

Syllabus Sem. I: Survey of Islamic History

[The syllabus is organized chronologically focusing on political history with secondary forays, via focused readings (secondary) and primary source readings, into socio-cultural, economic and deeper political issues.]

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

Session 1: Academic study of Islam & basic concepts (geography, language, terms, transliteration, Islamic calendar, Muslim names)

- Zachary Lockman, “Introduction,” in *Contending Visions of the Middle East*, 1-8.
- Carl Ernst, “Approaching Islam in Terms of Religion,” in *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 37-69.
- Marshall Hodgson, “On Defining Civilizations,” in *The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization, vol. 1: The Classical Age of Islam* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1974), 30-34.

Session 2: Determining “facts” of Islamic history

- Fred Donner, “Introduction.” In *Narratives of Islamic Origins: Beginnings of Islamic Historical Writing* (Princeton, NJ: The Darwin Press, 1998), 1-31.
- Aziz al-Azmeh, Ch. 1 “Divergence of Source Interpretation: the Methodenstreit,” in *The Arabs and Islam in Late Antiquity: A Critique of Approaches to Arabic Sources* (Berlin: Gerlach Press, 2014), 1-14.

Session 3: The context of Islam’s emergence

Overview

- Vernon Egger, “Southwestern Asia in the Seventh Century,” in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2004), 4-20.
- Tamim Ansary, “Introduction” and Ch.1 “The Middle World,” in *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World through Islamic Eyes* (New York: PublicAffairs, 2009), xiii-xx & 1-15.

Primary Source

- Hāshim ibn al-Kalbī, “*Kitāb al-aṣnām*,” translated by Nabih Amin Faris as *The Book of Idols* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1952), 4-25, 27-29, 32, 35-37, 41, 43-50.

Part I: The Formative Period, c. 610 – c. 950**Week 2: The Rise of Islam, the Prophet and his Successors (the Rāshidūn & the Umayyads)**Overview

- Egger, Ch.1 “The Rise of Islam,” in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 20-32.
- Egger, ch.2 “Arab Imperialism,” in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 33-61.

Focused Readings

- Kennedy, Ch. 3 “Conquest and Division in the Time of the Rashidun Caliphs,” in *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates* (Harlow, England: Pearson Education Limited, 2004), 50-81.
- Maya Yazigi, “Defense and Validation in Shi‘i and Sunni Tradition: The Case of Muḥammad b. Abi Bakr,” in *Studia Islamica* 98/99 (2004):49-70.

Primary Sources

- Ismā‘īl al-Bukhārī, “*Kitāb bad’ al-wahy* (The Book of Revelation)?” In *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, trans. Muhammad Muhsin Khan (Riyadh: Darussalam Publishers, 1997), 1:45-55.
- Qur’an: Chapters 112, 99, 101, 2 (verses 253-272).
- Ibn Ishāq, “The Covenant between the Muslims and the Medinans and the Jews,” in *Sīrat Rasūl Allāh*, translated by A. Guillaume as *The Life of Muhammad* (Karachi: Oxford University Press, 1998), 231-233.
- Ibn Ishāq, “Brotherhood between Emigrants and Helpers,” in Guillaume, *The Life of Muhammad*, 234-235.

- Ibn Ishāq, “The Farewell Pilgrimage (Section on the Last Sermon of the Prophet),” in Guillaume, *The Life of Muhammad*, 650-652.
- Abū Ja‘far al-Ṭabarī, “The Founding of the Caliphate,” in *Tā’rīkh al-rusul wa al-mulūk*, translated in Bernard Lewis, *Islam: From the Prophet Muhammad to the Capture of Constantinople, volume 1 Politics and War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1974), 2-5.
- Ibn Hishām, “The Accession Speech of Abū Bakr,” in *Sīrat Ibn Hishām*. Translated in Lewis, *Islam: From the Prophet Muhammad to the Capture of Constantinople, volume 1*, 5-6.
- Abū Ja‘far al-Ṭabarī, “The Account of the Electoral Council,” in *Ta’rīkh al-rusul wa al-mulūk*, translated and annotated by G. Rex Smith as *History of al-Tabarī*, vol. 14 (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1994), 143-154.
- Muḥammad ibn Sa‘d, “The Egyptians and their Siege of ‘Uthmān,” “What was said to ‘Uthmān regarding Abdication and What He said to them” and “The Murder of ‘Uthmān b. ‘Affān,” in *al-Ṭabaqāt al-Kabir*, ed. ‘Alī Muḥammad ‘Umar (Cairo: Maktabat al-Khānjī, 2001), 3:61-71.

