

HH 2004: The Islamicate World Semester 2 (2019/2020)

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Course Outline

In this course, you will investigate the historical development of Muslim societies from the classical period to the present. You will analyse diverse theories and practices of Muslim communities that span a global scale while being embedded in their own local political, economic and social contexts. This course will equip you to conceptualize the basic precepts and terminology defining the idea of a Muslim World while inviting you to critique this notion through empirical historical evidence. You will also develop your skills in analysing and interpreting primary and secondary sources, particularly through close readings of how Islamic concepts are employed in literary works, visual art and political rhetoric.

The contents of this course cover the period from the advent of Islam in the 7th century to the present. We will examine key ideas that scholars have used to conceptualize institutions and interactions in the Muslim World, such as: Islamicate, caliphate, shari'a, syncretism, cosmopolitanism and Islamism. It will emphasize the lived experience of Muslims by drawing on case studies from many different parts of the Islamicate World and highlight the complexities of the relationship between religious theology and practice. Such empirical examples will help you understand and analyse the contemporary positioning of Muslims in the modern nation-state and as a global community. This course will be useful in helping you understand the historical roots of contemporary debates about Islam and gain a nuanced view of the ways in which the religion interacted with secular politics.

Learning Goals

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain key concepts in Islamic thought, such as "shari'a," "ummah" and the Sunni-Shi'i divide.
2. Compare and contrast the various ways in which Muslim societies around the world have formulated political, social and economic institutions in the context of their specific historical eras.
3. Describe and critique the idea of an Islamicate World, with empirical examples of diversity in thought and practice.
4. Analyse and interpret religious languages and images in primary sources.

Course Requirements

This module places emphasis on the analysis, synthesis and evaluation of key historical concepts and interpretations. You will be assessed on the following metrics:

1. Active Participation (20%)

In class, you will learn from each other and build up your skills in close reading, constructing convincing arguments, articulating these arguments verbally and analysing primary sources. You

are expected to regularly attend class and participation in class will be assessed based on the depth, frequency and quality of your contributions to classroom discussion as well as weekly 150-word entries into the class blog raising questions about the week's readings.

2. Book Review (15%)

Deadline: 24 February 2020 (Week 7)

You are required to select a book from the list appended and write a review for the book that you read. A book review is a useful exercise in which you will synthesize the main arguments in a complex book and evaluate its strengths and limitations with the support of clear, illustrative examples from a text. In this review, you will identify the main argument in the book, evaluate the evidence - including primary sources - for which the author builds his argument and assess its significance in the light of historical or contemporary debates about Islam. It should NOT be a detailed, chapter-by-chapter description of the book. The review should be around 1000 words long.

3. Primary Source Analysis (20%)

Group Presentation Dates: 30 Mar 2020 (Week 10) or 6 Apr 2020 (Week 11)

Primary source analysis is a key skill that is required for historical research. You will work in groups and choose ONE primary source from the list of primary sources that will be uploaded on the course website or an external source subject to the instructor's approval. Instructions and group allocation will be given during your tutorial session on Week 3.

To do well on the team assessment, it is necessary for you to demonstrate positive interdependence and teamwork. In principle, you will receive the same marks as your team. However, your individual score may vary based on feedback about your contributions to the group project.

4. In-class quiz (25%)

Date: 13 April 2020

In the final week of the semester, you will sit for an in-class test that will assess you on your historical knowledge of the Islamicate World and your capacity to critically analyse the course readings and evaluate their arguments. The test will consist of a short answer section and an essay section and will be two hours long.

5. Historiographical Essay (25%)

Deadline: 24 April 2020

A historiographical essay analyses how a single historical issue or topic has been written about in the existing scholarship. This essay is an important first step in developing a research question as it enables you to synthesize the ways in which the issue has been treated and identify gaps or problems in those existing approaches. From the essay, you will be able to see possible paths in which further research is needed and raise new questions. You will be going through these steps as you work towards completing this essay:

- (a) Week 4 to 8 – Identify your topic and sources
- (b) Week 10 - Craft an argument addressing the trend in the historiography that you have observed with regards to your chosen topic. Write a short paragraph defining your topic and argument, appending the bibliographic sources that you have identified.

(c) Week 12 - Complete your essay, fleshing out your preliminary argument with supporting evidence from the sources you have selected. In your conclusion, you should raise areas in which further research is needed.

