His 316 001: Islam
Spring 2016
TR 12:30 – 1:45, F 472

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Office Hours: TR 1:45 – 3:00 pm
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Course Description
This course examines the influence of Islam in shaping the modern world. Through this course students will develop an understanding of the rise of Islam in Arabia and its subsequent expansion up to the establishment of extensive empires ranging from the Ottomans to the Mughals. Finally, the course will engage with Islam in the contemporary world by looking at political movements, gender issues and the use of violence. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the material through exams, papers and classroom participation.

In the first segment of this course students will develop an understanding of the rise of Islam in Arabia and its subsequent expansion to emerge as a global religion. The course materials, inclusive of the readings, lectures and documentaries will expose students to the diverse world of Islam, while familiarizing students to its contributions in the realms of culture, science, art and architecture to name a few. The second segment focuses specifically on the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires and pays attention to how the Muslim empires and Islam influenced the political structure, religious tradition, and the economic and cultural world of these regions. Finally, the third segment of the course will engage with Islam in the contemporary world by looking at Muslim reform and revivalist movements in the colonial and post-colonial context, women and gender as well as violent religious extremism and the accompanying Islamophobia that dominates our contemporary engagement with the Islamic world.

Readings


*Additional reading will be posted on the course website D2L.
Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

Attendance
You are expected to attend all lectures and participate in class discussions and in-class assignments. As this is a lecture-based course irregular attendance will preclude the student from performing well in the course. It is important to note that class lectures are not a substitute for the readings and proper comprehension of both the readings and lectures are necessary to pass this course.
All assignments are due on the day mentioned in the syllabus.
Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. The instructor will have full discretion over what behavior is deemed appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. All cell phones must be turned off or put on silent or vibrate mode. Students are not to use their cell phones to text during class sessions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments
Participation: Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the day as well as complete the in-class quizzes and assignments.

Exams: There will be 2 exams for this course. The contents of the exams will be based on the lectures and the readings assigned for the period. The exams are not going to be cumulative. I will provide guidelines and study guides the week prior to the exam.

Papers: There will be three short paper (4-5 pages) assignments for this course. The papers will be based on the readings assigned for this course. I will discuss the format of the papers in greater detail in class.

Grading Policy:
Participation: 15%
Exams (2 X 20%) 40%
Papers (3 X 15%) 45%

Grading Scale
90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
0-59 = F

No alternate (or "make-up") quizzes/exams will be offered. You must contact me prior to any excusable absence (medical, sport-related, etc.). Alternate and make-up exams will only be given for prior excused absences or in case of emergencies that prevent you from taking the exam on the assigned day. You will not be allowed to make-up for the exam unless you provide me with appropriate documentation verifying your absence. Any late assignment will reflect in a lowering of your grade by 5% for each day they are late allowing for a maximum deduction of 30% of the total allotted points for that assignment.
**Program Learning Outcomes:**
The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a B.A. degree in History:

1. The student will evaluate the role of the historian in society.
2. The student will assess the significance of historical events/phenomena and analyze their historical contexts.
3. The student will locate, identify and critically analyze primary and secondary sources appropriate for historical research.
4. The student will interpret evidence found within primary sources and place those sources within their appropriate historical context.
5. The student will effectively communicate historical arguments in support of a central thesis, including the proper citation of sources using the most recent edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

This section of this course will focus on PLOs 2, 3, and 5.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

1. The student will develop an understanding of the rise and spread of Islam in a global context.
2. The student will develop an understanding of the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires.
3. The student will be able to explain the complex interactions between different sects of Muslim communities and between Islam and other religions.
4. The student will be able to assess the impact of European expansion on the Islamic world.
5. The student will be able to contextualize the role of Islam in the shaping of the modern world.

**COURSE OUTLINE WITH ASSIGNED READINGS**
*The syllabus is subject to change dependent on the instructor’s assessment of the progress of the course. Students will be notified of such changes in class.*

**Week 1**

**Tuesday, January 19**  
**Course Introduction**

**Thursday, January 21**  
**Origins of Islam**

Reading:  
- Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair, *Islam: A Thousand Years of Faith and Power*. (pp. 9-33)
Week 2

Tuesday, January 26  The Early Caliphs and the Spread of Islam
Reading: - John L. Esposito, Islam: The Straight Path. (pp. 36-84)
  (pp. 35-75)

Thursday, January 28  Continued

Week 3

Tuesday, February 2  Law, Society and Religious Belief
Reading: - John L. Esposito, Islam: The Straight Path. (pp. 85-140)

Thursday, February 4  The Golden Age
  (pp. 77-155)

Week 4

Tuesday, February 9  Continued.

Thursday, February 11  The World of Islam
Reading: - Richard M. Eaton, “Islamic History as Global History,” in Essays on Islam and

Week 5

Tuesday, February 16  Exam Review
  **Paper 1 Due**

Thursday, February 18  Exam I

Week 6

Tuesday, February 23  Before the Empires: India, Iran and Anatolia
  (pp. 159-180)

Thursday, February 25  The Ottoman Empire
  (pp. 181-199)
Week 7
Tuesday, March 1  The Safavid Empire
Reading: - Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair, *Islam: A Thousand Years of Faith and Power*. (pp. 199-211)

Thursday, March 3  The Mughal Empire
Reading: - Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair, *Islam: A Thousand Years of Faith and Power*. (pp. 211-219)

Week 8
Tuesday, March 8  Persianate Culture

Thursday, March 10  Conversion and Identity

Week 9  SPRING HOLIDAYS
Tuesday, March 15  Spring Holidays
Thursday, March 17  Spring Holidays

Week 10
Tuesday, March 22  Conflict or Coexistence

Thursday, March 24  Easter Holidays

Week 11
Tuesday, March 29  Exam Review
**Paper 2 Due.**

Thursday, March 31  Exam 2
Week 12

Tuesday, April 5  
PBS Frontline Documentary *Muslims*

Thursday, April 7  
PBS Frontline Documentary *Muslims*

Week 13

Tuesday, April 12  
**European Colonialism and the Islamic World**

Thursday, April 14  
**Islamic Reform Movement**  
Reading: - John L. Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path.* (pp. 141-186)

Week 14

Tuesday, April 19  
**Religion and Politics**  
Reading: - John L. Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path.* (pp. 187-249)

Thursday, April 21  
**Continued**

Week 15

Tuesday, April 26  
**Iran and the Islamic Revolution**  
Reading: - Will be made available on D2L.

Thursday, April 28  
**Politics of the Middle-East**  
Reading: - Will be made available on D2L.

Week 16

Tuesday, May 3  
**Gender and Islam**  
Reading: - Will be made available on D2L.

Thursday, May 5  
**Islam in the Twenty-First Century**  
Reading: - John L. Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path.* (pp. 250-295)

Week 17

Tuesday, May 10  
**Paper 3 Due by Noon.**