

History 444: The Islamic World: 600 to present
University of Montevallo
Fall 2021
Dr. John R. Bawden

Course Credit: 3 hours

Pre-requisites: History 101 & 102

Meets: TR 2-315 pm, Humanities Hall, 305

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Office Hours: MW 9-12, 1-3, UMOM 303 (or by appointment)

Overview

History 444 surveys the birth of Islam, the structure of Islamic civilization, early disputes and enduring controversies among Muslims, and the religion's spread to non-Arabic parts of the world. The second half of the class examines the Islamic world's response to western imperialism, the Arab-Israel conflict, and contemporary politics in the Islamic world.

Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to describe the basic tenets of the Islamic faith and structures of Islamic civilization.
2. Students will be able to describe the processes by which Islam spread outside of the Middle East.
3. Students will compare the responses of Islamic societies to external threats and influences.
4. Students will think critically about the historical underpinnings of the Arab-Israel conflict, Islamism, the Sunni/Shia divide, and U.S. actions in the Middle East.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will show the ability to arrive at informed judgments about the Islamic World.
2. Students will demonstrate geographic literacy by comparing different Islamic societies across the globe.
3. Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills during weekly classroom discussions.
4. Students will demonstrate effective analytical writing skills by writing short essays.

Required Texts

Aslan, Reza. *No god but God: the Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam* (2011).

ISBN-10: 0812982444

Gittleman, Marvin E. and Stuart Schaar. *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader*, Third Edition (2012).

ISBN-10: 0802145779

Nasr, Vali. *The Shia Revival* (2016).

ISBN-10: 0393353389

Course Evaluation

This course will consist of a map quiz (5%), midterm (20%), final exam (20%), participation (20%), and four writing assignments (35%). The midterm and final exams will consist of short identifications and essay responses. The week prior to each exam, I will provide a study guide with key terms to know and possible themes for the essay questions. I do not allow make-up exams unless a student provides a legitimate reason. Written assignments receive a half letter grade penalty for each day they are late.

Grading

A: 100-90% **B:** 89-80% **C:** 79-70% **D:** 69-60% **F:** 59-0%

Writing Assignments

Essays must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font.

Course Withdrawal Deadline

The last day for students to withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" is **October 26**.

Graduate Level

Graduate students in History 544 will write a historiographical essay about a topic of the student's choosing (e.g., The Sack of Baghdad, Fall of Constantinople, Armenian Genocide, Gallipoli Campaign, Partition of India, Six Day War, Iranian Revolution, etc.). The essay will introduce the basic facts of what happened (1-2 pages) before moving on to a review of its interpretation by at least three scholars (3-4 pages). The purpose of the assignment is to gain knowledge of academic debates about a controversial event in the Islamic World, not just what happened, but what it means. Graduate students will present their findings to the class (3-5 minutes). This assignment takes the place of writing assignment #3.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance in this class is crucial on Thursdays. Your participation grade is determined by the quality of your participation during classroom discussion. Naturally, missing class negatively affects your participation grade. There is a *mandatory* class visit to the Birmingham Islamic Society (BIS) in Hoover. Attending this event is an important part of your participation grade. BIS is located at 2524 Hackberry Lane, Hoover, AL 35226. YOU MUST dress modestly: no shorts, tank tops, skirts above the knee, sleeveless shirts, etc.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

To claim as one's own the ideas or words of another is plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as the following: using the exact words of another person's work/writing without acknowledgement of your source through the use of quotation marks and correct citation/documentation; rephrasing a passage of another writer without giving proper credit; using someone else's facts or ideas without acknowledgement; using a piece of writing for one course that was already used in a previous course. Cheating on exams or assignments is also an affront to the principle of academic honesty. At the very minimum, an assignment on which plagiarism or cheating has occurred will receive no credit, i.e. a "zero," and an Academic Dishonesty Incident Form concerning the incident will be kept on file in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. Individual circumstances will determine other consequences.

ForUM Email

You are responsible for monitoring and managing your account regularly, even during breaks. You are responsible for all announcements, requests, and/or sensitive information delivered to your UM e-mail account, including information related to this course. You may electronically forward your UM e-mail to another e-mail address (e.g., @gmail.com, @hotmail.com), but at your own risk. The University is not responsible for the handling of forwarded e-mail. Having e-mail forwarded does not absolve you from the responsibilities associated with communication sent to your official UM e-mail address. If you have any questions regarding or problems with your UM email account, you should contact the Solution Center (205-665-6512). The Solution Center is available Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am-7:00 pm; Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Primary source material

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1d.asp#>

Disclaimer

I reserve the right, after written announcement, to change course requirements or the method of assessment.

Course Schedule

Week 1

8/24 Introductions
8/26 The Prophet, Islam's beginnings
Discuss Aslan, *No god but God*, Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-49

Week 2

8/31 Islamic Empire
9/2 Islamic concepts
Writing Assignment #1 due 9/2
Read Aslan, *No god but God*, Chapter 3-5, pp. 50-139

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| Week 3 | |
| 9/7 | Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates |
| 9/9 | Islamic Golden Age Read Aslan, <i>No god but God</i> , Chapters 6-8, pp. 140-219 Map Quiz on 9/9 |
| Week 4 | |
| 9/14 | Islam in Spain |
| 9/16 | Islam in Africa Writing Assignment #2 due 9/16 |
| Week 5 | |
| 9/21 | Islam in Asia |
| 9/23 | The Crusades & the Mongol Empire Discuss Gettleman, <i>The Middle East and Islamic World Reader</i> , Chapter II, pp. 37-65 |
| Week 6 | |
| 9/28 | The Gunpowder Empires |
| 9/30 | Mughals, Saffavids, & Ottomans Discuss Gettleman, <i>The Middle East and Islamic World Reader</i> , Chapter III, pp. 69-99 |
| Week 7 | |
| 10/5 | Imperialism & the Western Challenge |
| 10/7 | MIDTERM |
| Week 8 | |
| 10/12 | Field trip to Birmingham Islamic Society (BIS) Depart Montevallo @ 3:15pm Meet in BIS Parking Lot @ 4pm 2524 Hackberry Ln Birmingham 35226 |
| 10/14 | No class |
| Week 9 | |
| 10/19 | World War I |
| 10/21 | Treaty of Sèvres Discuss Gettleman, <i>The Middle East and Islamic World Reader</i> , Chapter IV, pp. 103-43 |
| Week 10 | |
| 10/26 | World War II & the Partition of India |
| 10/28 | Arab Nationalism Discuss Gettleman, <i>The Middle East and Islamic World Reader</i> , Chapter V, pp. 147-88 |
| Week 11 | |
| 11/2 | Postwar Developments |
| 11/4 | The Arab-Israel conflict Writing Assignment #3 due 11/4 Watch: Inch'Allah |
| Week 12 | |
| 11/9 | Decolonization and postwar migrations |
| 11/11 | The Iranian Revolution Guests: Carolyn & Sohail Rabbani |

Week 13

11/16

11/18

Yugoslavia, & Chechnya

The Persian Gulf wars

Read Gettleman, *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader*, Chapter VI, pp. 237-274

Discuss Nasr, *The Shia Revival*, Introduction, chapters 1&2

Week 14

11/23

11/25

Southeast Asia & Africa

THANKSGIVING

Writing Assignment #4 due 11/23

Week 15

11/30

12/2

The Arab Spring

Discuss Gettleman, *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader*, Chapter VII, pp. 277-375

Final Exam due Thursday December 9, 130-330 pm