There will be no grades awarded for draft paragraphs and topics discussed in class. You will be assessed only on the final essay. The length of this essay should be around 3000 to 4000 words.

Class Schedule and Readings

Week One (13 Jan)

Lecture: Islam, Islamic, Islamicate

Reading:

- Marshall Hodgson, "The Islamic Vision in Religion and in Civilization," in *The Venture of Islam Vol. 1: The Classical Age of Islam*, (University of Chicago Press, 1974), pp. 84-113

Week 2 (20 Jan)

Lecture: The Prophet and the Abrahamic Faiths

Readings:

- Chase F. Robinson, "The Rise of Islam, 600-705," in *The New Cambridge History of Islam Volume 1*, (Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 173-225
- Fred Donner, *Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam*, (Harvard University Press, 2010), pp. 1-89

Week 3 (27 Jan – no class meeting Chinese New Year)

Lecture: In place of class, film viewing: "The Caliphate"

(Available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3O9d7PsI48&vI=en>)

Tutorial: Online quiz on the readings and film (to be completed by 31 Jan 2020)

Readings:

- Ira Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, (Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 31-111
- Patricia Crone, *God's Rule: Government and Islam*, (Columbia University Press, 2004), pp. 17-47

Week 4 (3 Feb)

Lecture: Crusades, Conquests and Conversions

Readings:

- Ira Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 112-156
- Peter Jackson, "The Onset of Islamization," in *The Mongols and the Islamic World: From Conquest to Conversion*, (Yale University Press, 2017), pp. 328-351
- Optional: Peter Jackson, "Medieval Authors on the Mongols," in *The Mongols and the Islamic World: From Conquest to Conversion*, (Yale University Press, 2017), pp. 1-45

Week 5 (10 Feb)

Lecture: Early Modern Empires: The Ottomans and the Mughals

Readings:

- Leslie Peirce, *Morality Tales: Law and Gender in the Ottoman Court of Aintab* (University of California Press, 2003), pp. 1-53
- Rosalind O' Hanlon, "Kingdom, household and body history, gender and imperial service under Akbar," *Modern Asian Studies*, 45:1, (2007), 889-923

Week 6 (17 Feb)

Lecture: Islam in the Indian Ocean World

Readings:

- Sebastian Prange, *Monsoon Islam: Trade and Faith on the Medieval Malabar Coast*, (Cambridge University Press, 2018), pp. 1-24; 279-300
- Ronit Ricci, "Conversion to Islam and the Book of One Thousand Questions," in *Islam Translated: Literature, Conversion and the Arabic Cosmopolis of South and Southeast Asia*, (University of Chicago Press, 2011), pp. 174-212

Week 7 (24 Feb)

Lecture: Islam as Everyday Religion - Syncretism, Local Scriptures and Saints

Deadline for Book Review

Readings:

- Kristian Petersen, "The Treasure of the Heavenly Scripture: Engaging the Quran in China," in *Interpreting Islam in China: Pilgrimage, Scripture and Language in the Han Kitab*, (Oxford University Press, 2017), pp. 221-262
- James Grehan, *Twilight of the Saints: Everyday Religion in Ottoman Syria and Palestine*, (Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 1-14; 85-112
- M.C. Ricklefs, *Mystic Synthesis in Java: A History of Islamization from the fourteenth to the early nineteenth century*, (NUS Press, 2006), pp. 221-25

Week 8 (9 Mar)

Lecture: Colonialism and Sharia

Readings:

- Iza Hussin, "Whose Law is Islamic Law?" in *The Politics of Islamic Law: Local Elites, Colonial Authority and the Making of the Muslim State*, (University of Chicago Press, 2016), pp. 63-102
- Julia Stephens, "The Politics of Muslim Rage: Secular Law and Religious Sentiment in Late Colonial India," *History Workshop Journal*, 77, (2014), pp. 45-64
- Timur Kuran, *The Long Divergence: How Islamic Law Held Back the Middle East*, (Princeton University Press, 2012), pp. 45-168

Week 9 (16 Mar)

Lecture: Muslim Networks in an Age of European Imperialism

Readings:

- Seema Alavi, "The Making of the Indian Arab and the Tale of Sayyid Fadl," *Muslim Cosmopolitanism in an Age of Empire*, (Harvard University Press, 2016), pp. 99-135
- Nile Green, *The Love of Strangers: What Six Muslims Learned in Jane Austen's London*, (Princeton University Press, pp. 1-22; (optional) 83-133

