



## **CH 6000 – History of Islam (3 cr.)**

Madison Extension

Spring 2008

Mondays, January 28 to April 21

7:00 - 10:00 PM

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**History of Islam:** A Christian study of the history of Islam, the varied practice of Islam and Avenues for Christian-Muslim dialogue

### **Course Description**

Muhammad began to preach in the Arabian city of Mecca in AD 612. He spoke of the revelations that he received in the desert and he called upon the oft-feuding Arabs to live lives of integrity, charity, and piety. Muhammad's teachings, clearly influenced by Judaism and Christianity, would go on to rally his followers to a common religion, with strong cultural and linguistic ties. Nearly fourteen hundred years later, the religion he founded is the second largest in the world, claiming 1.3 billion adherents.

Many western Christians have little contact with Muslims, lack opportunities to study Islam, and are met with a barrage of news reports about religiously-inspired violence in Muslim lands. By studying the history and practice of Islam, our course will seek to deepen the Christian students' understanding of the Muslim world, and to make some sense of present-day global conflicts.

We will ground our course in a review of Muslim history, doctrine and practice, giving particular emphasis to the Judaic roots of Christianity and Islam. Through the reading of Colin Chapman's *Cross and Crescent* and class discussions, we will explore ways to encourage dialogue with Muslims. Later in our course, we will review the current state of Christianity in the Middle East, and examine the centrality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to many Muslims assessing global politics.

### **Course Learning Objectives:**

- Offer a knowledge base which will encourage increased Christian-Muslim dialogue, rooted in a belief that all Muslims are created in the image of God and loved by God (as are all people)
- In a season of heightened global tension, understand the world of Islam from a Christian perspective
- Relate the drama of the past to the present; increasing understanding of the connections between the origins and development of Islam and modern expressions of this religion
- Observe the fluid history of Islam and its interactions between religious belief, political developments, military action, and economic and social situations

- Examine Christian-Muslim-Jewish interactions throughout the globe (especially in Israel-Palestine)
- Master key geography integral to the study of Islam
- Research and write effectively on topics related to Islam

**Required Books:**

- An Introduction to Islam*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. By Frederick Mathewson Denny. Prentice Hall, 2005. paperback. (380 pages)
- Cross and Crescent: Responding to the Challenge of Islam*. By Colin Chapman. Intervarsity Press, 2003. paperback. (342 pages)
- Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*. By Karen Armstrong. HarperCollins, 1993. paperback. (266 pages)
- The Middle East and Islamic World Reader*. Edited by Marvin E. Gettleman and Stuart Schaar, 2003. (assigned selections)
- The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*. By Sandy Tolan. Bloomsbury USA, 2006. (304 pages)
- Understanding Islam and the Muslims*. A short booklet prepared by the Islamic Affairs Department of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia. This will be distributed on the first night of class (no charge) (30 pages)

Other photocopied readings may be distributed throughout the course.

**Recommended Books:**

- Daughters of Islam: Building Bridges with Muslim Women*. By Miriam Adeney. Intervarsity Press, 2002. (217 pages)
- Atlas of the Middle East*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2003.
- Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. MLA Publisher, 2003.

**Recommended Reading:**

Prior to the first class, I recommend that students read the entry on "Islam" from the *Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion*. It is available on-line at: [http://www.cqpress.com/context/articles/epr\\_islam.html](http://www.cqpress.com/context/articles/epr_islam.html). This provides a ten-page overview of some of the material we will explore throughout this course.

**Expectations and Assignments:**

**Devotions:** As a reminder of who we are and Whose we are, we begin class with devotions of about five to ten minutes, asking God to guide our study.

**Attendance, Discussion Leadership and Preparation:** Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Class time will include lecture, informal discussion, student-led discussion of primary sources (Gettleman and Schaar book), and occasional videos. All students are expected to lead one discussion session during the semester (about 20 minutes), and to participate in all discussions.

**Map:** From its birth in Arabia, Islam soon expanded through the Middle East, as well as into parts of Asia, Africa and Europe. In order to assure a basic geographic foundation, students will draw a map of the Middle East and Muslim-majority countries, using any resources desired. Detailed instructions will be distributed.

