Islam and the West, Spring 2015

**Class code**
MEIS-UA.9694.1.001.SP12/HIST-UA.9520.1.001.SP12

**Class Details**
TBC

**Prerequisites**
An above-average level of curiosity and the willingness to change pre-conceived notions about the world around us...

**Class Description**
This course examines the relationship that developed between the Islamic world and “the West” (broadly defined) and their historical impact on each other. The class surveys and analyses the historical relationship between these two regions from the rise of Islam through the early modern period and the advent of European colonialism to modern-day resurgence of traditional aspects of Islam. The course will focus mainly on the Mediterranean as sphere of diplomatic, trade and cultural relations. Particular emphasis will be on periods that saw intensified interaction between the two civilizations. Examples of these are sessions on the Crusades in Syria, the westernisation-modernisation dilemma within the Ottoman reformist movement, the diplomatic battle fought on education between the Ottoman Sultan and the missionary schools, and the exchanges between European and Middle Eastern intellectuals towards the end of the 19th century.
The course is taught via lectures and seminar discussions and includes at least one field trip.

**Desired Outcomes**
The aims of the course are: 1) To familiarize students with the contours of Islamic history and how Islamic civilization interacted with the Western world 2) To consider the positive interactions between the two civilizations as well as the conflicts and polemics that have strained relations between them 3) To familiarize students with the dominant paradigms that inform studies of relations between the two civilizations 4) To engage with primary as well as secondary sources in writing history.

**Assessment Components**
1) Test, week 6, 60 minutes, weighting: 20%.
2) Presentation, weighting: 10%.
3) Essay, hand-in date: week 12, 2,500 words, weighting: 40%.
4) End of semester examination, 90 mins., weighting: 30%

*Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.*

**Assessment Expectations**

**Test**
The purpose of the test is to see if you have mastered basic material, and made sense of it. You
have to answer two identification questions on an event, person or concept from a list of five.

You are expected:

a) to give the date of the event, or death date of the person,

b) to explain the significance of the concept, person, or event, for the topic of the course,

c) to include as much more information as you have time to write.

Essay

An essay should fulfill the following criteria:

CONTENT
The essay (a) has a clearly defined thesis statement, (b) has a clear argument running through the whole of the paper, (c) is original and goes beyond class discussion, (d) uses a number of relevant secondary texts (d) uses primary sources read in class where appropriate.

REASONING, ORGANIZATION, & DEVELOPMENT
The essay (a) is coherently and consistently argued, (b) has well developed paragraphs arguing one idea well substantiated with appropriate evidence and contributing to the proposed thesis, (c) displays consistency between the thesis statement and the conclusion, and (d) shows evidence of classifying, identifying and arranging information in logical order, (e) does not prove or disprove a given thesis, but analyses the various weights of different historical readings of a given topic.

LANGUAGE, FORM, AND STYLE
The essay (a) is written in clear, direct, lucid formal language, (b) is written in grammatical sentences with correct spelling and punctuation, and (c) uses a coherent system of references.

CRITICAL THINKING
The essay (a) shows that the student draws reasonable inferences from secondary texts and (where appropriate) primary sources, (b) synthesises and integrates information and ideas into the argumentation of the thesis statement well, (c) displays evidence of creative and independent thinking, and (d) presents an autonomous interpretation of the texts read and is not a mere rehashing of information.

Grade A: An assignment which has all the above qualities.
Grade B: An assignment which has all or most of the above qualities, but at a more modest standard, falling short of excellence.
Grade C: An assignment which has some of the above qualities in a modest degree, but fails to achieve others.
Grade D: An assignment which does not display the above qualities to a modest degree, but which manages to demonstrate some slight evidence of effort and understanding.
Grade F: An assignment which displays very little effort or understanding, or which contains no material relevant to the task set.

End of semester examination

You have to answer three from a list of ten essay questions. The criteria are as above, except that references are not required.

Dates in the test and the exam can be given in the following ways (1) the precise date (e.g. 632),
or (2) the date correct to within 12 years plus or minus (e.g. for “632", 644 is acceptable, 645 is not) or (3) the date stated in quarters of a century. Thus for a date 649, the only correct answers would be “2nd quarter of the 7th-century” or “2nd quarter of the 600's”.

**Required Text(s)**


For most of the sessions you have to read one or several additional texts that are available as PDFs via NYU Classes. I expect you to have these texts (especially the primary sources) in class, either as printouts or on-screen, as they are the basis for class discussions. You might want to purchase those books from the Further Reading list from which we read substantial passages.

**Supplemental Texts(s)**


**Internet Research Guidelines**

For students it is often difficult to decide what material from the internet is appropriate for essay writing. As a general rule: avoid any material that is freely available (such as Wikipedia) and use only material that you access via academic portals (such as NYU Home).

You have to familiarize yourself with two crucial online resources: Encyclopaedia of Islam and Index Islamicus (both via NYU and SOAS library) and the Cambridge History of Turkey. For finding resources on the topic that you chose for your essay the Oxford Bibliographies (Islamic Studies) is very useful and has for instance entries on, Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd, Women in Islam, People of the Book, Islam in Europe/North America, jihad, Orientalism (access via SOAS or NYU library).

**Additional Required Equipment**

None. *All materials will be provided online at NYU Classes, unless they are taken from the three required texts.*
Class Sessions

Session 1
Introduction
Course overview, requirements of the course, assessment, session format, grading, expectations

Feb 3

Session 2
‘Islam’ and ‘the West’: Terminology and Paradigms of Interaction

Feb 10
Readings:

In addition, please read at least two of the following texts:


Further reading:

Session 3
The Rise of Islam: The Byzantine and Sasanian Empires, Muhammad, the Arab Conquests

Feb 17

Primary source: Selected texts on the early Muslims by Christian observers.

