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 2 five-page papers analyzing an aspect of the course covered in the readings and discussions 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:


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

Requirements:

Precis each week worth 20% of the grade
2 five-page papers 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 1/3 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](#).

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**Week 1 (September 8)**

**Topics:**

Introduction: Current Events

**Readings:**


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**Week 2 (September 15)**

**Topics:**

Land and Sea Routes

**Readings:**

1. [Antrim](#), *Routes & Realms*

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**Week 3 (September 22)**

**Topics:**

Monotheism and the Origins of Islam

**Readings:**

1. [Anderson](#), Prologue

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**Week 4 (September 29)**

- **Topics:**

Umayyad and Abbasid Empires

- **Readings:**


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**Week 5 (October 6) Guest Speaker - Sassan Tabatabai**

- **Topics:**

Seljuk, Mongol, and Timurid Empires

- **Readings:**


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**First Paper Due: Friday, October 7, 5:00 pm**

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**Week 6 (October 13)**

- **Topics:**

Islam and Art

- **Readings:**


Week 7 (October 20)

- Topic:
Ottoman Empire

- Readings:
1) Anderson, Chapter 1
2) Daniel Goffman, The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe (Cambridge University), pp. 1-127.
4) Gulru Necipoglu, “Framing the Gaze in Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Palaces.” Ars Orientalist, 1993.

Week 8 (October 27) Guest Speaker - Houchang Chehabi

- Topic:
Safavid Empire

- Readings:

Week 9 (November 3) Guest Speaker - Sunil Sharma

- Topic:
Mughal Empire

- Readings:

Week 10 (November 10) Guest Speaker - Chris Gratien
Topics:

Colonialism and Reform

Readings:

1) Anderson, Chapters 2, 3, and 4
3) To Be Determined in Consultation with Students' Interests

Second Paper Due: Friday, November 11, 5:00 pm

Week 11 (November 17)

- Topic:

19th Century Trends

- Readings:

1) Anderson, Chapters 5 and 6
2) To Be Determined in Consultation with Students' Interests

Week 12 (December 1) Guest Speaker - Huma Gupta

Topics:

20th Century Trends

Readings:

1) Anderson, Chapters 7, 8, and 9
4) To Be Determined in Consultation with Students' Interests

Week 13 (December 8) Guest Speaker - Rishad Choudhury
- Topics:
Contemporary Movements

- Readings:

1) Anderson, Chapter 10 and Epilogue
2) Peterson, Connected in Cairo

FINAL PAPER DUE: TBA