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History Syllabi: Graduate | History Department

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HIST 6545: Global Studies: Islam, Fall 2009

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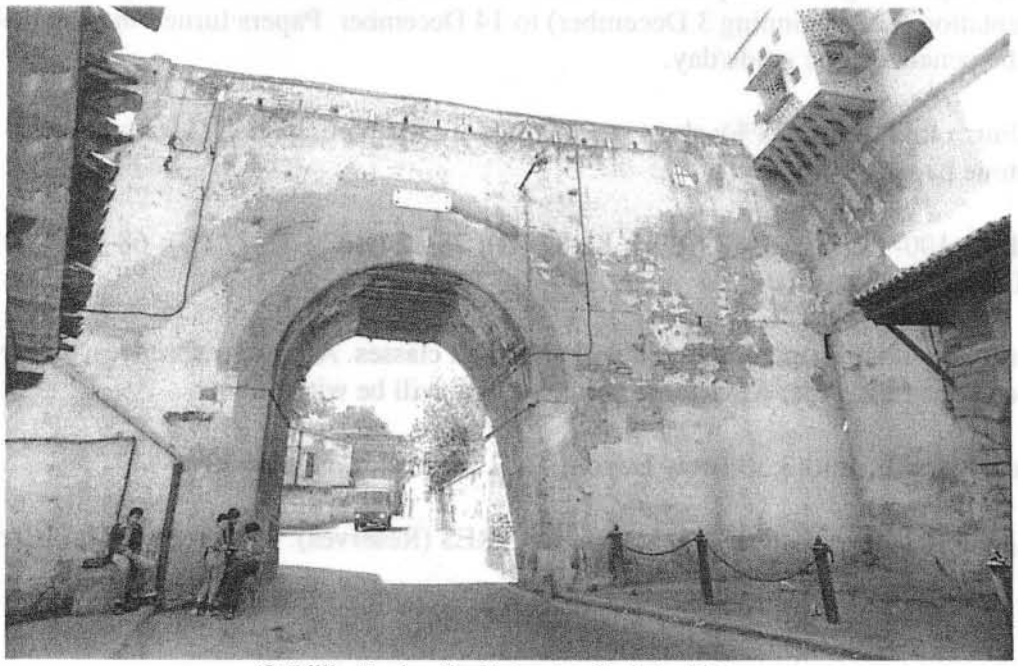
Marquette University

Global Studies: Islam

History 6545 Dr. P. Naylor
Fall 2009



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With 1.3 billion Muslims in the world, it is imperative that global studies students appreciate the importance of Islam in history. Furthermore, the expanse of Islam correlates naturally with a global perspective. The course will begin by examining the strategic importance of Islam in American politics. The following session will introduce famous world historians as well as examine European and American historiography of Islamic civilization. John L. Exposito's *Islam: The Straight Path* will provide us with a religious and historical foundation of Islam, the third Abrahamic universal religion of Western Civilization. From there, the course will follow a familiar chronological consideration of the evolution and expansion of Islam. Our "textbook" is Marshall G.S. Hodgson's magisterial *The Venture of Islam* (3 vols.). Assigned complementary readings and oral reports will intersperse our survey.

Many of you are familiar with my pedagogical approach to history. I am a pluralist appreciating cross-disciplinary perspectives and interpretations. Indeed, Ibn Khaldūn's *Muqaddimah* is inspirational. I am especially interested in transcultural encounter and interaction among peoples, societies, and civilizations. Islamic civilization offers manifold examples of transcultural transactions, as evinced by Ibn Baṭṭūṭa's *Rihla*. In addition, I insist upon an appreciation of epistemology. How do we know what we know? Thus, historical methodology plays an important role in our course, i.e., how we receive/perceive of historical events. There is also something metaphysical/ontological about history. We deal with interpretations of being, an existential praxis. While I include these philosophical perspectives in all my courses, you should understand that they are

especially important in graduate classes like ours, as underscored by the assignment of Edward Said's *Orientalism*.

You will be assigned oral reports and short papers. The capstone paper will be fifteen to twenty pages long. You may turn it in from the time you are scheduled to give your paper presentation (i.e., beginning 3 December) to 14 December. Papers turned in after that day will be penalized one grade/day.

Grading: oral reports (20%); short papers (30%); class participation (10%); research capstone paper (40%).

Grading: 100-93 (A); 92-88 (A/B); 83-87 (B); 78-82 (B/C); 73-77 (C); 68-72 (C/D); 60-67 (D); 59 and below (F).

Attendance: It is expected that you will attend all classes. After two absences, you will be reduced one full grade. After three absences, you will be withdrawn.

Office hours: T, 1:30-3:30 Brew Bayou; Th, 1:30-3:30, Coughlin 309.

Assigned Readings: Note that many are on ARES (Reserves). Our access code: Islam.

Syllabus

I believe in fluidity in graduate courses, allowing the class to explore a variety of corresponding topics. Thus, while the syllabus maps a course, we may yaw like a dhow, with our lateen sail taut plying unintended, exciting directions.

Ross Dunn, *Adventures of Ibn Battuta*
John Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*
Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqaddimah*
Carter Findley, *Turks in World History*
Marshall Hodgson, *Venture of Islam* (3 vols.)
Edward Said, *Orientalism*

3 September: Introduction; contemporary American perspectives regarding Islam: *Changing Course*; President Obama's speech in Cairo (June 2009)

10 September: World historians and Islamic civilization (oral reports)

17 September: *Islam: The Straight Path* (guest: Professor Irfan Omar)

24 September: *Venture of Islam*, vol. 1 (oral reports)

1 October: *Venture of Islam*, vol. 2 (oral reports)

8 October: Discussion of Islamic intellectual history (guest: Professor Richard Taylor, Department of Philosophy) (oral reports)

15 October: *The Muqaddimah*

22 October: Ibn Battuta's *Rihla* (Dunn)

29 October: *Turks in World History*

5 November: *Orientalism*; Haggerty Art Museum (*Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran*)

12 November: Colonialism and post-colonialism (oral reports); *Venture of Islam*, vol. 3 (oral reports)

19 November: *al-Nahda*; Islamism; Contemporary Islam (oral reports)

3 December: Presentation of research papers

10 December: Presentation of research papers