



**INTRODUCTION TO
ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION**

HISTORY 1060

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2007



MARHABA! WELCOME TO USU 1060!

Instructor:

Dr. Debra Baldwin

debra.baldwin@usu.edu

Required Text: *The Oxford History of Islam*, John L. Esposito, 1999 edition

Recommended Text: *The Adventures of Ibn Battutah*, Ross E. Dunn 1990 edition

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Over the course of the past 10 years, a knowledge of Islam, its history, culture and people, has become vital to understanding our world's political situation and even the recent events that affect our daily lives. An Introduction to Islamic Civilization will provide a background and broadened perspective of these facets through readings, classroom lectures, visual and audio media. We will discuss and apply the historical, geographical and ethnographical highlights within a modern cultural context and try to focus on the reasons why rather than just the facts or historical events.

Course objectives include:

- Developing informed awareness of Islamic concepts, culture and thought.
- Becoming conversant with the vocabulary of Islam in the Arabic language.
- Expanding personal knowledge and opinion of current events in the light of Islamic cultural understanding.
- Gaining an awareness of the historical, philosophical, aesthetic, religious, sociological and gender related issues that shape Islamic lifestyles today.
- Increasing personal motivation to study Islamic issues beyond the scope of this course as they relate to present and future events in our society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You will be expected to attend all classroom lectures, turn in all assignments and take all scheduled quizzes and exams ON TIME.

- You will have short 5-question quizzes at the beginning of class periods on each assigned chapter of reading in the textbook (*Oxford History of Islam*). Please note that THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES. Quizzes are used for attendance purposes as well as showing that you have read your text assignment prior to the class lecture, so they can not be made up at a later date or taken earlier, regardless of your reason for missing class. You can always do the extra credit assignment to make up for any points missing or low test grades.
- You will have two topic papers to write. They should be 3 FULL (to the bottom) pages in length. Deductions will be given for ANY length shortness. The first paper will be using newspaper articles on current events. The second will be on a DVD of your choice. Specific paper guidelines are given below. Be sure to answer ALL questions asked of you. Deductions will be given for questions missed. Papers are due at the BEGINNING of class on the due date stated. NO emailed papers will be accepted. Late work will be accepted ONLY on class days with a 10-point deduction for each calendar day beyond the due date (including

- weekends, holidays and any days in between class days). A paper format guide is included at the back of this syllabus. You will be deducted major points for not following the format in items such as length, punctuation (paragraphs indents, commas, run-on sentences, spelling, wrong word choice or missing words, line spacing, font size, title location, etc.) so PLEASE proofread your papers and make sure they are following the format given to you EXACTLY. Papers that are illegible or unreadable will NOT be graded at all, but returned to you for a rewrite and consequent grade deductions for late work will be in effect. Also, any plagiarism is grounds for failing this class and being expelled from the university. Be SURE to use quotes and give references when using another person's words.
- Your midterm and final exams will have an objective portion of T/F, multiple choice and matching questions as well as a subjective portion composed of essay and short answer questions. Test items will be taken from both book information and lecture notes. Anything written on the board is usually important enough to be included on the test, so be sure to take good class notes. You will also be tested on a list of Arabic words that will be posted on the Vista site for this class. We will be using these words in lecture sessions, so you will become familiar with them from your readings and our discussions.
 - There will also be a group work assignment which will be part of an oral presentation of chapters 10 and 11 in the textbook (which will count for your quizzes for those chapters). You will be responsible for presenting your portion of the chapters to the rest of your assigned group in the class.
 - You will also have the option of doing extra credit work if you desire, due the last day of class using the *Adventures of Ibn Battutah* text listed above as a recommended text.

