

**SYLLABUS HISTORY 463/857, Seminar Topics in South Asian History, 3 credits**

**THE INDO-ISLAMIC WORLD: HISTORY, SOCIETY AND RELIGION**

**FALL 2006-2007**

1:20-3:20 W 5245 Mosse Humanities Building

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The expansion of Islam has historically been most successful in the eastern direction, in the lands bordering the Indian Ocean. One of the results of this successful expansion is that currently more than half of the world's Muslim population lives in what we may call the 'Indo-Islamic world': Pakistan (with or without parts of Afghanistan), India, Bangla Desh, Malaysia, and Indonesia together with most of the mainland countries of Southeast Asia.

Paradoxically, in much of this area Muslims remained a minority for many centuries, often a rather small one, within the general population that remained 'heathen', i.e. Hindu and/or Buddhist. The Islamization of the Indo-Islamic world has never been complete.

In this seminar we will explore some recent (as well as some of the older) attempts to explain these and other peculiarities of the historical development of the Indo-Islamic world, the different modes of its expansion, as well as its changing cultural and religious idiosyncracies. Almost equal attention will be given to the earlier (medieval and early modern) and the modern and contemporary ages.

**Course requirements:** attendance of the seminar and one mid-term and final exam (dates to be announced).

## **I. Geography and history**

Required reading: André Wink, 'From the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean: Medieval History in Geographic Perspective,' *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (2002), pp. 416-445.

## **II. The Turko-Mongol empires**

Required reading: D. Morgan, *The Mongols* (Oxford, 1986); B. Gascoigne, *The Great Moghuls* (London, 1987).

## **III. Islam, trade and the coastal societies of the Indian Ocean**

Required reading: K. N. Chaudhuri, *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750* (Cambridge, 1985), pp. 1-118.

## **IV. Modern imperialism and the Great Game**

P. Hopkirk, *The Great Game: the Struggle for Empire in Central Asia* (New York, 1992); A. Rashid, *Taliban: Islam, Oil and the New Great Game in Central Asia* (London & New York, 2000), selected chapters.