

Department of History, Dalhousie University
Winter, 2009

HISTORY 2503

From Cordoba to Jakarta: Islamic Civilizations in a Global Perspective (7th-18th Centuries)



Instructor: Prof. C. Mitchell

Time: MWF, 11:30-12:30.

Location: LSC P4258

Office Hours: Fridays, 1:30 -3:30 p.m.

Office Location: 2169, McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building

Office Telephone #.: 494-2788

E-mail: c.mitchell@dal.ca

Drop-off Box: # 90

I) COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE

This course will introduce students to the Perso-Levantine world at the time of Muhammad's prophecy in the 7th century, and how the Arabian Peninsula was impacted by the creation and emergence of an Islamic society in Medina and Mecca. With the displacing of Byzantine control in the Holy Land and the collapse of the Sasanian Empire in Persia, the Arab-centric society of Mecca and Medina had become an empire of unprecedented size and ethnic complexity. The class will examine the respective Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties, as well as the slave states of the Saljuqs and Mamluks. The final portion of the course will focus on the gunpowder empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals. The central theme of this course will be an examination of the Islamic community, or *umma*, from its earliest

days and how it interacted over the next thousand years with different surrounding traditions and cultures in the Mediterranean, the Iranian Plateau, the Caucasus, the Steppe, India, and Southeast Asia. Another important theme will be the study of how various Islamic societies understood and resolved the age-old dynamic between tribal nomadism and hierarchical urbanism. This course will strive to strike a balance between understanding Islamic civilization in both a societal and historical context.

While students will not necessarily be expected to have a background in Islamic history, they will be expected to keep up with readings and pursue supplementary material should they choose to.

II) COURSE REQUIREMENTS

i) Article Review (15%)

Students will be expected to select one (1) of nine articles posted on the WEB CT component of the course, and provide succinct summary and analysis of this article. A handout will be distributed this week.

Length: 1,000 words (ca. 4 pages)

Due: Jan. 30, 2009 (**late penalty in effect!**)

ii) Major Research Essay (25%)

Students will be expected to research and write an essay 2,500-3,000 words on a topic(s) to be distributed later in the semester.

Due: April 1, 2009 (**late penalty in effect!**)

iii) Mid-term Exam (25%)

Combination multiple choice, identifications, and short essay(s)

Scheduled: Feb. 2, 2009

iv) Final Exam (35%)

Identification and essay questions.

Scheduled: T.B.A.

Note on submissions and deadlines:

All assignments are due on their respective due dates; **no extensions will be granted**. Failure to submit an essay on its proper due date results in a **3% per day penalty (5% per weekend)** for a maximum of 1 week. If students are having difficulty with an assignment, they are encouraged to approach the instructor **as soon as possible**.

*****Note*****, Students must fulfill every portion of this course (book review, research paper, mid-term, final) to receive a grade. Non-completion of any major assignment for this course will result in a failure (F).

III) PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Note on submissions and plagiarism:

Written assignments must be submitted on time. A late penalty of 3% a day and 5% per weekend will be levied for late papers. Medical documentation - if appropriate - may be considered. If students are having difficulty with an assignment, they are encouraged to approach the instructor as soon as possible.

Students are advised to keep all research notes for their essays, and to retain a photocopy of their essay. Assignments and essays will be marked for clarity of writing, grammar, organization - in addition to content and analysis.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense which may lead to

loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even the revocation of a degree. All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar at <http://registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#12>. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

If there is any confusion regarding what constitutes plagiarism, consult p. 25 of the Dalhousie University Undergraduate Calendar, or visit the following website for the Department of History:

http://www.dal.ca/~histwww/style_guide.htm

The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer readable format.. You must therefore keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand.

Note on disabilities:

Students with disabilities should register as quickly as possible at Student Accessibility Services if they want to receive academic accommodations. To do so please phone 494-2836, e-mail <disabilities@dal.ca>, or drop in at the Killam, G28.

III. TEXTS

Available at Outside the Lines Bookstore

6297 Quinpool Road

422-3544

Web address: www.outsidethelinesbooks.com

1. Jonathan Berkey, *The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East 600-1800* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).
2. John Esposito (ed.), *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).

