INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
ASH 3931 sect. 0658

Dr. M. Campos
University of Florida
Office: 234 Keene-Flint
Fall 2012
Office Hours: T 1-3 pm
T 3-4:55; Th 4:05-4:55
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Flint 119

Grader: Andrew Welton
awelton@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the emergence of Islamic civilization in the Middle East, from the rise of Islam as a faith in the 7th century to the end of the ‘classical age’ in the 13th century. We will examine the life of the prophet Muhammad and the establishment of an Islamic community of believers as well as elements of early Islamic religious, cultural, and political history. We will occasionally reference some elements of contemporary Islamic societies, as a way to explore cultural diversity within and between Islamic societies as well as temporal changes which have taken place over the past 1400 years.

Although it is not a prerequisite, this course is an excellent precursor to ASH3931: History of the Modern Middle East, which will be offered in the spring.

EXPECTATIONS:

1) **General:** Students are expected to use the course e-learning website to download course materials (syllabus, assignments, discussion questions), upload assignments, and to keep up with any course announcements. [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/)

2) **Attendance and active participation in all course sessions is mandatory.** Cumulative absence for reasons other than legitimate illness or documented emergency will be penalized. It is your responsibility to sign in on a daily basis. **If you do not intend to regularly attend class, do not register for this course.**

3) **Lectures:** Lectures will set the historical and conceptual framework for the week’s readings. You are expected to be an active listener and participant in lectures. Think critically, ask questions, make comments.

4) **Discussion Sessions:** Sessions noted with “discussion” on the calendar will be entirely discussion based. Students are expected to have read the reading assignments closely and critically before each session.
   i. I strongly suggest that you keep a “reading journal” in addition to whatever margin notes you take on the readings. In your journal you might “warm up” by writing a brief summary of the readings, but more importantly, it is a good place to keep questions as well as your thoughts on the readings.
   ii. For any given set of readings, consider the following questions as a starting point from which to develop your own thoughts: What kind of text are we reading (primary source, secondary source (scholarly analysis), sacred text,
biography, travel narrative, etc.)? Who wrote it and who was their intended audience? For each text, identify and evaluate its central narrative or argument, the kinds of evidence the author marshals to support it, and the historical, political, or cultural stakes at hand.

iii. **Please note:** You are expected to participate *actively* and *consistently* in discussion sections. This means that you should plan to make at least one comment or raise one relevant question most weeks of the semester. Sitting silently in class neither shows me that you have read the required material nor contributes to our collective dialogue.

5) **Film Screenings:** Films are important supplementary sources that give voice and depth to the historical transformations we are studying as well as serving as a window onto Middle Eastern societies. Attendance and participation is mandatory. If you have a documented excused absence (illness, emergency), you are still expected to watch the film on reserve in Library West and to turn in a one-page summary-analysis.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

1) **Personal Photo:** Please UPLOAD a recent photo of yourself (face clearly visible) onto the course website (under My Workspace: Profile) by **Friday, August 31.** *This helps immeasurably in getting to know each other’s names right away.*

2) **Map exercise:** Identify and label the requested terms on a map exercise. Due in class on **Tuesday, September 4.**

3) **Essay #1:** Due **Thursday, September 27.** Details TBA.

4) **Essay #2:** Due on **Thursday, November 8.** Details TBA.

5) **Final Project:** Due **Friday, December 10.** Details TBA.

**ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:**

a. Only students with a documented medical or family emergency will be granted extensions on an assignment, but they must consult the professor prior to the deadline.

b. Turning in an assignment late without an approved extension will result in a deduction of 1/3 grade per day.

**GRADES:**

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**Participation:** This is based on your regular and active attendance in lectures, as well as the level of your preparedness and participation in discussion sections. Just showing up is not enough—doing the readings on a regular basis and participating thoughtfully in class discussions is considered “active participation.”

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**Grading Policy:**
Your final grade is directly correlated to the effort you make in the class. Other than in cases of genuine miscalculation, I will not consider requests to change, curve, “forgive”, or otherwise alter the grade you earn. If you need a certain grade to graduate with honors, meet major requirements, get into law school, or make your parents happy, **make sure you do the appropriate level of work throughout the semester.** If you are concerned about your grade, by all means come talk to me early on so that we can jointly address ways you might improve your course performance.

