

HINE 114

HISTORY OF THE ISLAMIC MIDDLE EAST (600-1800)

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Office hrs.: W 1-3

Fall 2010
Tu Th 8:00-9:20
CSB 001

The course is an introductory survey of the politics, society, and culture of the pre-modern Middle East from the birth of Islam in Arabia to the beginnings of European domination of the region, seventh through the eighteenth centuries. Themes such as state formation, sectarianism, political legitimacy, imperial consolidation, and contacts with the Christian world will be examined on the example of early Arab empires and the Ottoman and Safavid states.

BEGINNINGS OF ISLAM AND THE ISLAMIC POLITY

0. **Th Sep 23** (No class)

Independent viewing assignment:

Islam: Empire of Faith (part I)

1. **Tu Sep 28** Islam in historical perspective
Th Sep 30 The creation of the first Islamic state

Readings:

J. J. Saunders, **A History of Medieval Islam**, 1-37
Michael Sells, **Approaching the Qur'an**, 42-59, 136-37
"The Qur'an and Other Islamic Texts," in M. E. Gettleman and S. Schaar, **The Middle East and Islamic World Reader**, 12-26

Independent viewing assignment:

Hajj: The Pilgrimage

2. **Tu Oct 5** The problem of political legitimacy and schisms
Th Oct 7 Discussion

Readings:

Saunders, 39-75
Richard Yann, **Shiite Islam**, 15-34

THE AGE OF ARAB DYNASTIC EMPIRE

3. **Tu Oct 12** Formation of an empire and a civilization
Th Oct 14 Societal tensions in the domain of the caliphate

Readings:

Saunders, 77-105
Leila Ahmed, **Women and Gender in Islam**, 79-101
Abdelhamid I. Sabra, "The Exact Sciences" and Sami K. Hamarneh, "The Life Sciences" in **The Genius of Arab Civilization**, ed., J. Hayes, 179-93

Independent viewing assignment:

Islam: Empire of Faith (part II)

4. **Tu Oct 19** Rival caliphates
Th Oct 21 The challenges from the West and the East: The crusades and the Mongols

Readings:

Saunders, 106-198
Excerpt from **Autobiography** of Usama ibn Munqidh in **The Islamic World**, ed. W. H. McNeill and M. Waldman, 184-206
Rashid al-Din Fazlullah, "The Mongol Conquest of Baghdad," in Gettleman and Schaar, 48-51

FROM DISUNITY TO RE-CONSOLIDATION

5. **Tu Oct 26** Fragmentation
Th Oct 28 Discussion

Excerpt from Ibn Khaldun's **Muqaddimah**, ed. Charles Issawi, 99-126
Ross Dunn, **The Adventures of Ibn Battuta**, 1-12; 41-62
H.A.R. Gibb, ed., **The Travels of Ibn Battuta**, vol. 1, 70-89

6. **Tu Nov 2 MID-TERM EXAMINATION**
Th Nov 4 The rise and foundations of the Ottoman state

Readings:

Norman Itzkowitz, **Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition**, 3-36

Independent viewing assignment:

Islam: Empire of Faith: The Ottomans

RE-CONSOLIDATION OF MUSLIM EMPIRES

7. **Tu Nov 9** Ottoman institutions and expansion
Th Nov 11 Holiday – Veterans' Day

Readings:

Itzkowitz, 37-61

Kritovoulos, **History of Mehmed the Conqueror** in McNeill and Waldman, 312-36

Cemal Kafadar, "The Ottomans and Europe," in T. Brady, et. al., **Handbook of European History, 1400-1600**, 589-628

8. **Tu Nov 16** Film: "The Age of Sulayman"
Th Nov 18 The gunpowder empires (16th century): Safavid Iran and Mughal India

Readings

Ira Lapidus, **A History of Islamic Societies**, 226-47

"Letters from Selim and Isma'il," in McNeill and Waldman, 337-44

Stephen Dale, **The Muslim Empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals**, 1-9; 48-76

THE MUSLIM WORLD AND THE RISE OF MODERN EUROPE

9. **Tu Nov 23** Internal and external challenges
Th Nov 25 Holiday -- Thanksgiving

Readings:

Itzkowitz, 63-109

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, **The Complete Letters**, v-vii; 353-373

10. **Tu Nov 30** Discussion
Th Dec 2 Towards the modern Middle East

Reading:

James Gelvin, **The Modern Middle East**, 47-59, 69-87

READING LIST

Norman Itzkowitz, **Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition**

J. J. Saunders, **A History of Medieval Islam**

(Both available at the University Bookstore and on hard-copy Reserves at SSH Library)

All other readings can be accessed on Web-CT.

<https://webctweb.ucsd.edu/webct/logon/3667069843001>

The films for independent viewing are available at SSH Video and Film Reserves.

REQUIREMENTS

Mid-term exam on November 2 (35%)

Final exam (comprehensive) on December 7 (8:00 a.m.) (65%)

Both exams are mandatory and in-class. Bring **blue book** and pen/pencil.