

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester Fall Year 1981

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
137	Introduction to the History and Society of the Eastern Mediterranean and Muslim Worlds, 475-1258	Mr. Humphreys

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey, in a historical framework, of the main problems and concerns of Islamic civilization during its formative and middle periods. We shall deal with the following topics: (1) the human geography of the Central Islamic Lands (i.e., North Africa, eastern Arab countries, Turkey, Iran); (2) Muhammad and the Qur'an; (3) the political aspirations and concepts of traditional Islamic thought; (4) the social and human ideals expressed in representative works of Arabic, Persian, and early Turkish literature; (5) religious orientations in traditional Islam--law, mysticism, theology, philosophy. The course does not attempt to present a single, objectively "true" perspective on these subjects. Rather, its principal object is to develop a familiarity with and understanding of the ways in which medieval Muslims tried to describe and interpret their own society.

LECTURES

No special discussion sections unless the size of the class demands them. Typically, two class sessions are devoted to any given subject; of these one will be a lecture and the other a discussion. Where visual materials can add an important dimension to a subject, I will use slides and films. Such illustrated lectures are not a diversion but an essential part of the course.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

One mid-term examination, one final examination.

Two essays, 3-5 pp. each, on a choice of four or five assigned problems.

These are not research papers, and can be done quite adequately on the basis of the assigned readings and class notes.

One map assignment, due at the end of the second week.

GRADING SYSTEM

Mid-term, 20%; Final, 30%; each paper, 20%; Map, 10%. Some flexibility according to the quality of a student's classroom participation.

REQUIRED READINGS: J. L. Bacharach, Near East Studies Handbook (pb., U. of Washington)

Fazlur Rahman, Islam (pb., Univ. of Chicago)

A. J. Arberry, transl., The Koran Interpreted (pb. Macmillan)

Roger Le Tourneau, Fez in the Age of the Marinids (pb., Univ. of Oklahoma)

Ibn Khaldun, The Muqaddima, abridged ed. by N. J. Dawood (pb. Princeton Univ.)

Martin Lings, What is Sufism? (pb., Univ. of California)