Weeks 3, 4 & 5: The Umayyads, the ‘Abbasids and Early Fragmentation

Week 3: Overview

- Egger, Ch.3 “The Development of Sectarianism,” in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 62-84.
- Egger, Ch. 4 “The Center cannot Hold: Three Caliphates,” in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 85-113.
- Egger, Ch. 5 “Synthesis and Creativity,” in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 114-138.

Week 4: Politics

Focused Readings

- Manzooruddīn Aḥmed, “Key Political Concepts in the Qur’ān,” *Islamic Studies* vol. 10, no. 2 (1971): 77-102.

- Hugh Kennedy, “Central Government and Provincial Elites in the Early ‘Abbāsīd Caliphate,” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* vol. 44, no. 1 (1981): 26-38.

Primary Sources

- Olivia Constable, “A Muslim-Christian Treaty: The Treaty of Tudmīr (713),” in *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim and Jewish Sources* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997), 37-38.
- H. A. R. Gibb, “The Fiscal Rescript of ‘Umar II,” *Arabica* T. 2, Fasc. 1 (1955): 1-16.
- Ibn al-Muqaffa ‘, “*Ṭā’at al-a’imma wa ma’ṣiyatuhum* (obedience and disobedience of rulers),” “*al-dīn wa al-‘aql* (religion and reason),” “*amr al-aḥkām* (matter of rulings),” and “*qiyās* (legal analogy),” in *Risāla fī al-ṣaḥāba*, translated by Charles Pellat as *Conseilleur du Calife* (Paris: G.P. Maisonneuve et Larose, 1976), 25-33 & 41-47.

Week 5: Society & Economics

Focused Readings

- David Waines, “The Third Century Internal Crisis of the Abbasids,” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* vol. xx, part III (1977): 282-306.
- Divergent approaches to Islamic thought and practice:
 - Ira Lapidus, “Cosmopolitan Islam: The Islam of the Imperial Elite,” in *A History of Islamic Societies* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 92-113.
 - Lapidus, “Urban Islam: The Islam of Scholars and Holy Men,” in *A History of Islamic Societies*, 114-143.

Primary Sources

- Al-Jāḥīz, “Shi’ite Doctrine and the Imamate,” “Merits of Turks and Other Nations,” & “Tradesmen, Officialdom, Secretaries,” in *The Life and Works of Jāḥīz: Translations of Selected Texts*, trans. Charles Pellat & D. M. Hawke (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969), 62-66, 91-97, 272-275.

- Abū 'Alī al-Muḥassin al-Tanūkhī, "From Ruminations and Reminiscences," translated in *The Islamic World*, eds. William McNeill and Marilyn Robinson Waldman (New York: Oxford University Press, 1973), 86, 89-93, 96-106.
- Hugh Kennedy, "Voices of the Conquered," in *The Great Arab Conquests. How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2007), 344-362.

Part II: A Civilization under Siege & Mongol Hegemony, 950-1405

Week 6: Politics

Overview

- Egger, Ch. 6 "Filling the Vacuum of Power, 950-1100," in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 139-171.
- Egger, Ch. 7 "Barbarians at the Gates, 1100-1260," in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 172-198.
- Egger, Ch. 10 "The Great Transformation," in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 257-289.

Focused Readings

- Marshall Hodgson, "The 'Ulama and the Amirs in the International Political Order," in *The Venture of Islam: The Expansion of Islam in the Middle Periods*, (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1974), 2:46-52.
- Edmund Bosworth, "The Steppe Peoples in the Muslim World," in *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, vol. 3, 21-77.
- Ali, Wijdan. "Islamic Coins during the Umayyad, Abbasid, Andalusian and Fatimid Dynasties." <http://www.muslimheritage.com/uploads/Islamic%20Coins.pdf> (accessed January 18th, 2017).

Primary Sources

- Abū al-Ḥasan al-Māwardī, "The Contract of Imamate," in *al-Aḥkām al-Sulṭāniyyah: The Laws of Islamic Governance*, trans. Asadullah Yates (London: Ta-Ha Publishers, 1996), 10-36.

