**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the influence of Islam in shaping the modern world. Through this course students will develop an understanding of the rise of Islam in Arabia and its subsequent expansion up to the establishment of extensive empires ranging from the Ottomans to the Mughals. Finally, the course will engage with Islam in the contemporary world by looking at political movements, gender issues and the use of violence. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the material through exams, papers and classroom participation.

In the first segment of this course students will develop an understanding of the rise of Islam in Arabia and its subsequent expansion to emerge as a global religion. The course materials, inclusive of the readings, lectures and documentaries will expose students to the diverse world of Islam, while familiarizing students to its contributions in the realms of culture, science, art and architecture to name a few. The second segment focuses specifically on the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires and pays attention to how the Muslim empires and Islam influenced the political structure, religious tradition, and the economic and cultural world of these regions.

Finally, the third segment of the course will engage with Islam in the contemporary world by looking at Muslim reform and revivalist movements in the colonial and post-colonial context, women and gender as well as violent religious extremism and the accompanying Islamophobia that dominates our contemporary engagement with the Islamic world.
**READINGS**

- V.S. Naipaul, *Among the Believers: An Islamic Journey*

*Additional reading will be posted on the course website D2L.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Assignments**

**Participation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the day as well as complete the in-class quizzes and assignments.

**Exams:** There will be 2 exams for this course. The contents of the exams will be based on the lectures and the readings assigned for the period. The exams are not going to be cumulative. I will provide guidelines and study guides the week prior to the exam.

**Papers:** There will be three paper assignments for this course, which includes a review of Naipaul. The papers will be based on the readings assigned for this course and a longer final Paper 3. I will discuss the format of the papers in greater detail in class. You have the option to **choose between Paper 1 and Paper 2**, but you will have to complete Paper 3 and Review of Naipaul’s *Among the Believers*.

**Grading Policy:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (2 X 20%)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers (1 or 2 )</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 3</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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No alternate (or "make-up") quizzes/exams will be offered. You must contact me **prior** to any excusable absence (medical, sport-related, etc.). Alternate and make-up exams will only be given for prior excused absences or in case of emergencies that prevent you from taking the exam on the assigned day. You will not be allowed to make-up for the exam unless you provide me with appropriate documentation verifying your absence.

Any late assignment will reflect in a lowering of your grade by 5% for each day they are late allowing for a maximum deduction of 30% of the total allotted points for that assignment.

**Attendance**

You are expected to attend all lectures and participate in class discussions and in-class assignments. As this is a lecture-based course irregular attendance will preclude the student from performing well in the course. It is important to note that class lectures are not a substitute for the readings and proper comprehension of both the readings and lectures are necessary to pass this course.

All assignments are due on the day mentioned in the syllabus.
Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. The instructor will have full discretion over what behavior is deemed appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. All cell phones must be turned off or put on silent or vibrate mode. Students are not to use their cell phones to text during class sessions.

Policies and Procedures

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
Explanation of credit hours awarded for course:
This is an upper-level history course. Upper-level lecture courses in history meet for 150 minutes each week for 15 weeks and also meet for a 2-hour final examination. Students typically have weekly reading assignments from a combination of textbooks, monographs, scholarly articles, primary document collections, and supplemental materials (biographies, historical novels, memoirs, etc.). The level of reading is more advanced than that required in lower-level surveys, and the number of pages students are required to read is generally higher. Typical upper-level courses require students to take 2-3 essay exams per semester, in addition to the final exam, which is also generally a written exam. In addition, out-of-class writing assignments (book reviews, biographical sketches, research papers, etc.) are typically required in upper-level courses. Course instructors are required to hold regular scheduled office hours to make themselves available to consult with students as needed. Combined, studying for exams, doing the required reading, completing writing assignments, and consulting with course instructors average two hours of work outside the classroom for every hour spent in the classroom. Online sections of upper-level courses contain extensive written content within modules, and instructors hold "electronic office hours" to consult with students as needed, generally responding to student inquiries within twenty-four hours. Online course content includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least 150 minutes per week. Besides engaging the material in the modules, online students have outside reading assignments similar to those mentioned above for face-to-face students. Thus, for every hour an online student spends engaging the content in the modules, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

Program Learning Outcomes:
The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a B.A. degree in History:

1. Interpret the past in context.
2. Understand the complex nature of the historical record.
3. Engage in historical inquiry, research, and analysis.
4. Craft historical narrative and argument.
5. Practice historical thinking as central to engaged citizenship.

