ISLAMIC HISTORY AND SOCIETY, I
The Near East, ca. 600-1000 C.E.

Fall 2011, MW 10:00-11:20am, 185 Lillis Hall

This course explores the history of the Near East from ca. 600-1000 C.E., spanning from the end of ‘Late Antiquity’, the origins or Islam, and the emergence and spread of Islamicate civilization. (It is followed by Islamic History II and III, focusing on the ‘Middle’ 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 birth 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: MW, 12-1pm; TTh, 12-2pm; or by appointment
Email: swanthon@uoregon.edu

Course Website. Please consult the course website regularly for announcements. The website is accessible via UofOs 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., “Crone, 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 5:00pm Pacific Standard Time on the due date. (This ia 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).

**Examinations and Tests:** There will be no long-essay examinations; there will be one short-essay Mid-Term consisting of a number of brief identifications, plus the two papers described above.
Final Grade Tally: Course grades will be computed as follows: Map Assignment 5%; First Paper, 25%; Class Participation, 10%; Mid-Term, 25%; Second Paper, 35%.

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 30http://www.brillonline.nl.libproxy.uoregon.edu/
- Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE; the third edition of EI² is underway but still in its infancy, mostly 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
- Encyclopaedia of the Qur’an, ed. J. D. MacAuliffe (Brill: Leiden, 2001-2006)
- 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).

On the course website I have also provided two introductory guides on the conventions of Islamic history that you will likely find essential;

- Arabic Names: A primer for beginners (or, why is everyone called ‘Abu So-and-so’ and ‘Ibn So-and-so’)
- Transliteration in Islamic Studies (a guide to the arcane science of deciphering the different methods used by scholars for writing Arabic, Persian and Turkish in the Latin alphabet)
## Lecture and Reading Schedule — Fall 2011

### Week 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Organization/Introduction to Islamic History</td>
<td><a href="#">Kennedy, xiii-15.</a> # Doctrina Iacobi nuper baptizati (accessible online: <a href="http://www.macalester.edu/~cuffel/doctrina.htm">http://www.macalester.edu/~cuffel/doctrina.htm</a>) # Pseudo-Sebeos on the advent of Islam, trans. R. W. Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Sept 28</td>
<td>The Late Antiquity and the Rise of Islam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Week 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Week 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Further readings:

Wed Oct 12  The First Civil War (al-Fītna al-Kubrā) and Sect Formation War

READINGS:
Kennedy, 69-81
Crone, 17-32


Further Readings:

Week 4
Mon Oct 17  The Sufyānid-Umayyads and the Second Civil

READINGS:
Kennedy, 82-103.

# Bar Penkāyē, Rēš Mellē, trans. S. Brock


READINGS:
Kennedy, 103-122
Crone, 33-50


Week 5

¹  http://www.jstor.org/stable/162492
The University of Oregon, Department of History, HST 199

Mon Oct 24  Sectarianism and the Mawāli in the Late Umayyad Period

READINGS:
Crone, 51-64
#The Trial of Ghaylān al-Dimashqī, trans. S. W. Anthony
#A Sermon attributed to Abū Ḥamza, trans. P. Crone and M. Hinds

Wed Oct 26  Shiʿism and the ʿAbbāsid Revolution; Early ʿAbbāsid Rule

READINGS:
Kennedy, 123-155.
Crone, 70-98
#An excerpt from *Kitāb Sulaym b. Qays*, trans. P. Crone

**Week 6**

Mon Oct 31  **Mid-Term Exam**

Wed Nov 2  ʿAbbāsid Cosmopolitanism: The Cultural Floresence and the Translation Movement

READING
Crone, 165-198

**Week 7**

Mon Nov 7  ʿAbbāsid Decadence; the Fourth Civil War and its Consequences

READINGS
Kennedy, 132-56
#Jāḥiz, *On Singing Girls*

² http://www.jstor.org/stable/4055283
Further readings:

Wed Nov 9  The Mīḥna and the Rise of the Ḥadīth-Party
READINGS
M. Hinds, “al-Mīḥna,” EI²⁵
Crone, 125-45.
(Pseudo)-Ashʿarī, “Jubbāʾī and the Story of the Three Brothers,”

Week 8

Mon Nov 14  The Sāmarrāʾ Period; Crisis of the Caliphate
READINGS
Kennedy, 156-197.
Further readings:

Wed Nov 16  The Early Islamic West : al-Andalus and the Maghreb [Second Paper Assigned]
READINGS

---

³ http://www.jstor.org/stable/4057380
⁴ http://www.jstor.org/stable/616294
⁵ http://www.brillonline.nl
⁶ http://www.jstor.org/stable/3631960

## Week 9

**Mon Nov 21** Provincial Autonomy Movements  
**READINGS:**  
Kennedy, 198-209.  
*Further reading:*  

**Wed Nov 23** The Shiʿite Century: Fāṭimids and Būyids  
**READINGS**  
Kennedy, 210-47, 307-42  
*Further reading:*  

## Week 10

**Mon Nov 28** The Emergence of the Şūfī-Movement  
**READINGS**  
# Selection from al-Ḥakīm al-Tirmidhī, Khātam al-awliyāʾ, from D. Reynolds, *Interpreting*  

---

9 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/islm.2005.82.2.221](http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/islm.2005.82.2.221)

*the Self*, 119-131.

Wed Nov 30 Review Session

[Second Paper Due during Exam Week]