COURSE NO. 137  
COURSE TITLE The Eastern Mediterranean and Muslim World, 475-1258  
INSTRUCTOR Humphreys

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the development of society and culture in the Middle East and North Africa from the emergence of Islam (early 7th century) down to early modern times (ca. 1500). There is no attempt whatever to "cover" the succession of political events during this long period. Rather, we shall focus on four general topics: (1) basic patterns of political organization and ideology; (2) religious orientations -- in particular law and mysticism -- within Islam; (3) ideals of human conduct produced within Islamic culture; (4) relations between town and countryside.

There is no one textbook for the course. As far as possible, readings will be drawn from original texts in translation, and their significance will be developed through class discussions and written exercises. Where appropriate, films and slides will be used.

The course is open to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. It is intended to stand as a useful presentation of the material in its own right; however, it is also an appropriate introduction to further work in Islamic and Middle Eastern history.

LECTURES

Lectures meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45. The class format will vary -- about half our meetings will be lectures, the rest will be discussion sections, slide presentations, etc. The lectures do not repeat the readings, and you are responsible for all materials covered in class.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

One map exercise (If you don't know where Bukhara is, you don't know anything.)  
Two essays (3-5 pages each, on a choice of questions to be assigned)  
One mid-term exam (one hour)  
Final examination (in class)

GRADING SYSTEM

Map: 10% 
Essays: 20% each 
Mid-term: 20% 
Final: 30%  
Some consideration, which cannot be quantified in advance, is made for effective class participation and for steady improvement.

REQUIRED READINGS (Readings will amount to about 75 pp./week.)

The Koran, transl. Dawood (Penguin Classics)  
H.A.R. Gibb, Mohammedanism (Oxford University Press)  
Bernard Lewis, The Arabs in History (Harper & Row, Torchbooks)  
A. J. Arberry, Sufism (Allen & Unwin)  
Roper LeTourneau, Fez in the Age of the Marinids (University of Oklahoma)  
Richard Critchfield, Shahhat, an Egyptian (Avon)  
Numerous handouts.
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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Aug. 31)</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>(Sept. 2)</td>
<td>Geography and Ethnography of the Central Islamic Lands: an Overview</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>(Sept. 7)</td>
<td>Nomadism in Ancient Arabia, I: the Structure of Society and the Economy</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>(Sept. 9)</td>
<td>Nomadism in Ancient Arabia, II: Values and Cultural Expression</td>
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<td><strong>Readings, sessions 3-4:</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>(Sept. 14)</td>
<td>The Koran: Form and Structure</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>(Sept. 16)</td>
<td>The Koran: Content and Themes</td>
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<td><strong>Readings, sessions 5-6:</strong></td>
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<td>Gibb, <em>Mohammedanism</em>, chs. 3-4</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>(Sept. 21)</td>
<td>Muhammad and the Formation of the Muslim Community: Mecca, ca. 600-622</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>(Sept. 23)</td>
<td>Muhammad and the Formation of the Muslim Community: Medina, 622-632</td>
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<td><strong>Readings, sessions 7-8:</strong></td>
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<td>Gibb, <em>Mohammedanism</em>, ch. 2</td>
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<td>Lewis, <em>Arabs in History</em>, 36-48</td>
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<td>Ibn Ishaq, &quot;Life of Muhammad&quot; (handout)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>(Sept. 28)</td>
<td>The Arab Conquests, 632-732</td>
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<td>(Sept. 30)</td>
<td>The Primitive Caliphate and its Downfall, 632-692</td>
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<td><strong>Readings, sessions 9-10:</strong></td>
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<td>Lewis, <em>Arabs in History</em>, 49-63</td>
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<td>&quot;Election of Abu Bakr&quot; (handout)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>(Oct. 5)</td>
<td>The High Caliphate, 692-945</td>
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<td><strong>Readings, session 11:</strong></td>
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<td>Lewis, <em>Arabs in History</em>, 64-114</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>(Oct. 7)</td>
<td>The Ideology of the Caliphate</td>
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Readings, session 12:

"Sayings of Muhammad" (handout)
Mawardi, "Contract of the Caliphate" (handout)


Readings, session 13:

Qudt Ma'arna, *Book of Faith* (handout)


Readings, session 14:


Readings, session 15:

Bayhaqi, "Gibbeting of the Minister Hasanak" (handout)
Nizam al-Mulk, "Book of Government" (handout)

16. (Oct. 21) MID-TERM

17. (Oct. 26) Religion as a Code of Conduct: Shari'a
18. (Oct. 28) Shari'a as a Social Glue: Justice and Education

Readings, sessions 17-18:

Gibb, *Mohammedanism*, chs. 5-6
Tibrizi, *Mishkat al-Masabih* (handout)
Malik b. Anas, *Muwatta* (handout)
Shaybani, *Kitab al-Siyar* (handout)

19. (Nov. 2) Mysticism in Islam: Sufism
20. (Nov. 4) Sufism as a Social Glue: Convents and Orders

Readings, sessions 19-20:

Arberry, *Sufism*, 11-92

21. (Nov. 9) Human Ideals: Arabic Humanism

Readings, session 21:

Jahiz, selections (handout)
Usama b. Munqidh, *Instruction by Example* (handout)

22. (Nov. 11) Human Ideals: Persian Epic

Readings, session 22:

Firdawsí, *Shah-nameh* (handout)
23. (Nov. 16) Human Ideals: Persian Didactic Satire

   Readings, session 23:
   Sa'di, Gulistan (handout)

24. (Nov. 18) Town and Countryside in the Middle East

   Readings, session 24
   English, City and Village in Iran (handout)

25. (Nov. 23) Topography of the "Islamic City"

26. (Nov. 30) Government and Society in the "Islamic City"

   Readings, sessions 25-26:
   Le Tourneau, Fez, 35-147

27-28 (Dec. 2-7) The Egyptian Peasant

   Readings, sessions 27-28:
   Critchfield, Shahhat

29. (Dec. 9) Recapitulation and Conclusions

   FINAL EXAM Thursday, December 16 - 2:45 p.m.