

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester: Autumn Yr: 1982

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
137	The Eastern Mediterranean and Muslim World, 475-1258	Humphreys

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the development of society and culture in the Middle East and North Africa from the emergence of Islam (early 7th century) down to early modern times (ca. 1500). There is no attempt whatever to "cover" the succession of political events during this long period. Rather, we shall focus on four general topics: (1) basic patterns of political organization and ideology: (2) religious orientations -- in particular law and mysticism -- within Islam: (3) ideals of human conduct produced within Islamic culture: (4) relations between town and countryside.

There is no one textbook for the course. As far as possible, readings will be drawn from original texts in translation, and their significance will be developed through class discussions and written exercises. Where appropriate, films and slides will be used.

The course is open to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. It is intended to stand as a useful presentation of the material in its own right; however, it is also an appropriate introduction to further work in Islamic and Middle Eastern history.

LECTURES

Lectures meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45. The class format will vary -- about half our meetings will be lectures, the rest will be discussion sections, slide presentations, etc. The lectures do not repeat the readings, and you are responsible for all materials covered in class.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

One map exercise (If you don't know where Bukhara is, you don't know anything.)
Two essays (3-5 pages each, on a choice of questions to be assigned)
One mid-term exam (one hour)
Final examination (in class)

GRADING SYSTEM

Map:	10%	Some consideration, which cannot be quantified in advance, is made for effective class participation and for steady improvement.
Essays:	20% each	
Mid-term:	20%	
Final:	30%	

REQUIRED READINGS (Readings will amount to about 75 pp./week.)

The Koran, transl. Dawood (Penguin Classics)
H.A.R. Gibb, Mohammedanism (Oxford University Press)
Bernard Lewis, The Arabs in History (Harper & Row, Torchbooks)
A. J. Arberry, Sufism (Allen & Unwin)
Roger LeTourneau, Fez in the Age of the Marinids (University of Oklahoma)
Richard Critchfield, Shahhat, an Egyptian (Avon)
Numerous handouts.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND CLASS SESSIONS

1. (Aug. 31) Introduction to the Course
2. (Sept. 2) Geography and Ethnography of the Central Islamic Lands: an Overview
3. (Sept. 7) Nomadism in Ancient Arabia, I: the Structure of Society and the Economy
4. (Sept. 9) Nomadism in Ancient Arabia, II: Values and Cultural Expression

Readings, sessions 3-4:

Lewis, Arabs in History, 9-35
 Musil, "Kwala Bedouin" (handout)
 Lyall, "Ancient Arabian Poetry" (handout)

5. (Sept. 14) The Koran: Form and Structure
6. (Sept. 16) The Koran: Content and Themes

Readings, sessions 5-6:

Gibb, Mohammedanism, chs. 3-4
 Dawood, transl., The Koran, pp. 15-38, 214-220, 334-365

7. (Sept. 21) Muhammad and the the Formation of the Muslim Community: Mecca, ca. 600-622
8. (Sept. 23) Muhammad and the Formation of the Muslim Community: Medina, 622-632

Readings, sessions 7-8:

Gibb, Mohammedanism, ch. 2
 Lewis, Arabs in History, 36-48
 Ibn Ishaq, "Life of Muhammad" (handout)

9. (Sept. 28) The Arab Conquests, 632-732
10. (Sept. 30) The Primitive Caliphate and its Downfall, 632-692

Readings, sessions 9-10:

Lewis, Arabs in History, 49-63
 "Election of Abu Bakr" (handout)

11. (Oct. 5) The High Caliphate, 692-945

Readings, session 11:

Lewis, Arabs in History, 64-114

12. (Oct. 7) The Ideology of the Caliphate

Readings, session 12:

"Sayings of Muhammad" (handout)
Mawardi, "Contract of the Caliphate" (handout)

13. (Oct. 12) The Shi'a and its Political Concepts

Readings, session 13:

Qadi Nu'man, Book of Faith (handout)

14. (Oct. 14) Military Government, 945-1500

Readings, session 14:

Lewis, Arabs in history, 144-163

15. (Oct. 19) Military Government: its Ethos and Ideology

Readings, session 15:

Bayhaqi, "Gibbeting of the Minister Hasanak" (handout)
Nizam al-Mulk, "Book of Government" (handout)

16. (Oct. 21) MID-TERM

17. (Oct. 26) Religion as a Code of Conduct: Shari's

18. (Oct. 28) Shari's as a Social Glue: Justice and Education

Readings, sessions 17-18:

Gibb, Mohammedanism, chs. 5-6
Tibrizi, Mishkat al-Masabih (handout)
Malik b. Anas, Muwatta (handout)
Shaybani, Kitab al-Siyar (handout)

19. (Nov. 2) Mysticism in Islam: Sufism

20. (Nov. 4) Sufism as a Social Glue: Convents and Orders

Readings, sessions 19-20:

Arberry, Sufism, 11-92

21. (Nov. 9) Human Ideals: Arabic Humanism

Readings: session 21:

Jahiz, selections (handout)
Usama b. Munqidh, Instruction by Example (handout)

22. (Nov. 11) Human Ideals: Persian Epic

Readings, session 22:

Firdawsi, Shah-nameh (handout)

23. (Nov. 16) Human Ideals: Persian Didactic Satire

Readings, session 23:

Sa'di, Gulistan (handout)

24. (Nov. 18) Town and Countryside in the Middle East

Readings, session 24

English, City and Village in Iran (handout)

25. (Nov. 23) Topography of the "Islamic City"

26. (Nov. 30) Government and Society in the "Islamic City"

Readings, sessions 25-26:

Le Tourneau, Fez, 35-147

- 27-28 (Dec. 2-7) The Egyptian Peasant

Readings, sessions 27-28:

Critchfield, Shahhat

29. (Dec. 9) Recapitulation and Conclusions

FINAL EXAM Thursday, December 16 - 2:45 p.m.