

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Fall 1980

History 137

Syllabus

Professor Reid

Office: 4213 Humanities

Phone: 263-7984

Office Hours: MWF 11-12 and by appointment

A. Course Goals

This course aims at giving a crisp, easily understood outline of Middle Eastern history in medieval times. It will involve studying several of the innumerable social/political structures which grew up in the Middle East from late antiquity to 1258.

1. Emphasis will be placed upon the use of limited facts to formulate structural analyses.
2. The aim is to help the student learn how to think. Memorization of names and dates is less important.
3. The relevancy of medieval history is not in the creation of a shallow vision of life but in achieving the ability to reason out and think about problems.
4. The relevancy of medieval Middle Eastern history is its connection to the modern period. Too many try only to understand the modern Middle East and they fail.

B. Course Structure

1. Discussion sections: Periodic discussion sections will be held to examine the various readings in Lewis, Islam and Brown, World of Late Antiquity. Students will be able to form their ideas. 10% of the grade.
2. Midterms: 2 midterms will be given. The first will be a dry run to help students develop essay style and historical writing. 1st midterm = 20% of the grade, 2nd midterm = 30% of the grade.
3. Final exam = 40% of the grade.
4. The aim is not to intimidate but to seek improvement. There is no absolute standard for each student to reach, but only the need for each to improve him- or herself. The grade will be dependent upon your desire to improve. There is no curve in this course!!
5. One or two films will be shown.

C. Is this course easy or hard?

1. History 137 will be easy. Very little note memorization is required.
2. The teacher wishes to convey the varieties of past human experience not its quantitative bulk.
3. Students will learn as much about themselves and their minds as they will about

the Middle East. It is not the professor's desire to make this knowledge difficult to obtain.

D. Help from the Professor

The professor will give each student as much help as is necessary. He will not restrict himself to office hours only but will see students any time on MWF (outside of lectures 9:55 and 1:20). DO NOT WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester 1 Year 80-81

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
History 448-137	Introduction to the History and Sociology of the Eastern Mediterranean Muslim Worlds, 475-1528. (4 credits)	Reid

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will define the social development of the Islamic world from the seventh century to the sixteenth. The impact of Byzantine civilization and ancient Iranian civilization will be examined as well. The influences of Byzantium and ancient Iran helped to develop the early basis of the Islamic world. The existence of a specific economy and society in the Mediterranean basin will also be discussed, giving insight into the flow and pattern of east Mediterranean and Iranian life. The Crusades and Turkish invasions will receive their fair share of attention in the class. The varying interpretations of this era made by modern historians will be discussed. Displays of artifacts such as coins will form part of the class.

The course will involve part lecture and part discussion, emphasizing a pace at which the majority of students can learn. The instructor will give as many office hours as are needed to help the students advance, even helping students to learn methods of essay-writing for history classes.

LECTURES

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (50 minute class hours)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

There will be two midterm examinations; one final examination; and optional extra credit assignments such as reports to be discussed with the instructor.

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is based entirely upon the student's ability to learn and advance. The curve system is not used. The aim is to discourage rigidity in thinking and to motivate students to learn.

REQUIRED READINGS

Peter Brown, The World of Late Antiquity
Bernard Lewis, The Islamic World, 2 vols.

SYLLABUS


Spring 1979

Mr. Cigar

History 137 - Introduction to the History and Society of the Medieval Eastern
Mediterranean and Muslim World

	T	Jan. 23	Introduction
lecture	1.	Th. Jan. 25	The Middle East before Muhammad
	2.	T Jan. 30	Arabian: Cradle of Islam Readings: Saunders, ch. 1; Christopher, pp. 5-15; Lewis, ch. 1.
	3.	Th. Feb. 1	Muhammad: Prophet, Man, and Politician (1)
	4.	T Feb. 6	Muhammad (2) Readings: Saunders, ch. 2; Christopher, pp. 16-26; Lewis, ch. 2.
	5.	Th. Feb. 8	Islam: beliefs and practices Readings: Christopher, pp. 27-51.
	6.	T Feb. 13	FILM: "In the name of Allah"
	7.	Th Feb. 15	The Muslim Conquests: The Crescent from China to the Atlantic Readings: Saunders, ch. 3; Lewis, ch. 3; Christopher, pp. 60-3.
	8.	T Feb. 20	The Omayyid Caliphate: An Arab Kingdom Readings: Saunders, ch. 4,5; Lewis, ch. 4; Christopher, pp. 63-5.
	9.	Th. Feb. 22	The Abbasid Caliphate: Muslim melting-pot Readings: Saunders, ch. 6; Lewis, ch. 5; Christopher, pp. 65-7.
		T Feb. 26	EXAM
10.	Th.	Mar. 1	Islamic Society: Culture (1) Readings: Saunders, ch. 12; Lewis, ch. 8; Christopher, pp. 119-29, 132-53.
11.	T	Mar. 6	Culture (2) Readings: Zurayk, Laudau articles.
12.	Th.	Mar. 8	What was an Islamic city?
13.	T	Mar. 13	Economics and earning a living Readings: Spuler article.
14.	Th.	Mar. 15	The Land

SPRING VACATION

15. T Mar. 27 Slavery, women, and the family
Readings: Chamberlayne, Esposito articles.
- Th. Mar. 29 MID-TERM
16. T Apr. 3 Minorities, their status and role
Readings: Aamidullah and Strauss articles.
17. Th. Apr. 5 Religion, legal and otherwise
Readings: Christopher, pp. 70-85; 86-101; 102-05;
Saunders, ch. 8.
18. T Apr. 10 A new Islamic world
Readings: Lewis, ch. 6; Saunders, ch. 7.
19. Th. Apr. 12 The "barbarian" invasions
Readings: Saunders, ch. 9.
20. T Apr. 17 The Far West: North Africa and Spain
Readings: Lewis, ch. 7.
21. Th. Apr. 19 Law and Education
Readings: Christopher, pp. 52-60.
- T Apr. 24  CONFERENCE
- Th. Apr. 26
22. T May 1 (1) The Middle East and Europe: Did Muhammad cause
the fall of the Roman Empire?
23. Th. May 3 (2) The Crusades: Myth and reality
Readings: Saunders, ch. 10; Atiya article.
24. T May 8 (3) What did Europe learn from the M.E.?
Readings: Gibb article.
25. Th. May 10 The Mongol holocaust: End of an era?
Readings: Saunders, ch. 11, and pp. 200-04; Lewis, ch. 9.
26. T May 15 Conclusion
27. Th. May 17 Review