

## **HIS 350: ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION FALL 2015**

**Instructor:** William Wood

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**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 significant portions of Asia, Africa and Europe; and the diversity and achievements of three main Muslim peoples--the Arabs, Turks and Persians. In addition, a major emphasis 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, Safavid and Mughal Empires and their interactions 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.

### **Texts**

Lapidus, Ira M. *Islamic Societies to the Nineteenth Century: A Global History* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

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

Usama ibn Munqidh, *The Book of Contemplation: Islam and the Crusades*. Translated by Paul Cobb. London: Penguin Classics, 2008.

Maalouf, Amin. *Samarkand: A Novel*. New York: Interlink, 1998.

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), will be given. The map tests will be announced in advance; otherwise, the 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	10%
-Research Paper	30%
-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).

<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
T	Sep 1	Course Introduction	
W	Sep 2	The World of Late Antiquity	L: 1-25
F	Sep 4	Arabia before Islam	L: 31-38
M	Sep 7	<b>No Class</b>	
W	Sep 9	Muhammad in Mecca	R: 3-29; L: 26-30
F	Sep 11	Muhammad in Medina	R: 31-57
M	Sep 14	Muslim Worship	L: 39-54
W	Sep 16	Early Arab Conquests	R: 59-70; L: 55-65
F	Sep 18	Non-Muslims and Early Islam	L: 66-79
M	Sep 21	The First Caliphs	R: 70-82; L: 80-83
W	Sep 23	The Formation of Islamic Doctrine	R: 85-92; L: 141-149, 154-161
F	Sep 25	The Message of the Quran	R: 93-111
M	Sep 28	The Quran's Theology	R: 111-119
W	Sep 30	The Quran and the Bible	R: 121-133
F	Oct 2	Rethinking the Biography of Muhammad	R: 135-151
M	Oct 5	Rethinking the Historical Context	R: 153-168
W	Oct 7	The Umayyad Monarchy	L: 83-90, 114-125
F	Oct 9	The Abbasid Empire	L: 91-104, 126-140
M	Oct 12	Urban Islam: Sunni	L: 146-173
W	Oct 14	Urban Islam: Shia	L: 174-180
F	Oct 16	The Caliphate Splinters	L: 105-113
M	Oct 19	The Turks and Medieval Islam	<i>Samarkand</i> ; L: 225-238, 250-263
W	Oct 21	<b>Mid-Term Examination</b>	
F	Oct 23	<b>Fall Break—No Class</b>	
M	Oct 26	Women and Minorities	L: 181-221
W	Oct 28	The Era of the Crusades	Usama b. Munqidh
F	Oct 30	(Crusades-cont.)	L: 238-250
M	Nov 2	Muslim Communities and Societies	L: 264-292
W	Nov 4	Political Theory (+Ibn Taymiyya?)	L: 293-301, 330-340

F	Nov 6	Normative Islam and its alternatives	L: 302-329
M	Nov 9	Global Expansion and Conversion	L: 343-368
W	Nov 11	Islamic North Africa and Spain	L: 369-405
F	Nov 13	Early Ottoman Empire	L: 427-467
M	Nov 16	(cont.)	
W	Nov 18	Postclassical Ottoman Empire	L: 468-489
F	Nov 20	Safavid Iran	L: 490-506
M	Nov 23	(cont.)	
W	Nov 25	<b>No Class-Thanksgiving Break</b>	
F	Nov 27	<b>No Class-Thanksgiving Break</b>	
M	Nov 30	South Asia: Delhi Sultanate to Mughals	L: 507-542
W	Dec 2	(cont.)	
F	Dec 4	Inner Asia: Mongols to 19 <sup>th</sup> century	L: 543-560
M	Dec 7	TBD	
W	Dec 9	TBD	
F	Dec 11	Catch-up and Review	
<b>F</b>	<b>Dec 18</b>	<b>Final Exam: 7:30-10:00 a.m.</b>	

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T	Sep 1	Course Introduction	
W	Sep 2	Religions of Late Antiquity	
F	Sep 4	Arabia before Islam	
M	Sep 7	<b>No Class</b>	
W	Sep 9	Muhammad and the Origins of Islam	
F	Sep 11	Muhammad and the Origins of Islam (Part II)	
M	Sep 14	Muslim Scripture: The Quran	
W	Sep 16	Muslim Beliefs	
F	Sep 18	Muslim Worship	
M	Sep 21	Early Arab Conquests	
W	Sep 23	Non-Muslims and Early Islam	
F	Sep 25	Consolidation and Institutions	
M	Sep 28	Struggle for Leadership/Civil Wars	
W	Sep 30	Early Sectarianism & Umayyad Rule	
F	Oct 2	(cont.)	
M	Oct 5	“Emergence of Islam”	
W	Oct 7	Later Umayyads	
F	Oct 9	Abbasid Revolution	
M	Oct 12	The Abbasid Caliphate	
W	Oct 14	The Caliphate Splinters: Fatimids, etc.	
F	Oct 16	The Turks and Medieval Islam	<i>Samarkand</i>
M	Oct 19	(Catch-up/Review)	
W	Oct 21	<b>Mid-Term Examination</b>	
F	Oct 23	<b>Fall Break—No Class</b>	
M	Oct 26	The Era of the Crusades	Usama b. Munqidh
W	Oct 28	(Crusades-cont.)	
F	Oct 30	(Crusades-cont.)	
M	Nov 2	Muslim Urban Life	
W	Nov 4	Institutions of Learning & Culture	
F	Nov 6	Everyday Life and Society	
M	Nov 9	Women and Marriage	
W	Nov 11	Non-Muslims and Conversion	
F	Nov 13	Trade and Commerce	
M	Nov 16	Modes of Justice	
W	Nov 18	Intellectual Life	
F	Nov 20	Spiritual Life	
M	Nov 23	Mongol Conquest/Abbasid Legacy	
W	Nov 25	<b>No Class-Thanksgiving Break</b>	
F	Nov 27	<b>No Class-Thanksgiving Break</b>	
M	Nov 30	Ottoman Empire	
W	Dec 2	Ottoman Empire	
F	Dec 4	Ottoman Empire	

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