

MUSLIM CIVILIZATIONS

Mo We Fr 15:00 – 15:50

KNB 126

INSTRUCTOR: Sabeen bin Zayyad, office: CH C202

Email: sbinzayy@ucalgary.ca

“The thoughts of a people distant in time or space cannot be at all deeply shared without our becoming acquainted with things and ideas important to them but of which we have had no exact equivalent.”¹

This course is a comparative study on the development of Muslim societies and cultures from Africa, through the Arab and Persianate world, and into Asia and the West, using an inter-disciplinary approach, set within a framework of cultural history. Attention will also be given to the topic of modernity as Muslims search to relate their heritage to the contemporary world and circumstances.

The objectives of this course is for students to be able to recognize the diversity of cultures in the Islamic world and to be able to analyze the historical processes leading to change and continuity in the Islamic world.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Although there are no required texts for this course, all course documents and readings will be posted on Blackboard on a weekly basis and students are expected to come to class prepared.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

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| ➤ Blackboard Discussion Forum* | 20% |
| ➤ 1 st midterm in-class on October 11th | 25% |
| ➤ 2 nd midterm in-class on November 8th | 25% |
| ➤ Term Paper due on December 2nd | 30% |

Blackboard Discussion Forum* will consist of 5 questions posted every 2 weeks starting **September 25th. Students will be divided into groups and each student is expected to answer the question posed and respond to another student's answer (within your group) on the discussion board. The responses are due the Monday after the question has been posted. For example, Question 1 will be due *September 30th*. In addition to lectures, class time will also be based on these discussions.

Students will be assessed on their knowledge and critical comprehension of the material covered in class and assigned readings.

¹ Hodgson, Marshall. "Introduction to the Study of Islamic Civilization". The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization. (Chicago and London, 1974: 3)

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The purpose of these discussion board questions is to encourage open discussion amongst yourselves. Rudeness and inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

Students may disagree and counter others' arguments but in a purposeful academic and respectful manner / tone.

Further details on the term paper (such as topics, length, bibliographies, research material, etc.) will be provided in class. All course work will be graded on a 100-point system. At the end of the course the total number of marks will be converted to the following letter grade system according to the following equivalences:

A+ = 100 – 97%

A = 96 – 91%

A- = 90 – 86%

B+ = 85 – 81%

B = 80 – 76%

B- = 75 – 71%

C+ = 70 – 67%

C = 66 – 62%

C- = 61 – 58%

D+ = 57 – 54%

D = 53 – 50%

F = 49% and below

COMMUNICATION:

Office Hours: **Fridays 14:00 – 15:00 CH C202** or by appointment.

Email: Students are welcome to forward their questions / comments to me. Please allow 48 hours for a response.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's policies on intellectual honesty available at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html>