

HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION - II

**SPRING 2016
(21:510:288)**

**Monday-Wednesday, 10:00-11:20 am
Life Sciences Center 103**

Dr. Nükhet Varlık
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Office Hours: Monday 2:00-3:00 pm
Office: Conklin Hall, 327

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 to the modern 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 two papers for this course. The first one will be a short paper (3-4 pages). The second paper will be slightly longer (6-7 pages). Both papers will be submitted via Turn-it-in on Blackboard. No other forms of submission (printed or emailed copies) will be accepted. If you submit your paper late, you will lose 10% of the assignment grade for every 24-hours. Detailed information about the assignments will be announced on Blackboard.

EXAMS

There will be two 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.

GRADING

10%	Paper #1
30%	Paper #2
30%	Test #1
30%	Test #2

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.” Four UNEXCUSED absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade. More than 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 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.
- The use of laptops or other electronic devices in this class requires the consent of the instructor. If you have a condition that necessitates the use of a laptop during class for the purpose of taking notes or accessing readings, please bring it to my attention along with a letter from The Office of Disability Services. Those students will be asked to sit in the front row of chairs in the classroom. Otherwise, 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, which falls under the Code of Student Conduct. The policy and the consequences of violating it are outlined here: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/office-dean-student-affairs/academic-integrity-policy>. I strictly follow the University's rules regarding plagiarism and other academic irregularities. Please consult me if you have any questions about what is and is not appropriate regarding the use of sources or citation. 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

1/25 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

- 2/1** 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)
- 2/8** **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
- 2/15** **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)
- Last day to submit draft papers for feedback
- 2/17** PBS documentary–**Islam: Empire of Faith**, Part 3, discussion
 READ: Primary source: The Reign of Osman Gazi (See Blackboard, #5)
- 2/22-24** **The Ottomans**
 READ: Egger, 63-107
- 2/29-3/2** **The Safavids**
 READ: Egger, 143-179
- ****2/29 Paper #1 due (upload your essay on Turn-it-in by 11:30 am)*****
- 3/7-9** **The Mughals**
 READ: Egger, 181-219

- 3/17- 19 SPRING BREAK**
- 3/21 Review for Test**
- 3/23 Test #1**
- 3/28 Discussion of test and final paper**
Last day to drop the course to receive “W” grade!
- 3/30-4/4 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)
- 4/6-11 European expansion and its effects**
Stephen F. Dale, “The Islamic World in the Age of European Expansion, 1500-1800,” in *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World*, edited by Francis Robinson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 62-89 (See Blackboard #8)
- 4/13-18 Challenges and Responses: Reform and Renewal in the Islamic World**
READ: Egger, 261-314
- 4/20 Concluding remarks on Islamic civilization in the contemporary world**
READ: Hodgson, Marshall G. *The Venture of Islam*. Vol. 3, pp. 411-441
- 4/25 Review for Test #2**
Last day to send draft papers for feedback
- 4/27 NO CLASS – instructor away at conference**
- 5/2 Test #2**

5/9

Paper # 2 due (upload your essay on Turn-it-in by 11:30 am)