COURSE NO.   COURSE TITLE   INSTRUCTOR

137   The Traditional Middle East: Humphreys
                    Society, Politics, and Culture

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we survey the development of society, culture, and political
institutions in the Middle East and North Africa from the emergence of Islam
down to early modern times (ca. 600-1500 A.D.). In order to locate Islamic
culture and society in time and space, we will survey, in a very general
manner, the sequence of states and rulers in the area during this long period.
However, the course will focus on four topics: (1) basic patterns of political
organization and ideology produced within traditional Islamic society; (2)
religious orientations -- in particular law and mysticism -- within Islam; (3)
the ideals of human conduct produced within Islamic culture; (4) the character
of everyday life, in city, village, and nomadic tribes, and the varying re-
lations between town and countryside.

The course is open to all undergraduates. It is intended to stand as a useful
presentation of the material in its own right; however, it is also an appro-
priate introduction to further coursework in this field.

LECTURES

All students will attend the classes scheduled TR, 9:30-10:45.
Students taking the course for 4 credits will attend a discussion section
with the instructor, scheduled for W, 1:20-2:10.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

One map exercise
Three essays (4-5 pp. each), each one based on a problem chosen by you from
    a list of several topics prepared by the instructor. These are not research
    papers, but will be based on the regular assigned readings for the course.
Final Examination

GRADING SYSTEM

A-F   Map: 10%   Essays: 20% each   Final Exam: 30%

REQUIRED READINGS

J. J. Saunders, A History of Medieval Islam
N. J. Dawood, translator. The Koran
Richard Critchfield, Shahhat, an Egyptian
History 137: Selected Readings (available at Kinko's, 626 University Ave.)