Course description:

This course is meant to serve as an introduction to the history and civilizations of the Islamic world from 570 to the present. We will examine the formation of major aspects of Islamic civilization, including its religious, social, and political developments, alongside its interactions with neighboring civilizations. Students will also come away with a basic understanding of some issues with which historians must grapple and methods that they utilize. This course is primarily chronological in its trajectory, but diverges at certain points in order to draw attention to or comparisons with other aspects of Islamic history. Students will have an opportunity to explore some of the more impactful events and dynasties in Islamic history and delve into the rich cultures that rose alongside the development of Islamic civilizations.

Required Books:

(relevant sections of all other texts will be provided online)


Readings:

Students are responsible for attaining copies of Egger and Gelvin’s texts listed above. The schedule for each week of readings and corresponding texts can be found on augustsamie.com/courses.

Assignments:

- Class participation: 15%
- Midterm paper: 30%
- Quizzes: 25%
- Final paper: 30%

Requirements:

1. **Class Participation (15%)**

Active participation in class is the basis for a good participation grade. Come prepared to answer discussion questions on assigned texts and to engage fellow classmates in conversation. Additionally,
a group of students will be responsible for leading discussions and answering supplemental questions on readings on a regular basis.

Unjustified and/or repeated absences will have a negative impact on your participation grade. If you have any concerns about your participation in class, please talk to me after class, email me or arrange a meeting, sooner rather than later. **No make-ups on missed points because of absences.**

Laptops and tablets are permitted for taking notes, but if the instructor notices them as a distractor, you will be asked to put them away. No cell phones.

**2. Midterm Paper (30%)**

A prompt and guidelines for your midterm paper will be provided in Week 6 with a submission deadline in Week 8.

**3. Quizzes (25%)**

Six-eight quizzes on readings and class lectures will be administered on a regular basis. No make-up quizzes will be administered. If you miss a quiz, you will not be able to make it up.

**4. Final paper (30%)**

A prompt and guidelines for your final paper will be provided in Week 15 with a submission deadline in Week 16.

**Optional:**

**5. Extra credit (1% per assignment)**

A prompt and guidelines will be provided for extra credit opportunities. Each assignment will afford you the chance of boosting your course grade by 1%. You can complete any/all/none of the extra credit assignments. Additionally, there will be extra credit opportunities on every quiz.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90–93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87–89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83–86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73–76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70–72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60–69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0–59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students can expect mid-semester grades by March on LOCUS.

**Emailing:**

Students can expect at least one email each week to provide guidance and/or necessary information for the following week. If you email me with questions, expect a response within 48 hours.

**More on assignment policies:**

*Late assignments* will not be accepted unless an extension is requested (and granted). PLAN AHEAD! Assignments submitted late without advance permission will be penalized one grade (A to A- for example) for each day the assignment is late. The exact deadline for each assignment will be announced in the prompt.

Please familiarize yourself with the LUC policies on academic honesty and plagiarism; unfamiliarity with these policies will not be considered a valid excuse. See:

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml

http://www.luc.edu/education/resources/academic-policies/academic-integrity/

Please do not hesitate to contact me outside of class – by e-mail, during office hours or to schedule an appointment if you have any questions.

**Accessibility accommodations**

“Loyola University provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD), located in Sullivan Center, Suite 117. Students will provide professors with an accommodation notification from SSWD, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Students are encouraged to meet with their professor individually in order to discuss their accommodations. All information will remain confidential.” For more information or further assistance, please call 773.508.3700 or visit SSWD’s website: http://www.luc.edu/sswd/index.shtml.

**Weekly topics (Tentative):**

**Week 1 (January 13, 15, and 17): Introduction**
Intro to course, Approaches to the Study of the Islamicate World, Before the rise of Islam, Sasanians (224-651), Byzantines (330-1453)

**Week 2 (January 22 and 24): The Context of Islam**
Muhammad, Quran, and Issues Concerning the Conquest and the Rashidun

*Note: Monday, Jan. 20 No Class

**Week 3 (January 27, 29 and 31): First Caliphate and the Rise of a New Empire**
The Umayyads (661-750), the Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258), and Abbasid Politics
Week 4 (February 3, 5, and 7): Debates of Legitimacy, Sectarianism, and the End of Abbasid Unity
Law, Islamic Philosophy, Theology, the Rise of the Fatimids (909-1171), and the Buyids (934-1062)

*Note: Extra Credit 1 prompt will be provided

Week 5 (February 10, 12, and 14): Crises in the Middle East
Saffarids (861–1003), Samanids (819–999), Ghaznavids (977-1186), Seljuks (1037-1194), Rum Seljuks (1077-1307), Crusaders and the Ayyubids (1171-1260)

Week 6 (February 17, 19, and 21): Mysticism, Literature, and a New Empire
Mysticism, Literature, the Establishment of the Mongol Empire (1206-1368), the Golden Horde (c. 1240-1502) and the Chaghatayids (1225-1680)

*Note: Midterm prompt will be provided

Week 7 (February 24, 26, and 28): Mongol Rule and the Mamluks
The Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the Il-khanids (1256-1353), the Mamluks (1250-1517) and Threats from the East

Week 8 (March 2, 4, and 6): Spring Break
No class meetings

Week 9 (March 9, 11, and 13): The Timurids and Turkmens
The Timurid Empire (1370-1507), the Qaraqoyunlu (1375-1468), and the Aqquyunlu (1378-1501)

*Midterms due this week

Week 10 (March 16, 18, and 20): Gunpowder Empires
The Safavid Empire (1501-1736), the Ottoman Empire (1299-1923), the Uzbek Empire (1501-1599, khanates), and the Mughal Empire (1526-1857)

*Note: Extra Credit 2 prompt will be provided

Week 11 (March 23, 25, and 27): The Late Safavids, Qajars, and Pahlavis
Transition from Safavids to Qajars (1789-1925), the Pahlavis (1925-1979), Revolution and Iran-Iraq War

Week 12 (March 29, April 1 and 3): Era of Reforms
Transition to Constitutionalism in the Middle East, the Nahda and National Awakenings in the Ottoman Empire

Week 13 (April 6 and 8): World War I and its aftermath
End of the Ottoman Empire, French and British Mandates, Foreign Intervention and Discontent, Nasserism and Ba’thism

*Note: Extra Credit 3 prompt will be provided
* Note: No class on Friday, April 10
**Week 14 (April 15 and 17): The United States and the Middle East**
Arab-Israeli conflict, Interventions and the Arab Spring

*Note: No class on Monday, April 13

**Week 15 (April 20, 22, and 24): The Current Situation**
Syria, Iran, and the Islamic State

*Note: Final exam prompt will be provided

**Week 16: Finals Week**

*Note: no in-class exam; finals due this week