

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

NMC103H1-F

## **THE ISLAMIC WORLD**

*Fall 2013*

### **Instructor**

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### **Teaching Assistants**

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Class Time: TR 1

Class Location: UC 140

Tutorial Location: BF 323

### **Description of Course**

This course is an introduction to the history, lands, religions, and cultures that came under the influence of Islam and that in turn contributed to the formation of Islamic civilization. Since the Islamic world is a topic of great scope, the course will focus on a number of major themes, such as the historical spread of Islam, the role of the Qur'an and Arabic language, the production and transmission of knowledge, conceptions of political rule, law and society, and literary and artistic expressions, from the seventh century to the present. The course also surveys the geographical and ethno-linguistic scope of the Islamic world with the aim of demonstrating the diversity of peoples and cultural traditions that make up the complex phenomenon of Islamic civilization.

### **Format: Lectures and Tutorials**

Lectures will be illustrated with Powerpoint presentations. A point-form outline of each lecture will be available on Blackboard the day before the lecture. There are 11 scheduled tutorials led by the Teaching Assistants (TAs). The purpose of the tutorials is to guide students in the preparation of the assignments and in the analysis of the relevant readings. The tutorials provide an excellent opportunity for students to develop their writing and analytical skills. Students must enrol in one of four tutorial slots:

Section	Day/Time	Location	TA
T5101	(T6)	BF 323	Hamid Rezaei Yazdi
T0101	(R2)	BF 323	Golbarg Rekabtalaei
T5201	(R6)	BF 323	Abofazl Moshiri
T0401	(F1)	BF 323	Sajjad Nejatie

### Readings and Resources

There is no single required textbook. Readings are taken from a variety of sources often available online through Robarts Library (see “Top Resources” on Bb under Library Resources). Readings will be posted on the Bb course site or can be accessed directly online. Additionally, websites relevant to individual lecture topics will be included in the lecture outlines.

### Course Site on Blackboard (Bb)

Lecture outlines, readings, assignments, and additional materials will be posted on Bb. Announcements regarding the course will be emailed to students. Keep up-to-date by visiting the Bb course site before each lecture.

### Evaluation (see A&S Marking Scheme Form)

- Assignments: 2 written assignments (20% and 25% of final mark, respectively)
- Tutorial exercise (10% of final mark)
- Tutorial attendance and participation (10% of final mark)
- Faculty Final Exam: 2 hours, held during Final examinations period (35% of final mark)

### Writing Help

See “Writing help” tab on the Bb course site.

### Lectures (TR1, UC 140)

- Sep 10 Introduction to the course: content and focus, expectations and outcomes
- Sep 12 What is the Islamic world and how do we find out about it?
- Sep 17 Human geography of the Islamic world  
*Reading:* Pew Research Center, “Mapping the Global Muslim Population”

### **ALL TUTORIAL SECTIONS MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS WEEK**

- Sep 19 The historical spread of Islam  
• *Reading:* Donner, “Muhammad and the Caliphate”
- Sep 24 Qur’anic scripture and Arabic script  
• *Reading:* Bloom, “Paper and Books”
- Sep 26 Rulers and subjects: Islamic views on government and society  
• *Readings:* Arjomand, “Legitimacy and Political Organization”; Nizam al-Mulk, *Book of Government*

Oct 1 Islamic law and society  
 • *Reading*: Esposito, “Religious Life: Belief and Practice”

Oct 3 The Status of Non-Muslim Communities in Islam  
 • *Reading*: Martin, “From *Dhimmis* to Minorities”

Oct 8 Women, Gender, and Sexuality  
 • *Reading*: Marín, “Women, gender and sexuality”

***Tutorial Assignment due today***

Oct 10 The transmission of knowledge, religious and scientific  
 • *Reading*: Bennison, “Baghdad’s ‘Golden Age’”

Oct 15 Sufis, saints and mystics: Alternative visions of Islam  
 • *Reading*: Knysh, “Sufism”

Oct 17 Travel, pilgrimage, and networking  
 • *Readings*: Tapper, “*Ziyaret*”; Nasir-i Khusraw, *Book of Travels*

Oct 22 The Arab world  
 • *Reading*: Hourani, *History of the Arab Peoples*

Oct 24 Iran and Persian culture  
*Reading*: Daniel and Mahdi, *Culture and Customs of Iran*; Ferdowsi, *Shahnameh*

Oct 29 Turkic languages and cultures  
 • *Reading*: Saunders, “The Turkish Irruption”

Oct 31 Two great Muslim empires: Ottoman and Safavid  
 • *Reading*: Lapidus, “Sultanates and Gunpowder Empires”

Nov 5 Islam in India and Southeast Asia  
 • *Reading*: Lawrence, “Eastward Journey of Muslim Kingship”

***Writing Assignment due today***

Nov 7 African Islam  
 • *Reading*: Levtzion, “Islam in Africa”

Nov 12 ***Fall Break. No Classes***

Nov 14 Islamic Spain  
 • *Reading*: Lapidus, “Islamic North Africa and Spain to the Nineteenth Century.”