Recommended additional reading:

Session 4
Islam: Beliefs, Practices, Islamic Law, the Formation of a Muslim Society

Feb 24

Primary source: Muslims vs. Vikings? From the travellogue of Ibn Fadlan.

Recommended additional reading:
Session 5
Mar 2
The Crusades: Western Background and Muslim Reaction

Readings:
1) Brown, Introduction, pp. 219-233
2) Housley, N: Contesting the Crusades, Oxford 2006, ch. 1 and 2.

Primary sources:
1) Accounts of Urban II’s sermon at Clermont, 1095.
2) Usama ibn Munqidh, Kitab al-‘Itibar (Cobb (tr.), Islam and the Crusades, pp. XV-XLII, 141-155).

Session 6
March 9
Imperial Rivalries: Muslims and Europeans in the “Age of Exploration”

Readings:

Primary sources:
Sidi ‘Ali Reis: The Mirror of Countries, transl. C. Horne. (This is a long source of about 50 pages, instructions on how to skim-read it effectively will follow!)

Written test (60 minutes)

Session 7
March 16
The Ottoman Empire: The Siege of Vienna, Western Perceptions

Readings:
1) Almond, Two faiths, pp. 139-180.
2) İnalci, H. Turkey and Europe in History. “The Ottoman and the Protestant World.” (174-178)

Primary sources:
2) Selections from the “Turkish Embassy Letters” by Mary Wortley Montague.

Session 8
March 23
The ethos of reform: westernisation vs. modernisation

Readings:
Zürcher, E.J. Turkey: a Modern History, Part 1, sections 2-5 (21-70)

Primary sources:
1) “The Hattı Şerif of Gülhane,” in Hurewitz, J.C. Diplomacy in the Near and Middle East: a
2) “An Imam in Paris”: Excerpt from the travelogue of Rifa‘a at-Tahtawi.

### Session 9

**Spring break March 25 to April 3rd**

**The battle for Muslim minds: Abdülhamid II, missionary schools and Pan-Islamism**

**Readings:** Hanioğlu, Ş. *A brief history of the late Ottoman Empire*. Section 6 (150-203).

Additional readings (highly recommended):
- Taglia, S. “The Young Turks, intellectualism and their importance for Ottoman and Turkish History.” *Turkish Area Study Group Review* 20 (Autumn 2012).
- Zürcher, E.J. *Turkey: a Modern History*, Part 1, sections 6-7 (71-92)

**Primary sources:**
2) Hanioğlu, Ş. “Garbcilar: their attitudes towards religion and their impact on the official ideology of the Turkish Republic,” *Studia Islamica* 86 (1997), 133-158.

### Session 10

**Displaying Islam: Visit to the British Museum Islamic Collection**

We will meet at 15:00 at the British Museum (Montague Place entrance, not main entrance!) to visit room 34 ‘The Islamic World’. You have to bring a note pad and a pen.

For preparing the visit take the virtual tour: Arabic Script: Mightier than the Sword under [http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/online_tours/museum_and_exhibition/arabic_script/arabic_script.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/online_tours/museum_and_exhibition/arabic_script/arabic_script.aspx) and study the sections “related objects” under [http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/galleries/middle_east/room_34_the_islamic_world.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/galleries/middle_east/room_34_the_islamic_world.aspx).

### Session 11

**European Domination and Modernity**

**Readings:**
2) Zubaida, S. *Islam, the People and the State*, Chp 6.

**Primary sources:**
1) “Napoleon’s proclamation to the Egyptians,” in Hurewitz, J.C. *Diplomacy in the Near and Middle East: a documentary record* (63-64).
2) The British Orientalist E. W. Lane on the “modern Egyptians”

### Session 12

**New Challenges, New Patterns of Interaction: Revivalism and Fundamentalism**
Readings:


**Session 13**
*Islam in the West: The Muslim experience in Europe and the US*

May 4


Round-table discussion with members of the SOAS Islamic society: “What is it like to be a British Muslim?”

Essay due

**Session 14**
*Islam and the West Reconsidered – Revision*

May 11

- reflection on the key themes of the course
- clarification of questions
- discussion of exam preparation


**Session 15**
*End of semester examination*

May 18

**Classroom Etiquette**

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.

Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.

Mobile phones should not be used in class.

Laptops are only to be used with the express permission of the teacher.

Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

**Required Co-curricular**

To be announced.
Activities

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
Visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum (Islamic Gallery); lectures and events at the School of Oriental and African Studies (http://www.soas.ac.uk/about/events/)

View, on line, the programme “Islam: Empire of Faith.” Available on YouTube, produced by PBS – link will be provided.

From the podcast of BBC Radio 4 In our time, listen to the following: 1) The Sasanian Empire; 2) The Abbasid Caliphs; 3) Constantinople, siege and fall; and 4) The Siege of Vienna.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qyk1

NYU LONDON ACADEMIC POLICIES

Plagiarism Policy
Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgments, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission
The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images,
graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student. Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

**Late Submission of Work**

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

**Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

**Attendance Policy**

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL’s staff.

**Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.**

**Absence reporting for an absence due to illness**

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expeditiously at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on
your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

**Absence requests for non-illness reasons**

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

**Further information regarding absences**

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

---

**Grade conversion**

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

---

**Grading Policy**

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.