

Middle East Studies Spring Lecture Series



Dr. Juan Cole

Professor of History at the University of Michigan

**Monday, April 24
206 Ingraham Hall 12:00-1:00**

Paganism and Muslim Peace-Building in the Mecca Period (610-622): What does the Qur'an Say?

Later Muslim accounts posit an essential enmity between Muslims and pagans in the Hejaz, leading to the wars of the 620s. These Umayyad and Abbasid accounts have influenced the interpretations of contemporary scholars. A close examination of Qur'anic texts from the Meccan period, however, reveals a consistent and strongly held option for peace. It will be argued that the sanctuary status of Mecca as a holy city made this experiment in peace theology possible.



ISIL/Daesh and the Fate of Iraq in the Age of Trump

**Monday, April 24
Elvehjem L150, 7:00**

In his second talk, Dr. Juan Cole will address the future of Iraq taking into account the policies and approaches the new Trump administration may take in combating ISIL both in Iraq and in Syria. He will also touch on the effects new US policy towards Iran and Russia may have on the fight against ISIL in Iraq and the future of the Iraqi government.

These lectures are sponsored by the Department of History and



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