

**HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION - II  
(FROM 1258 C.E. TO PRESENT)**

**SPRING 2015  
(510:288:01)**

**Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00-11:20 am  
CONKLIN HALL 352**

Dr. Nükhet Varlık  
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Office Hours: By appointment only  
Office: Conklin Hall, 310

**READINGS**

- Vernon Egger, *A History of the Muslim World since 1260*. Pearson, 2008. (ISBN: 9780132269698)
  
- Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.
  
- Also see: *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 history of the Islamic civilization. In this course, we will study social, economic, and cultural aspects of the history of the Middle and Near East region, from the dramatic arrival of Mongol armies in the mid-thirteenth century up to the present era. The treatment of the subject will be roughly chronological, though social and economic life, culture, and arts will be discussed 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, lectures, and audio-visual materials.

**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 the Middle and Near East,
- demonstrate a basic level of competence in differentiating the major periods of the History of the Middle and Near East 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 a paper (7-8 pages) for this course (DUE MAY 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - 11:30 am). This assignment will be submitted via Turn-it-in on Blackboard. No other forms of submission will be accepted. *LATE AND/OR EMAILED PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES*. Please see Blackboard for detailed information about this assignment.

## **EXAMS**

Students will take three tests in this course. The tests will be based on readings and class discussions. The format and content of the tests will be discussed in class.

In addition to three tests, there will be several pop quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will assess your understanding of the readings. Be prepared to take a quiz on assigned readings at any time. Please follow the syllabus closely to keep track of what you are supposed to read for each class. The quizzes will not be announced in advance. There will be no make-up for missed quizzes. If/when you miss one, you will receive "0" for that quiz.

## **GRADING**

- 20 % Quiz average
- 20 % Test #1
- 20 % Test #2
- 20 % Test #3
- 20 % Take-home essay

## **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**

- o 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 your failure so 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. 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. It is your responsibility to follow the syllabus to keep track of what readings are assigned for each class. You need to be prepared to take a pop quiz on the readings. We will be using our main textbook (*Egger*) frequently in class; therefore, you may find it useful to bring it to each meeting. When primary sources are going to be discussed in class, make sure to bring a copy of the assigned reading with you.
- There is a NO LAPTOP POLICY in this course. If you have a condition that necessitates the use of a laptop during class for the purpose of taking notes, please bring it to my attention along with a letter from The Office of Disability Services.
- No electronics can be used in this class, without prior consent of the instructor. 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.
- 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://history.newark.rutgers.edu/index.php?content=rn\\_integrity](http://history.newark.rutgers.edu/index.php?content=rn_integrity). All students are required to sign the Rutgers honor pledge. You must include this pledge on all major course assignments submitted for grading: “On my honor, I

have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).”

- If you have questions or concerns about this class, come and talk to me in person. Please do not send email inquiries instead of asking questions in class. Before you send an email, you need to verify that you have checked the syllabus, Blackboard, and/or asked your fellow classmates but have not found an answer to your question. Remember that emails to the instructor should follow standards of professional etiquette.
- 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 a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with 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.

**1/20 Introduction to the course, review of the syllabus, course material, and policies**

**1/22 Introduction to the study of Islamic civilization**  
Terminology, geography, languages, historical and conceptual background  
READ: Egger, xv-xvii

- 1/27**            **A brief overview of history of Islamic civilization up to 1258**  
 READ: Egger, Introduction, xviii-xxx
- 1/29**            PBS documentary–**Islam: Empire of Faith**, Part 1, discussion  
 READ: Marshall G. S. Hodgson, “The Role of Islam in World History,”  
*International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 2. (Apr., 1970),  
 pp. 99-123 (See Blackboard, #1)
- 2/3**             PBS documentary–**Islam: Empire of Faith**, Part 2, discussion  
 READ: Egger, pp. 1-33; Primary sources: Gettleman & Schaar, pp. 46-58;  
 The Mongols (See Blackboard, #2,3)
- 2/5**             **Mongol hegemony, 1260-1405** (Mongol Khanates, New Centers of  
 Islamic Culture, Scourges)  
 READ: Egger, pp. 1-33
- 2/10**            **Unity and Diversity in Islamic Traditions**  
 READ: Egger, 34-61
- 2/12**            **Early modern Muslim empires**  
 READ: Subrahmanyam, Sanjay. “A Tale of Three Empires: Mughals,  
 Ottomans, and Habsburgs in a Comparative Context.” *Common  
 Knowledge* 12/1 (2006): 66-92 (See Blackboard, #4)
- 2/17**            **Test #1**
- 2/19**            PBS documentary–**Islam: Empire of Faith**, Part 3, discussion  
 READ: Primary source: The Reign of Osman Gazi (See Blackboard, #5)
- 2/24-26**        **The Ottomans**  
 READ: Egger, 63-107
- 3/3-5**           **The Safavids**  
 READ: Egger, 143-179

- 3/10-12**      **The Mughals**  
READ: Egger, 181-219
- 3/17- 19**      **SPRING BREAK**
- 3/24**          **Test # 2**
- 3/26**          **Life in the early modern Muslim world: a glance at society and culture**  
READ: Primary source: Gettleman & Schaar, pp. 62-65; Ellison B. Findly, "The Capture of Maryam uz-Zamani's Ship: Mughal Women and European Traders," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 108, No. 2, April-June 1988, pp. 227-238 (See Blackboard, #6,7)
- 3/31-4/2**      **Reform and Renewal in the Islamic World, 1750-1875**  
READ: Egger, 261-314
- 4/7-9**          **The Loss of Sovereignty, 1875-1920**  
READ: Egger, 315-368
- 4/14-16**      **The Interwar Years, 1920-1939**  
READ: Egger, 369-411
- 4/21-23**      **Regaining Sovereignty, 1939-1970**  
READ: Egger, 412-457
- 4/28**          **Test # 3**
- 4/30**          **NO CLASS** – instructor away at conference
- 5/12**          **Take-home essay due** (upload your essays on Turn-it-in by 11:30 am)