

Muslim Studies: An Interdisciplinary History
AH539/AN548/HI596/RN563/TX847
Fall 2014

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HIS 504 TH: 12:00-3:00

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Office Hours: T 1:00-4:00; TH 11:00-12:00 and 3:00-4:00; and by appointment

The course introduces students interested in Muslim Studies to the main themes, states, empires, faiths, and ideologies of the Muslim world, while taking advantage of the wealth of resources Boston University has to offer across its many departments. The areas included within the course range from North and West Africa, through the Middle East, to Turkey, Iran, and then to Central and South and Southeast Asia. These areas represent vastly different communities, cultures, and histories and no course can fully elucidate them all. Instead, this course examines themes that influence the multiple regions, while providing select states, empires, and ideologies as case studies for further development. The course will provide a combination of lectures and discussion sessions. Guest speakers and discussants will attend the class most weeks to enable the students to meet many of the professors teaching about this region at Boston University. It is open to both upper-level undergraduates and graduate students. The particular focus this semester will be on the changing relationship between State and Society in the Muslim World.

During the course of the semester, students will write one mid-term paper of 10 pages and a final term paper of 15 pages for the undergraduates and 20 pages for the graduate students on a topic of each student's choosing. For the paper, the student will consult the professor in the Muslim Studies program most knowledgeable about the topic.

Students will pass in at the beginning of every week a 1.5-page, single-spaced, precis analyzing the main points to be found in that week's readings. These precis will not be a narrative of the readings, but a comprehensive analysis and comparison of them.

In addition to the written work, discussions will take place every week concerning the assigned readings. On these days, the students must arrive in class prepared to analyze and contribute to the topics proposed in order to receive full credit for participation.

Books:

Thomas Barfield, *Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History*, Princeton University Press, 2010
Akram Fouad Khater, *Inventing Home: Emigration Gender and Middle Class in Lebanon*, University of California Press, 2001

Roger Owen, *Rise and Fall of Presidents for Life*, Harvard University Press, 2012

Elizabeth Thompson, *Justice Interrupted: The Struggle for Constitutional Government in the Middle East*, Harvard University Press, 2013

(All other articles are on the Web: <http://people.bu.edu/banderso/hi596>)

Requirements:

Precis each week worth 20% of the grade
1 mid-term paper worth 20% of the grade
Final paper worth 40% of the grade
Class participation worth 20% of the grade

Penalties for late work. The papers must be turned in on the dates specified below; otherwise they will lose 1/2 a grade for each day they are late.

Plagiarism will be punished per the guidelines set out in the CAS Academic Conduct Code. Students can find the policy at: [Boston University Academic Conduct Code](#).

Week 1 (September 4) Guest Speaker - TBA

- Topics:

Introduction: Current Events

Week 2 (September 11)

- Topics:

Land and Sea Routes

- Readings:

- 1) K.N. Chaudhuri, Trade and Civilization in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750 (Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 34-62.
 - 2) Ibn Battuta, Chapter 1, Ibn Battuta: Travels in Asia and Africa, 1325-54 (Darf Publishers, 1969) (pp. 66-67 are missing).
 - 3) Janet Abu-Lughod, Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250-1350 (Oxford University Press, 1991), pp. 185-247.
 - 4) Michel Tuchscherer, "Trade and Port Cities in the Red Sea," and Andre Raymond, "A Divided Sea," *Modernity & Culture from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean* (Columbia University Press, 2002), pp. 28-57.
 - 5) Resat Kasaba, A Moveable Empire (University of Washington Press, 2009), pp. 3-52.
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Week 3 (September 18) – Guest Speaker - TBA

- Topics:

Monotheism and the Origins of Islam

- Readings:

- 1) Readings TBA

Week 4 (September 25)

- Topics:

Umayyad and Abbasid Empires

- Readings:

- 1) [Marshall G.S. Hodgson, The Venture of Islam \(University of Chicago Press, 1977\), Volume I, pp. 281-358, 372-378.](#)
 - 2) [Marshall G.S. Hodgson, The Venture of Islam \(University of Chicago Press, 1977\), Volume II, pp. 62-151.](#)
 - 3) [Jonathan Berkey, "Madrasas Medieval and Modern," Schooling Islam \(Princeton University Press, 2007\).](#)
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Week 5 (October 2): Guest Speaker - Sunil Sharma

- Topics:

