

HIST 1060

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

Instructor: Peter Mentzel
Office: Old Main, 321G
Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:00PM
Office phone: 797-0147
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Themes: What do we mean by Islamic Civilization? Is the term useful? What are the main features of Islamic Civilization? What historical events have shaped it? What similarities do different Islamic societies share?

Texts: Vernon O. Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization*.
Malise Ruthven, *Islam in the World* (Third Edition)

WEEK 1: Some of the central problems of studying Islamic Civilization
Jan.9-11 Names, dates, languages. Some geography. Origins of Islam. The Prophet Muhammad.
Reading: Egger, Chap. 1. Ruthven, Chap. 2.

WEEK 2: The Rashidun and Umayyad Caliphs
Jan. 16-18 Readings: Egger, Chap. 2. Ruthven, Chap. 3.

WEEK 3: Shi`ites, Sunnis, and the Abbasid Revolution
Jan. 23-25 Readings: Egger, Chap. 3.

WEEK 4: Politics and Trade
Jan. 30- Feb.1 Readings: Egger, Chap. 4. Ruthven, Chap. 4.

WEEK 5: Philosophy and Theology
Feb. 6-8 **FIRST TEST FEBRUARY 8**
Readings: Egger, Chap. 5.

WEEK 6: The Turks
Feb. 13-15 Readings: Egger, Chap. 6. Ruthven, Chap. 5.

WEEK 7: The *Reconquista* and the Crusades
Feb. 20-22 Readings: Egger, Chap. 7

WEEK 8: Sufism
Feb. 27- March 1 **MIDTERM ESSAY QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED MARCH 1**
Readings: Egger, Chap. 8. Ruthven, Chap. 6.

WEEK 9: The *Dar al-Islam*
March 6-8 **MIDTERM ESSAY DUE MARCH 8**
Readings: Egger, Chap. 9

WEEK 10: **NO CLASS MEETINGS (SPRING BREAK)**
March 12-16

WEEK 11: The Mongols
March 20-22 Readings: Egger, Chap. 10

WEEK 12: The Turco-Mongol Khanates
March 27-29 Readings: Egger, Chap. 11

WEEK 13: The "Gunpowder Empires"
April 3-5 **SECOND TEST APRIL 3**

WEEK 14: Imperialism and Reform
April 10-12 Readings: Ruthven, Chap. 7

WEEK 15: Islam and Modernity
April 17-19 Readings: Ruthven, Chap. 8

WEEK 16: The Future of the Muslim World
April 24-26 **FINAL ESSAY QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS ON APRIL 26**

FINAL EXAM (FINAL ESSAY DUE): 9:30-11:20 AM, Tuesday, May 1, 2007

COURSE WORK:

Two tests	(20 points each)	40 points
Midterm Essay		20 points
Final exam		40 points
TOTAL		100 points

The two short tests are in multiple choice/ short answer format. The midterm essay will address one of three options I will distribute one week before the essay is due. The essay should be approximately three pages long, double-spaced. The final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and one essay. At our last class meeting I will distribute a list of three possible essay questions of which you will pick one as the subject of your final essay. The essay should be about three, double-spaced, pages long. The essay is due at the time of the final exam.

Please make every effort to take the two tests at their scheduled times. According to university policy, I will only reschedule tests due to an excused absence in the conduct of university business (including, but not limited to, active participation in sporting events), or to a medical condition, or to a family emergency.

Please note that the midterm essay is due at the beginning of our class meeting on March 8. I will not accept papers submitted more than fifteen (15) minutes after the beginning of class, nor will I accept papers delivered to me electronically (e.g., as an email attachment). Note that papers must be

submitted to me in class. I will not accept papers delivered to my office unless I have made some prior arrangements.

GRADING:

Your grade in this course is calculated based on the total number of points you earn according to the following table:

A	95-100 points
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	59 and fewer points

You will note that, according to university policy, there are no “+ or D- grades.

MISCELLANEOUS

I do not require that you come to every class meeting. However, you are unlikely to do well in the course if you miss more than a few classes.

I am very reluctant to grant incompletes as grades for the course. In general, I will only grant incompletes for students who have been unable to complete the work due to a family emergency or extended period of illness. If you are having trouble completing the course work or otherwise feel that you are getting behind in the course work please contact me.

Please Note: If you have a disability which you feel will hinder your ability to complete satisfactorily the work for the course, please see me as soon as possible so that we can work out a solution.