Please note the new UF grading scale effective as of summer 2009:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html#calculatinggpa

In my course, note the following grading scale:

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**Office Hours and Email:**

Students are strongly encouraged to come to office hours to introduce yourselves to the professor as well as to discuss any substantive questions, comments, or concerns you might have about the course material. You may also contact me via email for factual questions or clarifications (but please consult the syllabus first to make sure the information is not already here), and I will respond as soon as I can between 9-5 Monday through Friday. **Please note: I do not typically check or respond to email in the evenings or on weekends.**

**University Policies:**

- **Plagiarism:** Students are expected to abide by the university academic honesty policy, which includes properly citing all sources used in your course assignments. When in doubt, cite! For more information, see http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php
  - **ALL CASES OF SUSPECTED PLAGIARISM WILL BE REPORTED TO THE APPROPRIATE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- **Special Needs:** Should you have special medical needs, please discuss this with the course instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office.
The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

- **CONFIDENTIALITY:** Student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication. For more information, see: www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpahub.html

**READINGS:** The following books are available for purchase in area bookstores or via online vendors; they are also on reserve in Library West (ARES). Unless otherwise noted, readings marked with an * will be on ARES course reserves through Library West. **Note:** some items on ARES reserves are PDF files you may download, while others may be hard-copies that you will need to go to the library to read. Plan ahead!

Vernon Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization*  
William H. McNeill and Marilyn Robinson Waldman (eds.), *The Islamic World*  
Amin Maalouf, *The Crusades through Arab Eyes*  
Ross E. Dunn, *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the 14th Century*

**Documentary films we may see throughout the semester (all are on course reserve in Library West):**

- “Edward Said on Orientalism” DVD 2273  
- “The Hajj” VIDEO 3408  
- “Islam: Empire of Faith” DVD 3976  
- “This World. Inside a Shariah Court” DVD 3206  
- “When the world spoke Arabic” series: Public and Private Life: The Muslim Town; Believe, Imagine, Dream: Ulama and Philosophers; Europe Awakes: From Arabic into Latin; Europe Awakes: Forgetting Arabic  
  ARCHITECTURE/FINE ARTS LIBRARY Video DS36.85 .W44 2001  
- “A Veiled Revolution” DVD 2049  
- “Saints and Spirits” VIDEO 5038  
- “I am a Sufi, I am a Muslim” VIDEO 3411  
- “El Moulid” VIDEO 3406  
- “Shi’ism: Waiting for the Hidden Imam” DVD 3939

**Reference Books:** You may wish to consult reference works for additional information on particular topics.

- The Oxford encyclopedia of the modern Islamic world LIBRARY WEST: Reference (3rd Floor)  
  DS35.53 .O95 1995  
- Encyclopedia of the Qur’an LIBRARY WEST: Reference (3rd Floor)  
  BP133 .E53 2001  
- Islamic Desk Reference LIBRARY WEST: Reference (3rd Floor)  
  DS35.53 .I83 1994  
- Gerhard Endress, *An Introduction to Islam* LIBRARY WEST General Collection  
  DS35.6 .E5313 1988  
  G1786.S1 R9 2004
SCHEDULE [please note that I may be tweaking the syllabus throughout the semester—you are responsible for paying attention to the course website, emails from me, and all announcements in class]

I. (Th 8/23) Introduction: Islamic History as World History

II. (T 8/28) Orientalism and the Study of Islam

   a) Lecture and Discussion:
   Egger, pp. xi-xii (“Preface”)
   *Zachary Lockman, Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism, ch.1
   *Carl Ernst, Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World, ch. 1

   b) In-class video: selections from “Edward Said on Orientalism,” LIBRARY WEST DVD (2nd Floor) -- DVD 2273

   (Th 8/30) Lecture: Pre-Islamic Arabia
   Egger, pp. 1-20
   **James E. Lindsay, “Traditional Arabic Naming System,” in Daily Life in the Medieval Islamic World,” pp. 173-178. (on course website under Resources)

III. Rise of Islam I: The Prophet and the Message

(T 9/4) In-Class Film Screening and Discussion: “Muhammad, the Last Prophet” (2001), Dir. Richard Rich
   Egger, pp. 20-31

   MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS

(Th 9/6) STUDY PERIOD -- Please note: Dr. Campos will be away at a conference in Turkey. Please prepare your readings for Tuesday.

