This course explores the history of the Islamic World from ca. 1000-1600 C.E., spanning from the end of the ‘ʿAbbāsid Commonwealth’, the Mongol Conquests, and the emergence of the three great empires of pre- and early modern Islamic World: the Ottomans, Ṣafavids and Mughals. (It is preceded by Islamic History I and followed by III, focusing on the ‘Early’ and ‘Modern’ periods respectively.) In addition to lectures and secondary background readings, students read and discuss samples of key primary texts, with a view to exploring Islamic civilization through the direct voices of the people who witnessed its transformations and participated in its creation. [All readings are in English translation. No prior background in the subject is required.]

Instructor: Sean Anthony

Office: 309 McKenzie Hall
Office Hours: TTh, 12:00-3:00pm; or by appointment
Email: swanthon@uoregon.edu

Course Website. Please consult the course website regularly for announcements. The website is accessible via UofO's Blackboard system (see http://blackboard.uoregon.edu). The site contains general course information, reading assignments, research guides, lecture handouts, study questions for discussion, paper assignments, visual images, links to other sites, etc.

Requirements and Grading

The course consists of two 80 minute meetings per week; normally, Monday will be dedicated to lectures, with Wednesday set aside for half-lectures and discussions (some weeks may vary). Please read the assigned materials during the week they are assigned, and come to discussions prepared with questions and observations on the readings.

Readings: Assigned readings for each week are indicated on the attached schedule of lectures. All books on the syllabus been placed on reserve at the library; all articles and primary readings can be found online at the library website via e-reserve. There is also a link to these e-reserves on Blackboard. Reading assignments given by author only on the syllabus (e.g., “Dale, 1-25”) refer to the books listed below, which are available for purchase from the university bookstore.
In addition to the assigned readings, a number of other works have been placed on reserve in the library. Some of these may be of assistance to you if you wish to explore particular subjects in more detail.

**Discussions:** Pay special attention to the readings marked with # in the syllabus, which are primary sources in translation, and to the study questions found on the course website. Also, be prepared to discuss these sources in class on the appropriate days.

**Map Assignment:** Assigned the first week, this assignment simply requires you to locate various geographical and topographical items essential to understanding the events of Islamic history.

**Papers:** Two short papers on assigned topics will be required. These stand in lieu of essay questions on an examination. The purpose of these papers is two-fold: 1) to stimulate you to think more carefully about certain questions covered in the course and to formulate your ideas on them; 2) to exercise your skills in writing an historical essay. The papers are intended not to be research papers, but rather attempts at interpretation and synthesis. Emphasis in grading will be placed on clarity of thought, clarity of expression, written polish, and effective support of your arguments with available evidence. Assigned readings should provide adequate material for you to formulate and substantiate your ideas; use of outside material is welcome, but receives no extra credit even (though such sources will likely aid you in achieving full credit). One week (or more) will be allowed for you to consider each question and write the essay.

Papers must be handed in punctually. Papers may be submitted until 4:00pm on the days indicated in the syllabus below at my office of in MacKenzie Hall. Please also submit to me an electronic copy of your paper, as a Word file, by emailing it to Islamic.history.papers@gmail.com by 4:00pm Pacific Standard Time on the due date. (This is an address to which only I have access to and utilize to keep my Oregon mailbox from getting cluttered.) Delays are unacceptable; they not only complicate grading but are unfair to others who have striven to submit their essays on time. For this reason, penalties will be assessed for lateness. Please do not ask for extensions: if you have sports or work commitments or requirements for other courses, you are expected to plan ahead and manage your time effectively so that the assignment can be submitted on time. If you have legitimate concerns, please contact me well in advance (at least 2 weeks).
Final Grade Tally: Course grades will be computed as follows: Map Assignment 5%; Class Participation, 25%; First exam-paper, 30%; Second exam-paper, 30%

Reference Works A selection of basic reference dealing with Islamic history and civilization be found at the Knight Library and accessed via the library’s online resources. Below is a list of the most authoritative and useful:

- *Encyclopaedia of Islam, 2nd edition*; the gold standard of Islamic studies and abbreviated as *EI²*, it’s also available online via the library’s proxy servers @ http://www.brillonline.nl.libproxy.uoregon.edu/
- *Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE*; the third edition of *EI²* is underway but still in its infancy, most including articles falling under the letter ‘A’.
- *Encyclopedia Iranica*; an undertaking even more massive than *EI²*, *EIr* covers the entirety of Iranian history and culture. Although its printed version has only reached the initial parts of ‘K’, a great deal of important articles to appear in print in the future can still be accessed online via [http://www.iranica.com](http://www.iranica.com)
- *Cambridge History of Egypt*
- *Cambridge History of Iran*
- JSTOR: useful for essentially any class you’ll take here at Oregon, by logging into jstor.org via Oregon’s proxy server and/or at the library, you have access to a wealth of scholarly articles on Islamic history and civilization. If you’re looking for a place to find sources on the Internet, this should be one of your first stops (Wikipedia tends to be VERY unreliable and/or ideological for early Islamic history).
**Week 1**

Mar 29, 31  Introduction to the ‘Abbāsid Commonwealth and the Medieval Islamic World

READINGS:  Golden, 50–62; **Levi and Sela, 7-68.**

**Week 2**

Apr 5, 7  The Turks, the Saljūq Empire, and the Rise of Sunnī Internationalism

READINGS:  Golden, 63–75; Dale, 10–47; **Levi and Sela, 69-110.**

**Week 3**

Apr 12  Crusades and Reconquista

READINGS:  Tyerman, 1–41.

Apr 14  Counter-Crusades


**Week 4**

Apr 19, 21  The Mongol Transformation and the Age of Mongol Prestige

READINGS:  Golden, 76–90; Dale, 48–76; **Levi and Sela, 111-138.**

**Week 5**

Apr 26, 28  Mamluk Egypt and Syria


**Week 6**

May 3, 5  The Rise and Crisis of the Early Ottomans

---

2. [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1354-ibnbattuta.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1354-ibnbattuta.html)
**Week 7**

May 10, 12  
Temür and the Timurids

**READINGS:**  

**Week 8**

May 17, 19  
Ottoman, Ṣafavid, and Mughal Imperial Patterns

**READINGS:**  
Golden, 105-121; Dale, 63 105; *Levi and Sale, 199-226.*

**Week 9**

May 24  
Golden Ages and Cultural Production

**READINGS:**  
Dale, 177-246.

May 26  
Economic, Merchantile, and Consumption Patterns

**READINGS:**  

**Week 10**

May 31, June 2  
Legacies in the Modern World

**READINGS:**  
Golden, 122-140; Dale, 247-292.

---