

HIS 3050: ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION FALL 2021

Instructor: William Wood

Office: Colt Hall 113

Phone: 849-2689 (office)

E-mail: billwood@pointloma.edu

Hours: Generally, between 2:45 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 Islamic history pre-1800. More details will be forthcoming.

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 31	Course Introduction	
W	Sep 1	The World of Late Antiquity	Handout
F	Sep 3	Arabia before Islam	
M	Sep 6	Labor Day—No Class	
W	Sep 8	Muhammad in Mecca	R: 3-29
F	Sep 10	Muhammad in Medina	R: 31-57
M	Sep 13	Muslim Worship	Handout?
W	Sep 15	Early Arab Conquests	R: 59-70
F	Sep 17	Non-Muslims and Early Islam	Handout?
M	Sep 20	The First Caliphs	R: 70-82; K: 1-31
W	Sep 22	The Formation of Islamic Doctrine	R: 85-92
F	Sep 24	The Message of the Quran	R: 93-111
M	Sep 27	The Quran's Theology	R: 111-119
W	Sep 29	The Quran and the Bible	R: 121-133
F	Oct 1	Rethinking the Biography of Muhammad	R: 135-151
M	Oct 4	Rethinking the Historical Context	R: 153-168
W	Oct 6	The Umayyad Monarchy	K: 33-61
F	Oct 8	The Early Abbasids	K: 63-97
M	Oct 11	The Cultural World of the Abbasids	K: 99-127
W	Oct 13	(cont.)	
F	Oct 15	The Caliphate Splinters	K: 129-160
M	Oct 18	[catch-up and review]	
W	Oct 20	Mid-Term Examination	

F	Oct 22	Fall Break—No Class	
M	Oct 25	The Turks, Mongols and Medieval Islam	Handout?
W	Oct 27	Political Theory (inc. Ibn Taymiya)	K: 161-172; R:173-180
F	Oct 29	The Shi'a & The Fatimid Caliphs	K: 173-204
M	Nov 1	(cont.)	R: 188-196
W	Nov 3	The Era of the Crusades	[Handout?]
F	Nov 5	Islamic Spain	K: 205-245
M	Nov 8	Ottoman Genesis, 1300-1397	K: 247-275; H: 1-38
W	Nov 10	(cont.)	
F	Nov 12	A Blessed Dynasty, 1397-1494	H: 39-85
M	Nov 15	(cont.)	
W	Nov 17	A Worldview, 1494-1591	H: 86-134
F	Nov 19	(cont.)	
M	Nov 22	Ambiguities & Certainties, 1591-1688	H: 135-180
W	Nov 24	No Class-Thanksgiving Break	
F	Nov 26	No Class-Thanksgiving Break	
M	Nov 29	(cont.)	
W	Dec 1	The Global and the Local, 1688-1785	H: 181-226
F	Dec 3	(cont.)	
M	Dec 6	Collaborations & Breakdowns, 1785-1882	H: 227-277
W	Dec 8	Dissolution, 1882-1924	H: 278-327
F	Dec 10	Catch-up and Review	
F	Dec 17	Final Exam: 7:30-10:00 a.m.	

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.

Department of History and Political Science Mission:

As followers of Christ, the Department of History and Political Science promotes wisdom and scholarship about historical contexts and political systems, so that graduates can become local and global leaders in the service of Christ and humanity.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY ☼

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY ☼

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of 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.

STATE AUTHORIZATION ☼

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY ☼

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY ☼

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.