This section of this course will focus on PLOs 1, 3, and 4.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

1. The student will develop an understanding of the rise and spread of Islam in a global context.
2. The student will develop an understanding of the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires.
3. The student will be able to explain the complex interactions between different sects of Muslim communities and between Islam and other religions.
4. The student will be able to assess the impact of European expansion on the Islamic world.
5. The student will be able to contextualize the role of Islam in the shaping of the modern world.
COURSE OUTLINE WITH ASSIGNED READINGS
* The syllabus is subject to change dependent on the instructor’s assessment of the progress of the course. Students will be notified of such changes in class.

Week 1

Monday, August 26  
Course Introduction

Wednesday, August 28  
Origins of Islam
( pp. 9-33)  
- Esposito, *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* (pp. 3-51)

Week 2

Monday, September 2  
The Early Caliphs and the Spread of Islam
( pp. 35-75)  
- Esposito, *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* (pp. 72-94)

Wednesday, September 4  
Continued

Week 3

Monday, September 9  
Law, Society and Religious Belief
Reading:

Wednesday, September 11  
The Golden Age
( pp. 77-155)

Week 4

Monday, September 16  
Continued.

Wednesday, September 18  
The World of Islam

Week 5

Monday, September 23  
Exam Review  
**Paper 1 Due**

Wednesday, September 25  
Exam I
**Week 6**

<table>
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 30</td>
<td>Before the Empires: India, Iran and Anatolia</td>
<td>- Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair, <em>Islam: A Thousand Years of Faith and Power</em>. (pp. 159-180)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 2</td>
<td>The Ottoman Empire</td>
<td>- Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair, <em>Islam: A Thousand Years of Faith and Power</em>. (pp. 181-199)</td>
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**Week 7**

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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 7</td>
<td>The Safavid Empire</td>
<td>- Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair, <em>Islam: A Thousand Years of Faith and Power</em>. (pp. 199-211)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 9</td>
<td>The Mughal Empire</td>
<td>- Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair, <em>Islam: A Thousand Years of Faith and Power</em>. (pp. 211-219)</td>
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**Week 8**

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**Week 9**

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<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 23</td>
<td>Exam II Review</td>
<td><strong>Paper 2 Due.</strong></td>
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Week 10

Monday, October 28    Exam II
Wednesday, October 30    European Colonialism and the Islamic World

Week 11

Monday, November 4    Islamic Reform Movement
Reading:    - John L. Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*. (pp. 141-186)
           - Esposito, *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* (pp. 95-132)

Wednesday, November 6    Religion and Politics
           - Esposito, *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* (pp. 158-220)
**Naipaul, *Among the Believers* Book Review Due**

Week 12

Monday, November 11    Discussion: *Naipaul, Among the Believers*

Wednesday, November 13    Iran and the Islamic Revolution
Reading:    - Will be made available on D2L.

Week 13

Monday, November 18    Politics of the Middle-East
Reading:    - Will be made available on D2L.

Wednesday, November 20    Politics and Violence
Reading:    - Esposito, *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* (pp. 158-220)

Week 14

Monday, November 25-29    **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15

Monday, December 2    Gender and Islam
Reading:    - Will be made available on D2L.

Wednesday, December 4    Islam in the Twenty-First Century

Week 16

Wednesday, December 11    **Paper 3 Due by Noon.**