- Abū ‘Alī Ḥasan Niẓām al-Mulk, Ch. 1 “On the Turn of Fortune’s Wheel and in Praise of the Master of the World,” and Ch. 43 “Exposing the Facts about Heretics who are the Enemies of the State and of Islam,” in *The Book of Government or Rules for Kings: The Siyāsat-nāma or Siyar al-Mulūk of Niẓām al-Mulk*, trans. Hubert Drake (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1960).
- “Guyuk Khan’s Letter to Pope Innocent IV” (1246) [Source: Paul Pelliot, “Les Mongols et la papauté,” part I, *Revue de l’Orient Chrétien* 23 (1922-23) : 16-23. Translated and edited by Prof. John Woods for his “Islamic History & Society – II.”]
- “Ibn Khaldūn’s meetings with Tamerlane.” Adapted from the translation and study by Walter J. Fischel, *Ibn Khaldun and Tamerlane* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1952), 29-47, and annotated by John E. Woods.

Week 7: The Society and the Economy

Overview

- Egger, Ch. 9 “The Muslim Commonwealth,” in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 229-256.

Focused Readings

- Rudolph Peters, “Wakf in Classical Islamic Law,” in *Encyclopaedia of Islam, Second Edition*.
- Doris Behrens-Abouseif, “Wakf in Egypt,” in *Encyclopaedia of Islam, Second Edition*.
- Marshall Hodgson, “The A’yān-Amīr System,” in *The Venture of Islam*, 2:91-135.
- Richard Bulliet, “Local Politics in Eastern Iran under the Ghaznavids and Seljuks,” *Journal for the Society for Iranian Studies* vol. 11 (1978): 35-56.
- Andre Wink, “The Early Expansion of Islam in India.” In *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, vol. 3, 78-99.

Primary Sources

- Fulcher of Chartres, *A History of the Expedition to Jerusalem*, trans. Frances Rita Ryan, ed. Harold Fink (Knoxville, TN: university of Tennessee Press, 1969), 116-123 & 271-272.

- “Excerpts regarding the Franks,” in Usāma b. Munqidh, *Kitāb al-i‘tibār* [The book of contemplation], trans. Paul Cobb (London: Penguin Books, 2008).
- “Society in Mamluk Egypt and Syria.” Selections by John Woods from Abū al-Maḥāsin ibn Taghribirdī’s (d. 1470) *al-Nujūm al-zāhira fī mulūk Miṣr wa al-Qāhira* [History of the kings of Egypt and Cairo].
- Selections from Ibn Battūṭa (d. 1377) travels [Source: Islamic Thought II.]

Week 8: The Intellectual Scene

Overview

- Egger, Ch. 8 “The Consolidation of Traditions,” in *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 199-228.
- Egger, Ch. 11 “Unity and Diversity in Islamic Traditions,” *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*, 290-317.
- Selections from Hodgson, “The Intellectual Traditions, c. 945-1111,” in *The Venture of Islam*, 2:159-174.

Focused Readings

- Yaacov Lev, “Pious Endowments, Learning and Mysticism,” in *Charity, Endowments and Charitable Institutions in Medieval Islam* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2005), 85-112.
- George Makdisi, “The Hanbali School and Sufism,” in *Actas IV Congresso de Estudos Arabes e Islamicos* (Leiden 1971), 115-126.

Primary Sources

- ‘Izz al-Dīn ibn ‘Abd al-Salām, al-Qawā‘id al-ṣuḡhrā, ed. Iyād Khālīd al-Ṭabbā‘ (Beirut & Damascus: Dār al-Fikr, 1996), 32-53.
- Abū Hāmid al-Ghazālī, “*Fī al-‘ilm al-maḥmūd wa al-madhmūm wa aqsāmuhumā wa aḥkāmuhuma* (Regarding the praiseworthy and blameworthy science and their divisions and rulings),” in *Kitāb al-*

‘ilm min Iḥyā’ ‘ulūm al-dīn [The Book of Knowledge], trans. Nabih Amin Faris (New Delhi: Islamic Book Service, 1962), 23-67.

PART III: MUSLIM ASCENDANCY, 1405-1750

Week 9: The Central and Western Islamic lands, i.e. everything west of Iran

Overview

- Vernon Egger, Ch. 3 “The Central Muslim Lands,” in *A History of the Muslim World since 1260: The Making of a Global Community* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008), 63-107.
- Egger, Ch. 4 “The Umma in the West,” in *A History of the Muslim World since 1260*, 108-142.

Focused Readings

- G. G. Arnakis, “Futuwwa Traditions in the Ottoman Empire: Akhis, Bektashi Dervishes, and Craftsmen,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, vol. 12, no. 4 (1953): 232-247.
- Ulrich Rebstock, “West Africa and its Early Empires,” in *The New Cambridge History of Islam, vol. 2*, 144-159.