Nov 19	Islamic literatures: Themes and variations • <i>Readings: Kalilah and Dimnah</i>
Nov 21	Islamic art and architecture: What makes it Islamic? • <i>Reading: Blair and Bloom, "Art and Architecture"</i>
Nov 26	Islam's encounter with the West • <i>Reading: Lewis, "Impact of the West"</i>
	<b><i>Writing Assignment #2 due today</i></b>
Nov 28	The challenge of Islamism • <i>Reading: Euben and Zaman, "Hasan al-Banna"</i>
Dec 3	Open or Review for Final Exam
TBA	<i>Final Exam</i> (during examination period December 9 - 20)

### Sources of Readings:

- Arjomand, Saïd Amir. "Legitimacy and Political Organization: Caliphs, Kings, and Regimes." In *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, Vol. 4, *Islamic Cultures and Societies to the End of the Eighteenth Century*, edited by Robert Irwin, chap. 7. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. *Cambridge Histories Online*
- Bennison, Amira K. "Baghdad's 'Golden Age': Islam's Scientific Renaissance." In Amira K. Bennison, *The Great Caliphs: The Golden Age of the 'Abbasid Empire*, 158–202. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009.
- Blair, Sheila S., and Jonathan M. Bloom. "Art and Architecture: Themes and Variations." In *The Oxford History of Islam*, edited by John L. Esposito, 214–67. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*
- Bloom, Jonathan M. "Paper and Books." In Jonathan M. Bloom, *Paper before Print: The History and Impact of Paper in the Islamic World*, 91–123. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.
- Dale, Stephen F. *The Muslim Empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Daniel, Elton L., and Ali Akbar Mahdi. *Culture and Customs of Iran*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2006.

- Donner, Fred M. "Muhammad and the Caliphate: Political History of the Islamic Empire up to the Mongol Conquest." In *The Oxford History of Islam*, edited by John L. Esposito, 1–61. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. [Oxford Islamic Studies Online](#)
- Esposito, John L. "Religious Life: Belief and Practice." In John L. Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, 68–100. 3rd rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Euben, Roxanne L., and Muhammad Qasim Zaman, eds. "Hasan al-Banna (1906–1949)." In *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden*, 49–78. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.
- Ferdowsi, Abolqasem. *Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings*. Translated by Dick Davis. New York: Viking, 2006.
- Hourani, Albert. *A History of the Arab Peoples*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1991.
- Jahiz. "The Merits of the Turks and of the Imperial Army as a Whole." In *The Life and Works of Jāhiz*, translated by Charles Pellat; translated by D. M. Hawke, 91–97. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969.
- Kalilah and Dimnah: An English Version of Bidpai's Fables Based upon Ancient Arabic and Spanish Manuscripts*. Translated by Thomas Ballantine Irving. Newark, Delaware: Juan de la Cuesta, 2005.
- Knysh, Alexander. "Sufism." In *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, Vol. 4, *Islamic Cultures and Societies to the End of the Eighteenth Century*, edited by Robert Irwin, chap. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. [Cambridge Histories Online](#)
- Lapidus, Ira M. "Islamic North Africa and Spain to the Nineteenth Century." In Ira M. Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*. chap 16, 365–413. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Lapidus, Ira M. "Sultanates and Gunpowder Empires." In *The Oxford History of Islam*, edited by John L. Esposito, 347–393. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. [Oxford Islamic Studies Online](#)
- Lawrence, Bruce B. "The Eastward Journey of Muslim Kingship." In *The Oxford History of Islam*, edited by John L. Esposito, 394–431. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. [Oxford Islamic Studies Online](#)
- Levtzion, Nehemia. "Islam in Africa to 1800: Merchants, Chiefs, and Saints." In *The Oxford History of Islam*, edited by John L. Esposito, 474–507. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. [Oxford Islamic Studies Online](#)

Lewis, Bernard. "The Impact of the West." In Bernard Lewis, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*, 40–73. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Marín, Manuela. "Women, gender and sexuality." In *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, Vol. 4, *Islamic Cultures and Societies to the End of the Eighteenth Century*, edited by Robert Irwin, chap. 12. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. *Cambridge Histories Online*

Martin, Richard C. "From *Dhimmis* to Minorities: Shifting Constructions of the Non-Muslim Other from Early to Modern Islam." In *Nationalism and Minority Identities in Islamic Societies*, edited by Maya Shatzmiller, 3–21. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005. *Robarts Library Online*

Nasir-i Khusraw. *Book of Travels (Safarnama)*. Edited and translated by Wheeler M. Thackston Jr. Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda, 2001.

Nizam al-Mulk. *The Book of Government or Rules for Kings*. Translated by Hubert Darke. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1960.

Pew Research Center. "Mapping the Global Muslim Population: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Muslim Population." October 2009. *Online*

<http://www.pewforum.org/2009/10/07/mapping-the-global-muslim-population/>

Saunders, J.J. "The Turkish Irruption." In *A History of Medieval Islam*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1965.

al-Tha'labī. *'Arā'is al-majālis fī qisas al-anbiyā' or "Lives of the Prophets" as Recounted by Abū Ishāq Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Ibrāhīm al-Tha'labī*, translated by William M. Brinner, 593–604. Leiden: Brill, 2002.

Tapper, Nancy. "Ziyaret: Gender, Movement, and Exchange in a Turkish Community." In *Muslim Travellers: Pilgrimage, Migration, and the Religious Imagination*, edited by Dale F. Eickelman and James Piscatori, 236–55. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990. *Robarts Library Online*

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