



Short Syllabus

Course Title

Introduction to Islamic Civilization

Credits

4

Lecturer

Dr. David Marmer

Contact details

dmarmer66@gmail.com Office hours: Sunday and Tuesday, 12:00-13:00

Semester

Spring

Short Description

This course surveys the history of the Middle East from the rise of Islam in the 7th century through the Mamluk era of the 16th century, a vast historical period in which Islamic civilization developed a cohesive yet diverse set of religious, political, and cultural norms that are relevant to this day. Students will be introduced to basic aspects of the social and cultural dimensions of Islamic civilization from Spain to Afghanistan, exploring the similarities and regional differences from the heartlands of the Islamic world.

In the midst of mapping this broad view, we will focus our attention on how specific historical figures and events contributed to definitions of Islamic identity, community, and authority. Central themes include: the emergence of Sunni and Shi's identities; the relationship of Muslims and non-Muslims; conceptions of equality and gender; and the unique material, scientific and intellectual contributions of Islamic civilization to world history. The course will also focus on analysis of original texts, so that students will be exposed to the Qur'an and prophetic traditions, as well as famous works of prose and poetry (in translation).

An overarching goal of this course is to focus on the history of the Middle East in this formative phase as a fascinating, complicated, and enriching study in its own right. In order to do this, students will be expected to master key terms and concepts, and to explore notions of cultural development and diversity.

Final grade components

Minor assignments:

2 short essays during the course of the semester, each 10% of final grade

Midterm:

Midterm essay, involving textual research and analysis: 20% of final grade

Final requirement:

Take-home exam (48 hours for submission): 50% of final grade

Participation:

Textual analysis and discussion in class: 10% of final grade

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unauthorized absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.¹

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from

¹ See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת תל אביב
UNIVERSITY תל אביב



Short Syllabus

another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.^{2*}

Final assignment

Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam. Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.^{3*}

Additional requirements

Phones must be turned off during class sessions.

²
³