HH 2004: The Islamicate World
Semester 2 (2019/2020)

Asst. Prof. Faizah Zakaria (SHHK #05-05)

Course Outline

In this course, you will investigate the historical development of Muslim societies from the classical period to the present. You will analyse diverse theories and practices of Muslim communities that span a global scale while being embedded in their own local political, economic and social contexts. This course will equip you to conceptualize the basic precepts and terminology defining the idea of a Muslim World while inviting you to critique this notion through empirical historical evidence. You will also develop your skills in analysing and interpreting primary and secondary sources, particularly through close readings of how Islamic concepts are employed in literary works, visual art and political rhetoric.

The contents of this course cover the period from the advent of Islam in the 7th century to the present. We will examine key ideas that scholars have used to conceptualize institutions and interactions in the Muslim World, such as: Islamicate, caliphate, shari’a, syncretism, cosmopolitanism and Islamism. It will emphasize the lived experience of Muslims by drawing on case studies from many different parts of the Islamicate World and highlight the complexities of the relationship between religious theology and practice. Such empirical examples will help you understand and analyse the contemporary positioning of Muslims in the modern nation-state and as a global community. This course will be useful in helping you understand the historical roots of contemporary debates about Islam and gain a nuanced view of the ways in which the religion interacted with secular politics.

Learning Goals

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain key concepts in Islamic thought, such as "shari’a," "ummah" and the Sunni-Shi’ii divide.
2. Compare and contrast the various ways in which Muslim societies around the world have formulated political, social and economic institutions in the context of their specific historical eras.
3. Describe and critique the idea of an Islamicate World, with empirical examples of diversity in thought and practice.
4. Analyse and interpret religious languages and images in primary sources.

Course Requirements

This module places emphasis on the analysis, synthesis and evaluation of key historical concepts and interpretations. You will be assessed on the following metrics:

1. Active Participation (20%)

   In class, you will learn from each other and build up your skills in close reading, constructing convincing arguments, articulating these arguments verbally and analysing primary sources. You
are expected to regularly attend class and participation in class will be assessed based on the depth, frequency and quality of your contributions to classroom discussion as well as weekly 150-word entries into the class blog raising questions about the week’s readings.

2. **Book Review (15%)**

   Deadline: 24 February 2020 (Week 7)
   You are required to select a book from the list appended and write a review for the book that you read. A book review is a useful exercise in which you will synthesize the main arguments in a complex book and evaluate its strengths and limitations with the support of clear, illustrative examples from a text. In this review, you will identify the main argument in the book, evaluate the evidence - including primary sources - for which the author builds his argument and assess its significance in the light of historical or contemporary debates about Islam. It should NOT be a detailed, chapter-by-chapter description of the book. The review should be around 1000 words long.

3. **Primary Source Analysis (20%)**

   Group Presentation Dates: 30 Mar 2020 (Week 10) or 6 Apr 2020 (Week 11)
   Primary source analysis is a key skill that is required for historical research. You will work in groups and choose ONE primary source from the list of primary sources that will be uploaded on the course website or an external source subject to the instructor’s approval. Instructions and group allocation will be given during your tutorial session on Week 3.
   To do well on the team assessment, it is necessary for you to demonstrate positive interdependence and teamwork. In principle, you will receive the same marks as your team. However, your individual score may vary based on feedback about your contributions to the group project.

4. **In-class quiz (25%)**

   Date: 13 April 2020
   In the final week of the semester, you will sit for an in-class test that will assess you on your historical knowledge of the Islamicate World and your capacity to critically analyse the course readings and evaluate their arguments. The test will consist of a short answer section and an essay section and will be two hours long.

5. **Historiographical Essay (25%)**

   Deadline: 24 April 2020
   A historiographical essay analyses how a single historical issue or topic has been written about in the existing scholarship. This essay is an important first step in developing a research question as it enables you to synthesize the ways in which the issue has been treated and identify gaps or problems in those existing approaches. From the essay, you will be able to see possible paths in which further research is needed and raise new questions. You will be going through these steps as you work towards completing this essay:
   
   (a) Week 4 to 8 – Identify your topic and sources
   (b) Week 10 - Craft an argument addressing the trend in the historiography that you have observed with regards to your chosen topic. Write a short paragraph defining your topic and argument, appending the bibliographic sources that you have identified.
Week 12 - Complete your essay, fleshing out your preliminary argument with supporting evidence from the sources you have selected. In your conclusion, you should raise areas in which further research is needed.
There will be no grades awarded for draft paragraphs and topics discussed in class. You will be assessed only on the final essay. The length of this essay should be around 3000 to 4000 words.

Class Schedule and Readings

Week One (13 Jan)

Lecture: Islam, Islamic, Islamicate

Reading:

Week 2 (20 Jan)

Lecture: The Prophet and the Abrahamic Faiths

Readings:
• Fred Donner, Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam, (Harvard University Press, 2010), pp. 1-89

Week 3 (27 Jan – no class meeting Chinese New Year)

Lecture: In place of class, film viewing: “The Caliphate”
(Available online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3O9d7PsI48&vl=en)

Tutorial: Online quiz on the readings and film (to be completed by 31 Jan 2020)

Readings:
• Ira Lapidus, A History of Islamic Societies, (Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 31-111

Week 4 (3 Feb)

Lecture: Crusades, Conquests and Conversions

Readings:
• Ira Lapidus, A History of Islamic Societies, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 112-156

Week 5 (10 Feb)

Lecture: Early Modern Empires: The Ottomans and the Mughals

Readings:

**Week 6 (17 Feb)**

**Lecture: Islam in the Indian Ocean World**

**Readings:**

**Week 7 (24 Feb)**

**Lecture: Islam as Everyday Religion - Syncretism, Local Scriptures and Saints**

**Deadline for Book Review**

**Readings:**
• M.C. Ricklefs, *Mystic Synthesis in Java: A History of Islamization from the fourteenth to the early nineteenth century*, (NUS Press, 2006), pp. 221-25

**Week 8 (9 Mar)**

**Lecture: Colonialism and Sharia**

**Readings:**

**Week 9 (16 Mar)**

**Lecture: Muslim Networks in an Age of European Imperialism**

**Readings:**

**Week 10 (23 Mar – no class meeting, e-learning week)**
Lecture: Nationalism, Socialism and Islam – listen to the podcast interview with Cemil Aydin on “The Idea of the Muslim World”
Tutorial: Class blog discussion on readings and podcast

Readings:

Week 11 (30 Mar)

Lecture: Democracies in the Muslim World
Tutorial: Class Presentation on Primary Source Assignment

Readings:

Week 12 (6 Apr)

Lecture: Islamism
Tutorial: Class Presentation on Primary Source Assignment

Readings:

Week 13 (13 Apr)

Lecture: In-Class Final Quiz

Reading:

Policy on Academic Integrity

You should adhere to accepted scholarly practices in all your written work. Notes taken for papers and research projects should accurately record sources of material to be cited, appropriately quoted, paraphrased or summarized, and papers and research projects should acknowledge these sources in the appropriate places in the text of the paper as well as in a reference list at the end of the paper, in accordance with Chicago Style of Citation.

(https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)
Appendix 1: Book Review List

* You may choose a book outside the list subject to the instructor’s approval.


Appendix 2: Primary Source List

*All these sources will be uploaded on Blackboard