

Fall 2018

**Islamic Civilization: Classical Era
Professor Kia**

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-5:00

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After a brief discussion of the ethnic, linguistic and religious groups in Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, we will focus on the life of Prophet Muhammad, the teachings of Islam, and the conflict between the Sunni and Shia sects. In the second part of the course, we will study the arrival of the Turks from Central Asia, the establishment of the Seljuq dynasty in Central Asia, Iran and Anatolia, and the arrival of Christian crusades in the Middle East. The last section of the course will examine the political and social history of the Ottoman Empire, which came into existence in the last decade of the thirteenth century and lasted until the end of the First World War in 1918. The Ottoman Turks founded an empire spanning the three continents of the eastern hemisphere and enduring for nearly three-quarters of a millennium. Despite Central Asian nomadic origins, they created a stable political and economic system, which grafted the high traditions of Islamic culture onto an ethnically, linguistically, and religiously diverse society. In the third part of this course we will explore the evolution of this remarkable enterprise from its origins on the frontiers of Byzantium and Islam through its heyday under Mehmet II, Selim I, and Süleyman the Magnificent to its military decline and first steps toward governmental reforms.

Throughout this semester special attention will be given to the origins of conflict between the Islamic world and Christian Europe, the struggle for the leadership in the Arab world, and the rise of independent states among Iranians and Turks. The geographic emphasis will be on the Arab, Iranian, and Turkish speaking Middle East, but we will also discuss the impact of Islam on Central Asia, particularly after the middle of the 8th century and the military defeat of China at the hands of Muslim armies.

First Exam Reading Requirement:

Muhammad

Author: Karen Armstrong

First Exam: Thursday, October 9

Second Exam Reading Requirement:

The Crusades Through Arab Eyes

Author: Amin Maalouf

Second Exam: Thursday, November 8

Third Exam Reading Requirement:

Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire

Author: Mehrdad Kia

Third Exam: Tuesday, December 11, 3:20-5:20 pm

Additional selected readings from:

- 1- J.J. Saunders, A History of Medieval Islam
- 2- W. Montgomery Watt, The Influence on Medieval Europe
- 3- James E. Lindsay, Daily Life in the Medieval Islamic World
- 4- Gustave E. Von Grunebaum, Medieval Islam: A Study in Cultural Orientation

Grade for the Course

First Exam: 30%

Second Exam: 30%

Third Exam: 30%

Attendance: 10%

Please Note: There will be no incomplete given in this course. Two absences will result in loss of a grade.

Topics to be discussed in the class:

1- Who are the peoples of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia?

- A. The Arabs of the Middle East and North Africa
- B. Tajiks, Afghans and Iranians
- C. Turkic Peoples: Kazakhs, Kirgiz, Uzbek, Turkmen, and Turks of Turkey
- D. The Jewish People of the Middle East and Central Asia

2- Muhammad and the Rise of Islam

- A. Muhammad of Mecca
- B. Muhammad of Medina
- C. The Five Pillars of Islam and the Teachings of Holy Quran
- D. The Sunni-Shia Divide
- E. Ali and Fatima
- F. Martyrdom of Hussein in Karbala
- G. The Twelve Imams

3- Turks Arrive from Central Asia

- A. Seljuq Empire in Central Asia, Iran, and Anatolia
- B. Arabs, Persians, and Turks under the Abbasid Caliphate
- C. Turks and the Byzantine Empire

4- Islam and Christian Crusades

- A. Christian Crusades in the Near East
- B. Shia Fatimids in Egypt
- C. Sunni Abbasids in Baghdad
- D. Rise of Muslim Resistance
- E. Zangi, Nur al-Din, Salah al-Din

5- Origins of the Ottoman Empire

- A. Gazis Waging Gaza
- B. From Osman I to Bayezid I
- C. Conquest of Constantinople
- D. Institutions of the Ottoman Empire
- E. Sipahis and Janissaries
- F. The Millet System
- G. The Seeds of Decline
- H. Military defeat and European Domination

Disability Services for Students is The University of Montana's student affairs office, which assures program access to the University by students with disabilities. Any student with disability or special need should contact Dr. Kia and he will coordinate and provide reasonable modifications, which may be required.