks,” In Our Time, BBC
            “Life in the Mamluk Sultanate,” Ottoman History Podcast

W, 12/1      The Islamic World in the Age of Mongol Prestige
Primary Source:
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,” Ottoman History Podcast

Week 15                Presentations

M, 12/6       Group presentations
W, 12/8       Group presentations

Week 16                Recap

M, 12/13      LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Week 17                Final Exam

M, 12/20      Online exam