IV. Religious Pillars of Islam I

(T 9/11)
   a) The Life of the Prophet Muhammad
   Discussion:

**Sira** and Ibn Ishaq, Muhammad in: *Encyclopedia of Islam. (on course website)*

**b) The Qur’an for Believers: Lecture & Interactive Session:**

1. Listen to recitation of the Qur’an
   http://www.quranexplorer.com/quran/
2. View illuminated Qur’ans from:
   a. Topkapi Palace
      http://www.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~history/Ext/Koran.html
   b. Sultan Baybar’s Qur’an
      http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/ttp/ttpbooks.html
   c. Other early Qur’an manuscripts
      http://www.usna.edu/Users/humss/bwheeler/quran/quran_index.html

(Th 9/13) **Discussion: The Qur’an for Scholars**
Toby Lester, “What is the Koran,” *Atlantic Monthly* (Jan 1999)


**V. Rise of Islam II: Ritual**

(T 9/18) **The Five Pillars**

a) Lecture & Discussion: Sacred Spaces

*Andrew Rippin, *Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*, ch. 7 (pp. 103-117)

b) In-Class Film & Discussion: “The Hajj”

(Th 9/20) **Conquest and Conversion, Part I**

Egger, pp. 33-60

Baladhuri: From Opening up of the Lands, in McNeill and Waldman, eds., *The Islamic World*, pp. 67-74

**VI. Rise of Islam II: Believers and Non-Believers**

(T 9/25)

a) Conquest and Conversion, Part II—GUEST LECTURE: Andrew Welton, Doctoral Student, Department of History

b) Discussion: The *Dhimmi*


**“Dhimma,” “Ahl al-kitab,” and “Djizya”, Encyclopedia of Islam (on course website)**

(Th 9/27) The Spread of the Arabic Language—GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Youssef Haddad, Department of Asian and African Languages and Literatures

> **Essay #1 on dhimmi due in class**

VII. Rise of Islam III: The Early Arab Empire and the Emergence of Sectarianism

(T 10/2) The Early Caliphate

a) Lecture
   Egger, pp. 62-84

b) In-Class Video TBD

(Th 10/4) Discussion: The Sunni-Shi’i Split

Egger, pp. 214-218

* Mufid, Kitab al-Irshad, the Book of Guidance into the Lives of the Twelve Imams (Preface, the Martyrdom of Husayn)

VIII. The Rise of Islam IV

(T 10/9)

a) Discussion: Women in early Islamic civilization

*Denise A. Spellberg, “Political Action and Public Example: ʿAʾishah and the Battle of the Camel,” in N. Keddie and B. Baron, eds., Women in Middle Eastern History, pp. 45-57


b) In-Class Video: “Unveiled: Muslim Women Talk About Hijab”

(Th 10/11) Lecture: The Fragmentation of the Caliphates

Egger, pp. 85-112

IX. The Emergence of Religious Institutions

(T 10/16) Lecture and Discussion: Islamic Law

Egger, pp. 115-122; 219-223; 302-305
b) In-Class Video and Discussion: “This world. Inside a Shari’ah court”

(Th 10/18)  Discussion: Islamic Education
“Madrasah” in Wikipedia and “Madrasa” in Encyclopedia of Islam (on course website)

X.  Islamic Mysticism: Sufism

(T 10/23)
  a) Discussion: Saints and Pilgrimage
  Egger, pp. 123-127; 205-214; 305-316
  *Sufi biography [Rabia], in Farid al-Din Attar, Muslim Saints and Mystics

  b) In-Class Film Screening: “I am a Sufi, I am a Muslim”

(Th 10/25)  Sufism and Its Critics
*“A Saint and His Fate [al-Hallaj],” in Schroeder, ed., Muhammad’s People: An Anthology of Muslim Civilization, pp. 521-554

XI.  Classical Islamic Civilization I

(T 10/30)  Islamic Art and Architecture (The Harn Museum of Art)

(Th 11/1)  Classical Islamic Civilization II: Theology (kalam), Science and Philosophy (falsafa)
  Egger, pp. 127-137; 199-204

XII.  Classical Islamic Civilization II

(T 11/6)  Guest Lecture: The World of the Geniza, Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, Head of the Price Library of Judaica, UF

(Th 11/8)  Discussion: Slavery

Paper #2 due

XIII.  Crusades
(T 11/13)  The Crusades
Egger, pp. 172-197

(Th 11/15)  Discussion: The Crusades through Muslim Eyes
Amin Maalouf, The Crusades through Arab Eyes (selections)

XIV.  The expanding boundaries of the Islamic world

(T 11/20)  Islam in sub-Saharan Africa: Guest Lecturer, Dr. Terje Ostebo, Department of Religion
Egger, pp. 229-254

XV.  A Muslim explorer criss-crosses the Islamic world

(T 11/27)  Discussion: Ibn Battuta in the West
Ross E. Dunn, The Adventures of Ibn Battuta : A Muslim Traveler of the 14th Century (selections)

(Th 11/29)  Discussion: Ibn Batutta in the East
Ross E. Dunn, The Adventures of Ibn Battuta : A Muslim Traveler of the 14th Century (selections)

XVI.  Age of Islamic Empires: The Rise of the Ottomans

(T 12/4)  Egger, 261-302
  b) In-Class Video: “The Ottoman Empire”