IV. LECTURES

Jan. 5 – Introduction

Jan. 7 - Geography

Jan. 9 – The Ancient Near East

Berkey, pp. 1-38

Terms: **Sasanians, Byzantines**

Jan. 12 – Pre-Islamic Arabia

Berkey, pp. 39-50

Terms: **Mecca, Medina, Quraysh**

Jan. 14 – The Messenger

Berkey, pp. 58-69

Terms: **Abraham, Banu al-Nadir, Banu Hashim, Banu Qurayza, Constitution of Medina, Hijrah, Muhammad, Night Journey, Treaty of Hdaybiyah**

Jan. 16 – The Qur'an

Berkey, pp. 58-69

Terms: **Day of Judgment, Eschatology, Gabriel, Ishmael, Night of Power and Excellence, Qur'an, Surah, Tawhid**

Jan. 19 – Expansion into the Levant and Iran

Berkey, pp. 70-82

Terms: **Abu Bakr al-Siddiq, Aishah, Ali ibn Ali Talib, Mawali, Battle of Qadisiyya, Rightly Guided Caliphs, Umar ibn al-Khattab, Battle of Yarmuk, Uthman ibn Affan**

Jan. 21 – Umayyads and the Issue of Sectarianism

Berkey, pp. 83-90

Terms: **Battle of the Camel, Kharijites, Muawiyah, Battle of Siffin, Umayyad caliphate**

Jan. 23 – *Dhimmi* in Islam

Berkey, pp. 91-101

Terms: **Ahl al-Kitab, jizya, dhimmi**

Jan. 26 – The Maghrib and the Mediterranean

Terms: **Aghlabids, Tulunids**

Jan. 28 - `Abbasid Revolution

Berkey, pp. 102-109

Terms: **Abu Muslim al-Khurasani**

Jan. 30 - The `Abbasid Empire

Berkey, 113-118

Terms: **Hadith, Harun al-Rashid, al-Ma'mun, Mansur**

****Article review due*

Feb. 2 - *Midterm*

Feb. 4 - The Fatimid Dynasty in North Africa

Berkey, pp. 138-140

Terms: **Azhar-al, Isma`ilis, Fatimid dynasty**

Feb. 6 – No Class

Feb. 9 – Glory of Cordova and Arabo-Hispanic Civilization

Terms: **Caliphate of Cordoba, Granada**

Feb. 11 - Baghdad and the House of Wisdom

Berkey, pp. 113-115

Terms: **Aristotle, Baghdad, Bayt al-Hikmah, Kharizmi, Razi**

Feb. 13 - Islam as an Urban Phenomenon

Berkey, pp. 119-123

Terms: **Mosque, Mosque of the Prophet, ulama, waqf**

Feb. 16 - Muslim Philosophy and the Mu`tazilite Controversy

Berkey, pp., 124-129

Terms: **Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina, Ibn Tufayl, Jahiz, Kindi, Mihna, Mutazilis, Neoplatonism, Philosophy, Plato**

Feb. 18 - Shi`ism

Berkey, pp. 130-140

Terms: **Ahl al-Bayt, Alids, Ghadir Khumm, Guardianship, Hidden Imam, Shi`i Islam, walaya**

Feb. 20 - Islamic Law

Berkey, pp. 141-151

Terms: **Fatwa, Fiqh, Hanafi School of Law, Hanbali School of Law, ijma, ijihad, inheritance, Islamic Law, madhhab, Maliki School of Law, Shafi`i School of Law, qisas, qiyas, Shariah, Shariah courts**

Feb. 23-Feb. 27 - Break

March 2 - Movie - *"Islam: Empire of Faith" (I)*

March 4 - Movie - *"Islam: Empire of Faith" (II)*

March 6 - Movie - *Shi`ism: Waiting for the Hidden Imam*

March 9 - Islamic Mysticism

Berkey, pp. 152-158, pp. 231-247

Terms: **Dhikr, Fana, Hagiography, Hallaj, Ibn al-`Arabi, Rumi, Sufism, Tariqah**

March 11 - Women in Classical and Medieval Islam

March 13 - Peripatetic Muslims: Traders, Preachers, and Pilgrims

Berkey, pp. 224-230

Terms: **Hajj**

March 16 - Decline of the `Abbasid Empire and Rise of the Saljuqs

Berkey, pp. 179-188

Terms: **Ghaznavids, Malik Shah, Battle of Manzikert, Nizam al-Mulk, Arp Arslan**

March 18 - Sunni Revivalism and Education in Islam

Berkey, pp. 189-198

Terms: **Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, madrasa, Mawardi**

March 20 – The Crusades
Berkey, pp. 198-202
Terms: **Crusades, Battle of Hittin, Salah al-Din**

March 23 – The Mongol Invasions
Berkey, pp. 203-215, pp. 248-257
Terms: **Genghis Khan, Ghazan Khan**

March 25 – The Ottomans
Berkey, pp. 261-66
Terms: **Devshirme, Janissaries, Mehmet II, Ottoman empire, Suleyman the Magnificent**

March 27 – The Safavids
Berkey, pp. 266-269
Terms: **Battle of Chaldiran, Majlisi, Safavid empire, Shah Abbas, Shah Ismail**

March 30 - *Movie – “Islam: Empire of Faith” (III)*

April 1– The Mughals
Terms: **Akbar, Aurangzeb, Taj Mahal**

******Major Research Paper is due***

April 3 – Islam in Southeast Asia
Terms: **Aceh, Islam in Malaysia, Islam in Indonesia, Islam in Southeast Asia**

April 6 – 18th-century: Decline or Decentralization?

April 8 – Review