Primary Sources

- John Willaims, “Ibn Tumart and the Rise of the Almohads,” in Constable, *Medieval Iberia*, 185-189.
- “Ottoman Conquest of Constantinople (Kritivoulos: From History of Mehmed the Conqueror),” in William McNeill and Marilyn Robinson Waldman (eds.), *The Islamic World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1973), 312-336.
- “The Safavid Challenge: Letters from Selīm and Ismā‘īl,” in McNeill and Waldman, *The Islamic World*, 337-344.
- “The Ottoman Sulaymān (Busbecq: From the Turkish Letters),” in McNeill and Waldman, *The Islamic World*, 344-352.

Week 10: Central Asia and Iran

Overview

- Egger, Ch. 5 “Central Asia and Iran,” in *A History of the Muslim World since 1260*, 143-180.

Focused Readings

- Said Amir Arjomand, “Conceptions of Authority and the Transition of Shi’ism from Sectarian to National Religion in Iran,” in Farhad Daftary and Josef Meri (eds.), *Culture and Memory in Medieval Islam: Essays in Honour of Wilfred Madelung* (London: I. B. Tauris Publishers, 2003), 388-409.
- “Hisba,” in *Encyclopaedia of Islam, Second Edition*.

Primary Sources

- Iskandar Beg Munshī, *Tārīkh-i ‘ālam ārā-ye ‘Abbāsī* [*History of Shāh ‘Abbās the Great*], trans. R.M. Savory, ed. Robert Dankoff (Boulder, Colorado, 1978), 1: 29-33, 40-45.
- Faḍl Allāh b. Rūzbihān Khūnjī-Isfahānī, *Tārīkh-i ‘ālam ārā-ye amīnī* [Persia in A.D. 1478-1490], trans. V. Minorsky, eds. Robert Dankoff and John E. Woods (London: Royal Asiatic Society, 1992), 55-70.
- Tourkhan Gandjei, ed., *Il Canzoniere di Sah Isma‘il Hata’i*, trans. Robert Dankoff (Naples: Istituto universitario orientale, 1959): nos. 7, 16, 20, 47, 105, 252.
- Vincentio d’Alessandri, “Narrative of the Most Noble Vincentio d’Alessandri,” in *A Narrative of Italian Travels in Persia*, trans. Charles Grey (London: Hakluyt Society, 1873), 211-29.

Week 11: South Asia and the Indian Ocean Basin

Overview

- Egger, Ch. 6 “South Asia,” in *A History of the Muslim World since 1260*, 181-219.
- Egger, Ch. 7 “The Indian Ocean Basin,” in *A History of the Muslim World since 1260*, 220-255.

Focused Readings

- Katherine B. Brown, “Did Aurangzeb ban Music? Questions for the Historiography of his Reign,” in *Modern Asian Studies* vol. 41, no. 1 (2007): 77-120.
- Bikrama Jit Hasrat, “The Majma‘-ul-Baḥrain,” “Jog-Bashisht,” & “Sirr-i Akbar,” in *Dara Shikuh: Life and Works* (Calcutta: Visvabharti Publishing Department, 1953), 217-92.

Primary Sources

- “The Mughal Akbar (Abū al-Faḥl: From the Book of Akbar),” in McNeill and Waldman, *The Islamic World*, 353-373.
- “Akbar’s *Dasturu’l-‘amal* (a Circular Enumerating the Duties of Officers) addressed to the ‘*Ummāl* and *Mutaṣaddīs* of the Empire (21 March 1594),” in *Mukātabāt-i ‘Allāmī (Inshā’i Abu’l Faḥl) Daftar I*, trans. & ed. Mansura Haidar (New Delhi: Indian Council of Historical Research, 1998), 79-88.

Part IV: The Modern Period, 1750 – The Present**Week 12: 1750-1875**Overview

- Egger, Ch. 8 “Reform and Renewal, 1750-1875,” in *A History of the Muslim World since 1260*, 257-314.

Focused Readings

- Thompson, Ch. 1 “Mustafa Ali: Ottoman Justice and Bureaucratic Reform,” in *Justice Interrupted: The Struggle for Constitutional Government in the Middle East* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013), 11-36.
- John Voll, “Hadith Scholars and Tariqahs: An Ulama Group in the 18th Century Haramayn and their Impact in the Islamic World,” *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 15 (1980): 264-272.

