

**HIS 350: ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION**  
**FALL 2017**

**Instructor:** William Wood

**Office:** Colt Hall 113

**Phone:** 849-2689 (office)

**E-mail:** billwood@pointloma.edu

**Hours:** Generally, between 2:30 and 5:00, M-F (or anytime you can catch me)

**Course Objectives and Outcomes**

This course is an introduction to the history of the Islamic world from the time of Muhammad to approximately 1800. In addition, a significant portion of this semester will be devoted to examining the religious practices of Muslims as they have developed over the centuries. So in a sense this course is both a history of *Islam*, as well as a history of Islamic *civilization*. Our goal this semester is to explore the origins of Islam in the Arabian peninsula; the spread of this religion throughout the Middle East, North Africa and Europe (this year will be more focused on the Middle East than in years past); and the diversity and achievements of three main Muslim peoples--the Arabs, Turks and Persians. In addition, a major emphasis again this year will be the interactions between Islam and other faiths, especially Christianity, prior to 1800. Toward this end, I plan to devote significant time to exploring three key topics: the interactions between Christian and Muslim theologians over the centuries; the era of the Crusades; and, finally, the Ottoman Empire and its interaction with European civilization. My overall goal is that each student will be better equipped to understand the diverse historical experiences that have shaped today's approximately one billion Muslims, and also to better analyze and critique events and policies currently taking place involving the Muslim world and the larger global community. Finally, our official learning outcome for this course is that students will:

-find appropriate materials online, in a library, or in the community and know how to cite them.  
(Assessed with the research paper).

**Texts**

Kennedy, Hugh. *The Caliphate: The History of an Idea*. New York: Basic Books, 2016.

Reynolds, Gabriel Said. *The Emergence of Islam: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.

Howard, Douglas. *A History of the Ottoman Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

The Qur'an [Numerous editions available, including on-line].

**Assignments and Expectations**

1. Regular (as in "every class") attendance is expected. If I have to be here, you have to be here. Poor attendance and lack of participation in discussions will adversely impact your grade.
2. There will be a mid-term and a final exam.
3. Numerous reading quizzes (including map quizzes) and written "reflections" will be given. The map tests and reflections will be announced in advance; otherwise, the reading quizzes will be given at the most inconvenient times for you possible.

4. All students will write a 10-15 page research paper utilizing both primary and secondary sources that deals with some aspect of the era of the Crusades. More details will be forth-coming.

5. Your grade will be calculated approximately as follows:

-Mid-term	25%
-Final exam	25%
-Quizzes/reflections	15%
-Research Paper	25%
-Participation	10%

### Course Calendar

(Note: This is a best guess only. You will be responsible for any changes made and announced in class. There will definitely be additional readings assigned from the Quran and other sources).

DAY	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
T	Aug 29	Course Introduction	
W	Aug 30	The World of Late Antiquity	Handout?
F	Sep 1	Arabia before Islam	
M	Sep 4	<b>No Class</b>	
W	Sep 6	Muhammad in Mecca	R: 3-29
F	Sep 8	Muhammad in Medina	R: 31-57
M	Sep 11	Muslim Worship	Handout?
W	Sep 13	Early Arab Conquests	R: 59-70
F	Sep 15	Non-Muslims and Early Islam	Handout?
M	Sep 18	The First Caliphs	R: 70-82; K: 1-31
W	Sep 20	The Formation of Islamic Doctrine	R: 85-92
F	Sep 22	The Message of the Quran	R: 93-111
M	Sep 25	The Quran's Theology	R: 111-119
W	Sep 27	The Quran and the Bible	R: 121-133
F	Sep 29	Rethinking the Biography of Muhammad	R: 135-151
M	Oct 2	Rethinking the Historical Context	R: 153-168
W	Oct 4	The Umayyad Monarchy	K: 33-61
F	Oct 6	The Early Abbasids	K: 63-97
M	Oct 9	The Cultural World of the Abbasids	K: 99-127
W	Oct 11	(cont.)	
F	Oct 13	The Caliphate Splinters	K: 129-160
M	Oct 16	[catch-up and review]	
W	Oct 18	<b>Mid-Term Examination</b>	
F	Oct 20	<b>Fall Break—No Class</b>	
M	Oct 23	The Turks, Mongols and Medieval Islam	Handout?
W	Oct 25	Political Theory (inc. Ibn Taymiya)	K: 161-172; R:173-180
F	Oct 27	The Shi'a & The Fatimid Caliphs	K: 173-204
M	Oct 30	(cont.)	R: 188-196
W	Nov 1	The Era of the Crusades	[Handout?]
F	Nov 3	Islamic Spain	K: 205-245

M	Nov 6	Ottoman Genesis, 1300-1397	K: 247-275; H: 1-38
W	Nov 8	(cont.)	
F	Nov 10	A Blessed Dynasty, 1397-1494	H: 39-85
M	Nov 13	(cont.)	
W	Nov 15	A Worldview, 1494-1591	H: 86-134
F	Nov 17	(cont.)	
M	Nov 20	Ambiguities & Certainties, 1591-1688	H: 135-180
W	Nov 22	<b>No Class-Thanksgiving Break</b>	
F	Nov 24	<b>No Class-Thanksgiving Break</b>	
M	Nov 27	(cont.)	
W	Nov 29	The Global and the Local, 1688-1785	H: 181-226
F	Dec 1	(cont.)	
M	Dec 4	Collaborations & Breakdowns, 1785-1882	H: 227-277
W	Dec 6	Dissolution, 1882-1924	H: 278-327
F	Dec 9	Catch-up and Review	
W	Dec 13	<b>Final Exam: 7:30-10:00 a.m.</b>	

## PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

### PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

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### PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

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Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

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If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See Disability Resource Center for additional information.

### PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

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Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See Academic Policies in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.