**Film Viewing:** During class time, we will view short segments of PBS's *Islam: Empire of Faith*, to give images of the historical material covered. Outside of class students will be assigned to view some of the following films: *Inside Mecca* (re. the Hajj), National Geographic, 55 mins; *Gaza Strip*, 74 mins; *Israel in a Time of Terror*, 25 mins; *Crisis in Iran, 20<sup>th</sup> Century* with Mike Wallace, 45 mins. Details will be forthcoming.

**Field Trip and Guest Speakers:** We will arrange a visit to the Islamic Center of Madison and invite guest speakers from the Madison Muslim community to address the class and hold question-and-answer sessions.

**Short Paper:** Students will select a topic related to the history or practice of Islam, gather scholarly sources, write a short paper (4-6 pages) and make a short presentation to the class.

**Research Paper: Christians and Muslims:** Students will research and write a research paper (10 pages) that focuses on a period or moment of Christian-Muslim encounter during the past 1400 years. It may be positive contact or negative. For example: St. Francis of Assisi's visit to sultan Melek-el-Kamel in 1219; or the First Crusade (1096-99); or the Conquest of Constantinople (1453); or the Coptic Church, etc.

**Paper: Christians in a Muslim-Majority Land:** In consultation with the professor, students will select a Muslim-majority country and study the state of Christianity in that region—past and present. Students must gather scholarly sources, write a solid graduate-level paper and make a short presentation to the class.

**Mid-term and Final Exams:** There will be two essay examinations during the semester. These will be based on assigned readings and material presented during class time (via lecture, discussion and video).

**Grading:**

Attendance, Discussion Leadership & Participation, Overall Class Involvement	10%
Map	5%
Short Paper	20%
Research Paper: Christians and Muslims	25%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 100-93
- A- = 92-90
- B+ = 89-87
- B = 86-83
- B- = 82-80
- C+ = 79-77
- C = 76-73
- C- = 72-70
- D = 69-60
- F = 59 or below

*Note: The information on the syllabus may be altered by announcement in class.*

**Suggestion:** The official reading due dates are on the calendar below. However, the first several weeks have rather heavy reading assignments. If possible, I recommend that you read the following prior to our first evening of class (January 21):

- All of *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*. by Karen Armstrong
- “Islam” from the *Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion*. Available on-line at:  
[http://www.cqpress.com/context/articles/epr\\_islam.html](http://www.cqpress.com/context/articles/epr_islam.html).
- Chapters 1-9 of *An Introduction to Islam*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., by Frederick Mathewson Denny

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**Class Calendar**

- Complete readings & assignments prior to the class meeting on the date noted.*
- The small print below notes some of the key events, movements, individuals or topics of the time period covered; only some of these will be discussed during class time.*

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**January 21:** Introduction & Getting Acquainted; the Middle East in the Seventh Century; Life of Muhammad; five pillars of Islam.

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**January 28:** Qur'an and *hadith*; the "Rightly Guided Caliphs" and military expansion; rise of the Muslim state; civil war and the Sunni and Shi'i split; Kharijites (seceders); the Umayyads; the basics of the new religion; Abbasid absolutism; Al-Andalus (711-1492); higher learning (incl. *Falsafah*); Sufism; the *ulama* and the *fiqh* (jurisprudence); Turkish migrations and the Seljuqs (11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> c.); sultans rather than caliphs; decline and fall of the Abbasids.

--Reading: --*Understanding Islam and the Muslims*. (booklet, 30 pages)  
--Armstrong, *Muhammad* (all of it, 266 pages)

**--Hand-drawn Map Due**

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**February 4:** Ja'far al-Sadiq (702-765) and Shi'i doctrine; Twelve-Imam Shi'ism and Ismaili Shi'ism; role of the *imam*; life, law, and custom; Fatimids in Egypt (910-1171); literary culture; feudalism in the Middle East (incl. *iqta*); Western Crusaders (1096-1291) and Eastern Mongols (1258).