PAPER GUIDELINES:

- **Paper #1 DUE OCTOBER 8**
Choose any newspaper, magazine or internet newspaper article dealing with a Middle Eastern current event that has had a personal impact on your life in any way. Using what you have studied so far about the historical context and religious background of Islam, WHY do you think that event has happened? What impact has it had on you personally and what solutions, if any, could you recommend? What relevant quotes from chapters in the text relate to the issue and its background? Include a Xerox copy (or originals) of your article along with your writing. There is a 50 point deduction for NOT including the article, so be SURE to staple it to your paper!
- **Paper #2 DUE DECEMBER 5**
Choose one of the following movies to view: 1) Khartoum (1966, stars Charlton Heston & Laurence Olivier) 2) The Wind and the Lion (1975, stars Sean Connery & Brian Keith) 3) Lawrence of Arabia (1962, stars Peter O'Toole, Anthony Quinn & Omar Sharif). Discuss the role the European powers played in the governments of the host countries. How did it affect the host countries? What kinds of conflicts did it lead to? How were they resolved (if they were)? Do you feel that the Europeans made positive contributions to the countries they colonized? How did the host country nationals view them? From what you read

- in the chapters dealing with colonialism and revivalism, what conclusions can you draw about the influence of outside powers on developing countries? Be sure to state which movie you watched (These really are classic great films that had many nominations & won academy awards in their times, so if you want to view all 3 and compare them all, you are welcome to!)
- As mentioned above, papers will be HEAVILY graded in regards to grammar, punctuation, format, spelling and structure. There is a minimum level of acceptance for university writing which will be adhered to in this course. If you need help, there are resources available both online and through the university. PLEASE USE THEM! Also, you can email your paper to our TA prior to the due date for correction and suggested improvements.

COURSE GRADING POINT BREAKDOWN:

Two topic papers (2 x 100 points each)	=	200 points
Book Chapter Quizzes (15 x 20 points each)	=	300 points
Midterm Exam	=	200 points
Final Written Exam	=	<u>300 points</u>
		TOTAL: 1000 points

Letter grades are given by strict percentage as follows:

94 – 100%	A
90 – 93%	A-
87 – 89%	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 82%	B-
77 – 79%	C+
73 – 76%	C
70 – 72%	C-
67 – 69%	D+
60 – 66%	D
Under 60%	F



HISTORY 1060 CLASS SCHEDULE FALL 2007

DATE	QUIZ	LECTURE TOPIC
Mon	Aug 27	Course introduction & syllabus
Wed	Aug 29	Arabic language, geography/period handout, visual tour: Part 1
Mon	Sep 3	HOLIDAY NO CLASS
Wed	Sep 5 Quiz Ch 1	A visual tour of Islamic geography: Part 2
Mon	Sep 10	Islamic History: periods, dynasties and empires
Wed	Sep 12 Quiz Ch 8	Islamic History: periods, dynasties and empires
Mon	Sep 17 Quiz Ch 9	Islamic History: periods, dynasties and empires
Wed	Sep 19 Quiz Ch 2	Declaration of Islam (<i>The Message Part 1</i>)
Mon	Sep 24	Faith of Islam (<i>The Message Part 2</i>)
Wed	Sep 26 Quiz Ch 7	Conquest of Islam (<i>The Message Part 3</i>)
Mon	Oct 1	World of Islam (<i>The Message Part 4</i>)
Wed	Oct 3 Quiz Ch 3	Formation of Islamic society
Mon	Oct 8 Paper #1 Due	<i>Hadith</i>
Wed	Oct 10 Quiz Ch 14	Islamic society today: current issues and hot topics
Mon	Oct 15 Quiz Ch 15	Islamic society today: current issues and hot topics
Wed	Oct 17	MIDTERM EXAM
Mon	Oct 22 Quiz Ch 4	Islamic contributions: Science, Medicine and Technology
Wed	Oct 24 Quiz Ch 6	Islamic contributions: Philosophy and Theology
Mon	Oct 29	Islamic contributions: Literature
Wed	Oct 31 Quiz Ch 5	Islamic contributions: Art and Architecture
Mon	Nov 5	Guest Lecturer Dr. Peter Mentzel
Wed	Nov 7	Guest Lecturer Dr. Peter Mentzel
Mon	Nov 12 Oral Ch 10	Student presentations
Wed	Nov 14 Oral Ch 11	Student presentations
Mon	Nov 19	Islamic contributions: Art and Architecture
Wed	Nov 21	HOLIDAY NO CLASS
Mon	Nov 26 Quiz Ch 12	Islamic reform
Wed	Nov 28 Quiz Ch 13	Modern Muslim States
Mon	Dec 3	Islam in America
Wed	Dec 5 Paper #2 Due	Final Review

Mon Dec 10

Final Exam 1:30 – 3:20 PM FL206