

HISTORY 2607F
THE HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION OF MEDIEVAL ISLAM

Fall 2020
Thursdays 1:30-4:30
Office Hours: TBA or by email

Instructor: Dr. Maya Shatzmiller FRSC
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2229
Email: maya@uwo.ca

This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Lectures will take place in a virtual, synchronous format - on-line and at a dedicated time

The University is investigating a blend of online and live course delivery, and is being guided by recommendations from health authorities and the provincial and federal governments. The Department of History is committed to providing a superior learning experience for all students, and our faculty members are reimagining their course offerings to take advantage of the best new technologies and practices available in online teaching and learning. Please monitor the department website for course information - we will post updates as soon as they are available.

Course Description:

This is a survey course meant to introduce students to the main structures of Islamic history and civilization, covering main political events and achievements and place them in comparative perspective as universal components. We begin in the 7th century with the appearance of a third Monotheistic religion, Islam and follow with the conquest and settlement of the Middle East. seventh century Arab sweep across the Middle East and the newly established Islamic Empire and states. The course is structured thematically albeit in chronological order presentation. Topics include Muhammad and the Qur'an, pre-Islamic Middle East and the conquest, the Islamic legal system, the economy, social structure, political institutions, literature, philosophy, theology, art and architecture, medicine and science, interaction with Europe, the Crusades, trade, and the translation of scientific knowledge into Arabic. The course methodology combines instructor's input through thematic lectures and students' independent work by guided readings of selected primary Arabic sources in translation and study of scholarly work on the subject from secondary sources, i.e. articles, books, Encyclopedia entries etc..

Course Syllabus:

The course is built on the lectures and the tutorials. Students are asked to prepare for both by reading chapters from two text book and analyze and discuss the themes covered in the tutorials.

Lectures 1-4

Students are asked to read in the *Oxford Islamic Studies*, Muhammad and the Caliphate (All 12 sections)

To gain background for all lectures in addition to specific entries from Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405*

Orientation Structure, general introduction.

Readings: Egger, xv-xvi, 1-20.

1. Muhammad: The man and the mission. The Environment.

Readings: Egger, 20-32.

2. Political Developments 1: Conquest and the Empire

Note: No readings, all information will be given in class

3. The Qur'an

Readings: Egger, 33-61

For Lectures 5-6 general a background, *Oxford Islamic Studies online*, Law and Society (All 9 sections)

In tutorials, **Encyclopedia of Islam Assignment due**

4. Social Structures and Institutions. The Islamic City.

Readings: Egger, 62-103

5. The Legal System

Readings: Egger, 114-122

6. The Economy.

Readings: Egger, 104-113

7. Political Developments 2: Regional States

Readings: Egger, 94-104

8. Arabic Literature, Philosophy and Mysticism

In tutorials **Research Essay due**

Readings: Egger, 123-138. General background *Oxford Islamic Studies: Philosophy and Theology* (All 13 sections)

9. Islamic Medicine and Science

Readings: *Oxford Islamic Studies: Science, Medicine, and Technology* (All 10 sections)

For Lectures 11-12

Oxford Islamic Studies online, read: Art and Architecture (All 6 sections)

10. Islamic Architecture

11. Islamic Art

Course Materials:

-Vernon O. Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405. The Making of a Civilization*. (Pearson Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2004)

-*Oxford Islamic Studies online* (Gain access through the UWO Library website)

-Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing In History*, Sixth Edition. (Bedford/St.Martin's, 2010)

OR

William Kelleher Storey and Towser Jones, *Writing History. A Guide for Canadian Students*, Third Edition. (Oxford University Press, Canada, 2011)

Methods of Evaluation:

The customary components evaluating students engagement with the course is currently under investigation, so that components of attendance and participation are waved at the moment and grade will be composed of marks given on assignments and final exam.

Component Weight

Encyclopaedia of Islam Assignment (20%)

Research Essay (10 pages) (30%)

Cumulative Final Exam (50%)

Accommodation for missed midterms with a Self Reported Absence:

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a makeup test on one of the two time slots available in each term:

Fall Term

- Tests scheduled before November 1 – the makeup will take place Monday, November 9 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between November 9 and December 3 – the makeup will take place Friday, December 4 at 12:30pm.

No other make-up opportunities will be provided. Students who fail to write a makeup test in the designated time slots will receive a grade of zero.

Students in online courses will write the make-up test through OWL over a 24-hour period beginning at the time noted above.

Students should be aware that course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test slots.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you complete a SRA on March 19 at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21 at 3pm.

Additional Statements

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

Please visit https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html to view all updated academic policies regarding medical accommodations.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are another writer's ideas.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in "A" above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in "A" above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Copyright

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

Health and Wellness

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.