[Seljuk, Mongol, and Timurid Empires](#)

- Readings:

- 1) [The Cambridge History of Iran \(Cambridge University Press, 1968\), Volume 5, pp. 203-282.](#)
 - 2) David Morgan, [The Mongols \(Blackwell Publishing, 2007\), pp. 30-98.](#)
 - 3) Abolqasem Ferdowsi, "Selections," [Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings \(Mage Publishers, 2009\), pp. 9-27, 472-528, 832-854.](#)
 - 4) Roya Marefat, "Timurid Women: Patronage and Power." [Asian Art \(Vol. VI, No. 2\): pp. 28-49.](#)
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Week 6 (October 9) Guest Speaker – Benjamin Siegel

- Topics:

[India and Indonesia](#)

- Readings:

- 1) Readings TBA
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Week 7 (October 16) Guest Speaker - TBA

- Topics:

Islam and Art

- Readings:

- 1) David Roxburgh, "Selections," Writing the Word of God: Calligraphy and the Qur'an (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 2008).
 - 2) Sheila Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom, The Art and Architecture of Islam 1250-1800 (Yale University Press, 1994), pp. 70-113.
 - 3) Oleg Grabar, Formation of Islamic Art (Yale University Press, 1987), pp. 43-131
 - 4) Ebba Koch, "The Taj Mahal: Architecture, Symbolism, and Urban Significance." Muqarnas 22, pp. 128-149.
 - 5) Lisa Golombek, "Tamerlane: Scourge of God." Asian Art (Vol. II, No. 2): pp. 30-61.
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Week 8 (October 23)

- Topic:

Ottoman Empire

- Readings:

- 1) Douglas E. Streusand, Islamic Gunpowder Empires (Westview Press, 2010), pp. 11-28.
- 2) Daniel Goffman, The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe (Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 1-127.
- 3) Gulru Necipoglu, Selections, Architecture, Ceremonial, and Power (MIT Press, 1992), pp. 111-122, 159-183.
- 4) Leslie P. Peirce, "Wives and Concubines: The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries," The Imperial Harem (Oxford University Press, 1993), pp. 28-55.
- 5) Emine Fetvaci, "The Production of the Sehname-i Selim Han," Marqanas 26 (2009), pp. 263-315.

MID-TERM Paper, Due Monday, October 27, 5:00pm

Week 9 (October 30) Guest Speaker – Houchang Chehabi

- Topic:

Safavid Empire

- Readings:

- 1) Nikki Keddie and Rudi Matthee, ed., Iran and the Surrounding World: Interactions in Culture and Cultural Politics (University of Washington Press, 2002), pp. 3-11, 61-86, 89-120.

2) [Douglas E. Streusand, Islamic Gunpowder Empires, pp. 135-200.](#)

3) TBA

4) [Gulru Necipolgu, "Framing the Gaze in Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Palaces." *Ars Orientalist*, 1993.](#)

Week 10 (November 6) Guest Speaker – Tom Barfield

- Topics:

[Colonialism and the Great Game](#)

- Readings:

1) [Thomas Barfield, Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History \(Princeton University Press, 2010\).](#)

2) [Barbara and Thomas Metcalf, A Concise History of Modern India \(Cambridge University Press, 2006\): pp. 123-166.](#)

Week 11 (November 13) Guest Speaker - TBA

- Topics:

[19th Century](#)

- Readings:

1) [Akram Fouad Khater, Inventing Home: Emigration Gender and Middle Class in Lebanon \(University of California Press, 2001\).](#)

2) [Betty S. Anderson, Chapters 2 and 3, State and Society in the Modern Middle East \(Draft: Stanford University Press\).](#)

Week 12 (November 20)

- Topics:

[Colonialism and the 20th Century](#)

- Readings:

1) [Elizabeth Thompson, Justice Interrupted: The Struggle for Constitutional Government in the Middle East \(Harvard University Press, 2013\).](#)

2) Betty S. Anderson, Chapters 4, 5, and 6, State and Society in the Modern Middle East (Draft: Stanford University Press).

No Class: Thursday, November 27 (Thanksgiving)

Week 13 (December 4) Guest Speaker – Jenny White

- Topics:

Current Events

- Readings:

- 1) **Roger Owen**, Rise and Fall of Presidents for Life (Harvard University Press, 2012).
 - 2) Articles to be announced.
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FINAL PAPER DUE: To Be Determined