--Reading: --Denny, *Introduction to Islam*, chapters 1-9 (about 207 pages)  
--Gettleman and Schaar, eds, *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader* (hereafter noted as 'Gettleman'), chapter 1, part 1: Quran; and chapter 1, part 2: Shite and Sunni

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**February 11:** Mamluks in Egypt (1250-1517); the Delhi Sultanates (1206-1526); Abu Hamid Al-Ghazzali (1058-1111), Ibn al-Arabi (1165-1240), and Sufism; Ahmad ibn Taimiyya (1263-1328) and Muslim rulers. Expansion of Islam through trade and traveling teachers; Islam and the Silk Road.

--Reading: --Denny, chapters 10-13 (~104 pages)  
--Gettleman, chapter 1, part 3: Avicenna --Muslim Intellectual  
chapter 1, part 4: A Woman's Voice  
chapter 2, part 6: Disasters

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**February 18:** Islamic governments: Timurids in Central Asia (1370-1506) to the Mughals in India (1526-1707), Safi al-Din (1252-1334), Ismail I (1501-1524), Shah Abbas I (1587-1629) and the Safavids in Persia (1501-1736); rise of Shi'ism in Iran. Rise of the Ottomans (c. 1281); Conquest of Constantinople (1453); expansion; Suleiman (r. 1520-1566). West Africa (Mali and Songhay); Southeast Asia; and the Uzbeks.

--Reading: --Chapman, *Cross & Crescent*, chapters 1-17 (176 pages)  
--Gettleman, chapter 2, part 7, Ibn Khaldun

chapter 2, part 9, Ottoman Women  
chapter 3, part 10: Ottoman *Tanzimat*

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**February 25:** Islam and Imperialism: Rise of the Europeans and decline of the Islamic empires. Expansion of Russia and China into Muslim lands. Ottoman reforms led by the Koprulus (1656-1676), Sultan Selim III (1789-1807), and Mahmud II (1808-1839) & *Tanzimat*. End of the Ottomans, Young Turks, Armenian genocide. The Qajars (1781-1925) in Persia. Uthman Dan Fodio (1754-1817) and the rise of jihad in northern Nigeria.

--Reading: Chapman, chapters, 18-24 (41 pages)

-- **Short Paper due**

--Presentations on Short Papers

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**March 3:** Discussion of major topics in Denny readings thusfar: early monotheism (Jewish and Christian); rise of Islam; the *Umma*; Muslim Creeds and theology; Shari'a and Fiqh; Sufism (comparison with Christian mysticism); Islamic family life and community life.

--**Mid-term Examination (first half of class time)**

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**March 10:** Islam and the Modern World: Abd al-Wahhab (1703-1792) and the rise of the Saudis; Shah Wali Allah of Delhi (1703-1762); Ahmad ibn Idris (d. 1837) and resistance to the west. Muhammad Ali (r. 1805-1848) in Egypt. The Qadiriyya in Algeria; the Tijāniyyah in West Africa; the Naqshbandiyyah in the Caucasus; and the Somali War of Colonial Resistance (1898-1920). The ideal of a pan-Islamic state in the writings of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani (c. 1838-1897). The proponents of Islamic modernism.

--Reading: --Denny, chapters 14-16 (~63 pages)

--Chapman, chapters 25-35 (107 pages)

--Gettleman, chapter 3, part 12: Jamal al-Din Al-Afghani

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**March 17: No class for Holy Week** (hint! Read ahead)

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**March 24:** Islamic Secularists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: World War One. Kemal Ataturk (1923-1938) in Turkey; and Reza Shah Pahlavi (r. 1925-1941) in Iran. Muhammad Iqbal and Muslims in the Indian independence movement. World War Two. Secular radical movements in Egypt (1952, Nassar), Tunisia (1957), Iraq (1958), Yemen (1962) and Afghanistan (1973) overthrow monarchies. Algerian War for Independence (1954-1962); Ba'ath party (est. 1947) in Syria and Iraq. The Arab League (est. 1945)

--Reading: --Tolan, *The Lemon Tree*, chapters 1-8 (143 pages)

- Gettleman, chapter 4
    - part 13: Conflicting promises during WWI
    - part 14: The fate of Armenians in WWI
    - part 15: Afghanistan, Turkey and the Fertile Crescent
    - part 16: Jinnah & the creation of Pakistan (continued next page)
    - part 17: on British-controlled Iraq
  - Gettleman, chapter 7, part 32: Early ideologies of Islamic radicalism
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**March 31: Israel and Palestine:** Zionism and the origins of the modern state of Israel. Jewish migration prior to WWII and the Palestinian Revolt of 1936-39. The Balfour Declaration and the Creation of Israel. Palestinian flight. 1956 Suez War. The Six-Days War (1967) and the Occupied Territories. Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (est. 1964) and Hamas (est. 1987). The Peace Processes. Lebanon. *Intifada*.

