



Undergraduate Course Syllabus

HIS 379: The Middle East and Islam

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

HIS 109 or HIS 301 or permission of the instructor

Course Description

A history of the Middle East from the ancient world through the rise of Islam and the Crusades, into the modern era. Geographical areas will include the traditional Middle East, northeast Africa, Iran and Afghanistan. Students will pay special attention to the Arab-Israeli conflicts and the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Global Marker.

Course Objectives

- Examine both primary and secondary sources of politics, religion and culture from numerous Middle Eastern cultures as well as views concerning the Middle East from outside the region
- Evaluate historical questions concerning such topics as politics, language, religion, and race
- Examine contemporary dilemmas and the underlying historical contexts
- Assess the current situation in the Middle East with relation to the history of the area as well as being capable of analyzing ongoing incidents as they happen

Required Materials

No god but God

Aslan

Updated Edition

2011

Random House Trade Paperbacks

978-0812982442

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with your instructor and your classmates will take place in Blackboard on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be active in Blackboard at least five days a week, and you will normally communicate with your instructor in the open Blackboard discussion forum so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should send emails directly to your instructor only when you need to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature, and in those cases your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

Grade Distribution

Assessment Item	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussion Boards	35%
Blog	10%
Short Paper	20%
Final Project	35%
Total	100%

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Undergraduate

UC-COCE Undergraduate Grading System:		
Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93-100	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	60-66	1.00
F	0-59	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure*	
IP	In Progress (past end of term)	
W	Withdrawn	

*Incomplete and Incomplete/Failure: Any student requesting an "I" grade must complete a Student Petition & Contract for a Grade of Incomplete and submit it to the proper offices prior to the final day of the term/semester. The petition will specify a deadline by which the coursework must be completed. The incomplete automatically becomes an "IF" if work has not been completed and a grade has not been submitted by the specific deadline.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions and grading guides can be found in the Course Information area in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

The Learning Modules area in Blackboard contains one module folder for each week of the course. All reading and assignment information can be found in the folders. All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the last day of the module week.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module in Blackboard.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Icebreaker Activity (Required) The Development of Islamic Society Blogging: Stories Regarding Creation of the World Doing: The Origins and Development of Islam Discussion: God's Revelation in the Quran Short Paper: The Spread of Islam Final Project: Expansion of the Islamic Religion
2	The Call and Mission of Muhammad Blogging: The Call and Life of Muhammad Discussion: the Human Side of Muhammad Final Project: Expansion of the Islamic Religion
3	Toward an Understanding of Middle Eastern Religion, Culture, and Politics Blogging: Toward an Understanding of Middle Eastern Religion, Culture, and Politics Discussion: The Impact of the Hebrew Migration Short Paper: Charting Cultural Commonalities or the Development of Jihad Final Project: Expansion of the Islamic Religion
4	In Search of a Divinely Inspired Society Blogging: What Happens When the Spiritual Leader Dies? Short Paper: Toward the Establishment of a Divinely Inspired Society Discussion: The Value of Religion in the World Today Final Project: Expansion of the Islamic Religion
5	Islamic Society—War and Religious Intolerance Blogging: The Development of Islamic Society following the Death of Muhammad Discussion: The Survival of Sufism Short Paper: Assessing the Correlations between conflict and Religion and/or Spirituality Final Project: The Expansion of the Islamic Religion
6	Islamic Society—Toward Secularism or Religiosity? Blogging: The Cultures of the Middle East Discussion: Prophet, Martyr, Caliph, and Imam Short Paper: The Development of Secularism in the Middle East Final Project: The Expansion of the Islamic Religion

7	<p>"According to God's Will..."</p> <p>Blogging: The Role of Rational and Traditional Behavioral Patterns in Religion</p> <p>Discussion: Knowing "God's Will" for Us</p> <p>Short Paper: Science vs. Religion in Modern Society</p> <p>Final Project: The Expansion of the Islamic Religion</p>
8	<p>"And God Said..."—Assessing the Role of Revelation in the Middle East</p> <p>Research: Current Events in the Middle East</p> <p>Discussion: Will History Repeat Itself in Afghanistan?</p> <p>Final Project: The Expansion of the Islamic Religion</p>

Attendance Policy

Failure to participate during the first week of the course (12:00 a.m. Monday through 11:59 p.m. Sunday) will result in automatic withdrawal. Participation is defined as posting within a discussion board, wiki, or blog, and/or submitting an assignment. Students who do not participate during the first week forfeit their rights to be reinstated into the course.

Extended absences, defined as failure to post into the Blackboard classroom for more than five days, must be coordinated with the instructor. Students who fail to coordinate any such absence with the instructor, or who fail to withdraw from the course in accordance with the COCE official drop and withdrawal policy, will be graded appropriately.

All assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Blackboard tool by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on the specified due date. Refer to the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder for specific details on completing the assignments in this course.

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy

<https://my.snhu.edu/layouts/FormServer.aspx?XsnLocation=https://my.snhu.edu/FormServerTemplates/COCE.Withdrawal.revised.form.xsn&SaveLocation=https%3A%2F%2Fmy%2Esnhu%2Eedu%2FOffices%2FCOCE%2FAdvising%2FCourse%20Withdrawal%20Library&OpenIn=browser>

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Guide to Student Success

<https://my.snhu.edu/Resources/StudentHandbooks/Pages/default.aspx>

Blackboard Course Tools/Areas Overview

Your course will be delivered through Blackboard. Below are the most often used Blackboard tools and areas.

Tool/Area	Description	You Should...
Announcements	This area is used to post day-to-day course details such as the status of or directions for assignments.	Check the announcements on a regular basis, at least several times each week.

Course Information	The course syllabus, assignment guidelines and rubrics, technical support, Student Handbook, and advising information can be found here.	Check this area at the start of the class. It is recommended that the syllabus be downloaded for future reference.
Learning Modules	This area contains course content, including lectures, readings, resources, and assignments.	Check this area at the start of each module and throughout the module week to review course materials.
Discussion Board	This is one of the areas for discussion and collaboration in the class.	Participate and contribute on a regular basis if your course includes discussions.
Research/Writing	SNHU library and research information can be found here.	Check this area for links and information on different library-related resources.
My Instructor	Instructor information is located in this area.	Check this area to find out about your instructor's background and contact information.
My Grades	Assignment grades are located in this area.	Check this area to find out your grades for your course assignments.

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found at

<https://my.snhu.edu/Academics/Pages/SyllabiStatements.aspx>.

Continuing Education Center Instructor Availability: All undergraduate Continuing Education instructors at all center locations (Manchester, Nashua, Salem, Portsmouth, and Brunswick, Maine) will be available to students for a minimum of four additional hours of face-to-face meeting time per term. This time is in addition to the required 20 hours of face-to-face time in hybrid classes and the required 40 hours of face-to-face time in lecture classes. How the additional meeting time is utilized is at the discretion of the instructor and may vary by course.

Academic Honesty Policy: Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Students involved in such activities are subject to serious disciplinary action. Plagiarism is defined as the use, whether by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another without full and clear acknowledgment. Cheating includes the giving or receiving of unauthorized assistance on quizzes, examinations, or written assignments from any source not approved by the instructor. Understand that in taking this course, your assignments may be submitted to Turnitin.com or other plagiarism-detection services and reviewed for textual similarity suggestive of plagiarism. All submitted papers are subsequently included as source material in the Turnitin.com database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in other submitted work. Please review the Turnitin.com Usage Policy should you have any questions. For more about academic dishonesty, please refer to the undergraduate or graduate catalogs.

ADA/504 Compliance Statement: Southern New Hampshire University is committed to and concerned with meeting the needs of students challenged by physical, sensory, psychiatric and/or learning disabilities with regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. At the beginning of each term, or as soon as you become aware of a disability, we encourage you to contact the Office

of Disability Services to discuss accommodations for which you may be qualified.

For questions concerning support services, documentation guidelines, or general disability issues:

Office of Disability Services, Exeter Hall, Suite 59

Hyla Jaffe, Director

603.626.9100 ext. 2386

h.jaffe@snhu.edu

For questions concerning disability-related compliance matters, grievance, or legal issues:

Ms. Jet Goldberg, ADA/504 Compliance Officer

Director of Wellness Center

603-645-9679

j.goldberg@snhu.edu

Technical Support: Support for technology and Blackboard software issues can be found at <http://www.snhu.edu/techsupport> or by dialing SNHU 24/7 Live Support at 1-877-708-2909.

Academic Assistance: Online students enrolled in undergraduate courses in the areas of math, writing, accounting, and statistics will have access to Smarthinking online tutoring: <https://my.snhu.edu/offices/COCE/Tutoring/Pages/default.aspx>.

Library Resources Statement: In addition to the intellectual resources available onsite and online, <https://my.snhu.edu/Academics/Library/Pages/default.aspx>, Shapiro Library makes available group and one-on-one instruction in information literacy, enabling students to define and articulate what knowledge-based resources are relevant to their research interests. Library staff are available to assist students in effectively and efficiently accessing information from credible sources, to compare new knowledge with prior beliefs, and to consider the related ethical, legal, and socioeconomic issues that are inherent in scholarly investigation.

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