Week 10 (23 Mar – no class meeting, e-learning week)

Lecture: Nationalism, Socialism and Islam – listen to the podcast interview with Cemil Aydin on “The Idea of the Muslim World”

Tutorial: Class blog discussion on readings and podcast

Readings:

- Cemil Aydin, "Muslim Politics of the Interwar Period," in *The Idea of the Muslim World*, (Harvard University Press, 2017), pp. 222-276
- Kevin Fogg, "Indonesian Islamic Socialism and its South Asian Roots," *Modern Asian Studies*, 53:6, (2019), pp. 1736-1761

Week 11 (30 Mar)

Lecture: Democracies in the Muslim World

Tutorial: Class Presentation on Primary Source Assignment

Readings:

- Jeremy Menchik, "Productive Intolerance: Godly Nationalism," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 56:3 (2014), pp. 591-621
- Thomas W. Smith, "Between Allah and Ataturk: Liberal Islam in Turkey," *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 9:1, (2005), pp. 307-325

Week 12 (6 Apr)

Lecture: Islamism

Tutorial: Class Presentation on Primary Source Assignment

Readings:

- Mahmood Mamdani, "Good Muslims, Bad Muslims: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism," *American Anthropologist*, 104:3, (2002), pp. 766-775
- Giles Kepel, *Jihad: A Trail of Political Islam*, (Harvard University Press, 2003), pp. 136-59

Week 13 (13 Apr)

Lecture: In-Class Final Quiz

Reading:

- Cemil Aydin, "What is the Muslim World?" in *The Idea of the Muslim World*, (Harvard University Press, 2017), pp. 1-23.

Policy on Academic Integrity

You should adhere to accepted scholarly practices in all your written work. Notes taken for papers and research projects should accurately record sources of material to be cited, appropriately quoted, paraphrased or summarized, and papers and research projects should acknowledge these sources in the appropriate places in the text of the paper as well as in a reference list at the end of the paper, in accordance with Chicago Style of Citation.

(https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

Appendix 1: Book Review List

* You may choose a book outside the list subject to the instructor's approval.

1. Karen Armstrong, *Muhammad: A Prophet of Our Time*, (London: HarperCollins, 2009), 204 pp.
2. Wael Hallaq, *The Impossible State: Islam, Politics and Modernity's Moral Predicament*, (Columbia University Press, 2012), 274 pp.
3. Sebastian Prange, *Monsoon Islam: Trade and Faith on the Medieval Malabar Coast*, (Cambridge University Press, 2018), 358 pp.
4. Giancarlo Casale, *The Ottoman Age of Exploration*, (Oxford University Press, 2011), 304 pp.
5. Audrey Truschke, *Aurangzeb: The Life and Legacy of India's Most Controversial King*, (Stanford University Press, 2017), 154 pp.
6. Sher L. Banu Khan, *Sovereign Women in a Muslim Kingdom: The Sultanas of Aceh*, (Cornell University Press, 2018), 318 pp.

Appendix 2: Primary Source List

*All these sources will be uploaded on Blackboard

1. Katib Celebi, "Coffee," in *The Balance of Truth*, G.L. Lewis trans., (University of Chicago Press, 1957)
2. Olger Ghiselin de Busbecq, "Letter III," c. 1560 from *Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq*, (C. Kegan Paul & Co.: 1881), pp. 210-231.
3. Rokeya Sakawat Hussein, "Sultana's Dream," in *Sultana's Dream and Padmarag: Two Feminist Utopias*, Barnita Bagchi trans., (Penguin Books: 2005)
4. Anwar El-Sadat, "Address delivered by Anwar El-Sadat at the First Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Conference," 1957 from *The First Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Conference, 26 December 1957 to January 1, 1958*, 2nd edition (Cairo: The Permanent Secretariat of the Organization for Afro-Asian People's Solidarity, 1958), pp. 7-12.
5. Cartoons on NASAKOM in 1965 Indonesia, taken from *Harian Rakyat* April 24, 1965; *Madjalah Angkatan Bersendjata* May 1965 and *Harian Rakyat* April 1965.
6. Usama Bin Laden, "Declaration of War Against the Americans: Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places," in *Princeton Readings of Islamist Thought*, (Princeton University Press, 2009), pp. 425-36.