- Reading: --Sandy Tolan, *The Lemon Tree*, chapters 9-14 (120 pages)
    - Gettleman, chapter 5
      - part 18: Zionism
      - part 19: Balfour Declaration and the Mandate Period
      - part 20: Palestine on the Eve of WWII
      - part 21: Creation of the State of Israel
      - part 22: Arab Assertions: Out of Despair Revived Nat'lism
      - part 26: Impasse and the New *Intifada*
    - Highly recommended: Gettleman, chapter 5, parts 23, 24, 25 (about 20 more pages)
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**April 7:** The modern Islamist movements: Hasan al-Banna and the Muslim Brotherhood (est. 1928), Sayyid Qutb (d. 1966); Islamic Society (Jama'at-i Islami, est. 1941); Darul Islam in Indonesia; the fall of Muhammad Reza Shah (1941-1979), Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini, and the Iranian revolution (1979); the Tablighi Jama'at in India (Party which Propogates, est. 1920s); the "Nation of Islam" in the US; Islamic coup in the Sudan (1987); Collapse of the Soviet Union and the new Muslim-majority states. Moderate Muslims advocating non-violent gradual Islamization (sometimes through democratic participation). The Soviet Union in Afghanistan (1979-1989); the Taliban; the rise of Al Qaeda. The Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988); Saddam Hussein and the annexation of Kuwait; US intervention; the role of oil. Reactions in the larger Muslim world. Review of the larger themes of the course; catch up.

- Reading: --Gettleman, chapter 6, part 28: Revolution in Iran
    - Gettleman, chapter 7, part 33: Modern Islamic Radicalism
    - Gettleman, chapter 8, part 34: Osama bin Laden & the American Response
    - Gettleman, chapter 8, part 36: Historical Context—West & Islam
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**April 14:** Christianity in Arabia and North Africa: The Coptic Church: origins, monasticism, Library of Alexandria, Muslim conquest of Egypt, persecutions of Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah (996-1021), the

jizya; Eritrean and Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Churches. The monks of Tibhirine, Algeria (1996).

**--Research Paper Due: Christians and Muslims**

--Presentations on Papers

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**April 21:** Christianity in Muslim-Majority Asian countries. Legal constraints on evangelism. Iran: the Chaldean Catholic and Armenian Orthodox Churches; death of Haik Hovsepian Mehr (1994) and imprisonment of Hamid Pourmand. The Maronite Church in Lebanon; Recent persecution in Pakistan; Banning the al-kitab Bible in Malaysia. Missionary work in Indonesia.

**--Final Examination (first half of class time)**

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**A Reminder:** “Plagiarism is the act of presenting the thoughts or words of others as your own. It constitutes the ultimate dishonesty in writing, a theft of intellectual property . . . .” Richard Marius, *A Short Guide to Writing About History*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Longman, 1999), p. 22.

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**Paper topics to get you thinking (most of these below will need to be narrowed):**

- the prophet Muhammad (one segment of his life or work)
- the nature of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> century expansion of Islam
- the division of Sunni and Shi’i
- the caliphate
- Sufism (one aspect of)
- Baghdad, Islamic center of learning
- Muslim rule in Spain
- Turkish migration and Islam
- Islam, Saladin, and the Crusades
- the role of Islam in the Mughal or Safavid or Ottoman empires
- Islam in West Africa, or China, or Russia (etc)
- the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Uthman Dan Fodio (1754-1817, Nigeria) and *jihad*
- Wahhabism and Saudi Arabia
- writings of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani (c. 1838-1897).
- Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt (or the writings of Sayyid Qutb (d. 1966)
- Islam and the role of Hamas in Palestine
- the Iranian Revolution of 1979
- Islamic crisis in the Sudan
- and many others