Primary Sources

- “The Hatt-i-Şerif Decree Initiates the Tanzimat, or Reform, Period in the Ottoman Empire, November 3, 1839,” in Akram Fouad Khater (ed.), *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East* (Boston: Wadsworth, 2011), 11-14.
- “An Ottoman Government Decree Defines the Official Notion of the “Modern” Citizen, June 19, 1870,” in Khater, *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East*, 14-16.
- “The Treaty of Peace and Commerce (Treaty of Turkmanchai) between Iran and Russia, February 10-22, 1828,” in Khater, *Source in the History of the Modern Middle East*, 36-40.
- Namik Kemal, “And Seek their Counsel in the Matter [Qur’an, Sura 3, Verse 159],” in Charles Kurzman (ed.), *Modernist Islam, 1840-1940: A Sourcebook* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), 144-148.

Week 13: 1875-1939Overview

- Egger, Ch. 9 “The Loss of Sovereignty, 1875-1920,” in *A History of the Muslim World since 1260*, 315-368.
- Egger, Ch. 10 “The Interwar Years, 1920-1939,” *A History of the Muslim World since 1260*, 369-411.

Focused Readings

- Khaled Fahmy, “Birth of the ‘Secular’ Individual: Medical and Legal Methods of Identification in Nineteenth-Century Egypt,” in Keith Breckenridge and Simon Szreter (eds.), *Registration and Recognition: Documenting the Person in World History* (Oxford: The British Academy & Oxford University Press, 2012), 335-355.

Primary Sources

- “Henry Morgenthau Recounts Aspects of Nationalist-Driven Ethnic Cleansing of Armenians in Turkey, 1915,” in Khater, *Source in the History of the Modern Middle East*, 144-150.

- “The Balfour Declaration, Stating the British Government’s Support for a Jewish Homeland in Palestine, and Discussions Leading to Issuing It in 1917,” in Khater, *Source in the History of the Modern Middle East*, 107-112.
- “Women and the Vote in Syria: A Parliamentary Debate about the Relationship between Gender and Citizenship in the Proposed Syria, April 25, 1920,” in Khater, *Source in the History of the Modern Middle East*, 169-177.

Week 14: 1939-1970

Overview

- Egger, vol. 2, Ch. 11 “Regaining Sovereignty, 1939-1970,” 412-457.

Focused Readings

- Roger Owen, “On the Political Economy of Grand Liban, 1920-1970,” in *Essays on the Crisis in Lebanon*, ed. Roger Owen (London: Ithaca Press, 1976), 23-31.
- Charles Smith, “The End of the Mandate and the Creation of Israel, 1945-1949,” in *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (Boston: Bedford/St.Martin’s, 2010), 179-221.
- James Jankowski, “Arab Nationalism in “Nasserism” and Egyptian State policy, 1952-1958,” in *Rethinking Nationalism in the Arab Middle East*, eds. Israel Gershoni and James Jankowski (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997), 151-167.

Primary Sources

- “The Arab Case for Palestine and the Case for a Binational State, March 1946,” in Khater, *Source in the History of the Modern Middle East*, 179-190.
- “Sadiq al-‘Azm, an Arab Intellectual, Critiques the Arab State and Clergy for their Use of Religion, 1968,” in Khater, *Source in the History of the Modern Middle East*, 225-228.

Week 15: 1970 – PresentOverview

- Egger, vol. 2, Ch. 12 “New Directions, 1970-Present,” 458-510.

Focused Readings

- Sherman Jackson, “Introduction” to Usāmah Ibrāhīm Ḥāfīz [al-Gamā‘a al-Islāmiyya]. [*Mubādarat waqf al-‘unf*:] *Initiative to Stop the Violence: Sadat’s Assassins and the Renunciation of Political Violence*, trans. Sherman Jackson (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2015), 1-48.
- Mohammad Fadel, “Modernist Islamic Political Thought and the Egyptian and Tunisian Revolutions of 2011,” in *Middle East Law and Governance* 3 (2011): 94-104.

Primary Sources

- “Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Denounces the Rule of the Shah of Iran, 1971,” in Khater, *Source in the History of the Modern Middle East*, 229-232.
- Cheryl Benard, “Summary,” in *Civil Democratic Islam: Partners, Resources, and Strategies* (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2003), ix-xii.
- Usāmah Ibrāhīm Ḥāfīz and al-Gamā‘a al-Islāmiyya, *Initiative to Stop the Violence (Mubādarat waqf al-‘unf): Sadat’s Assassins and the Renunciation of Political Violence*, trans. Sherman Jackson (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2015), 51-121.