

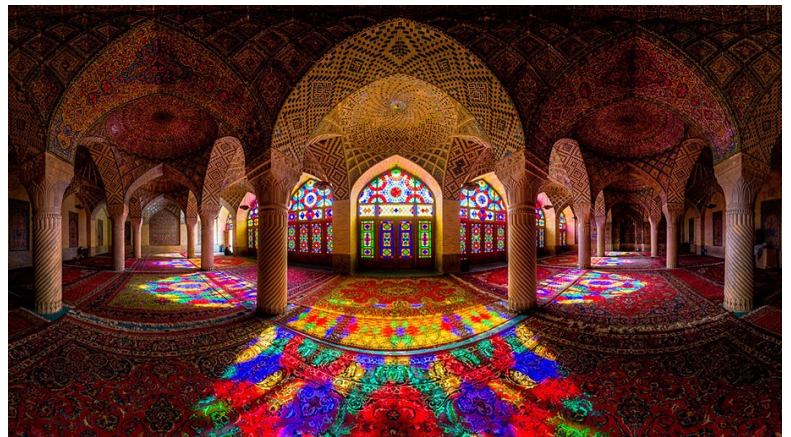
MIDDLE EASTERN CIVILIZATION

HIST/RELS 177 – FALL 2020

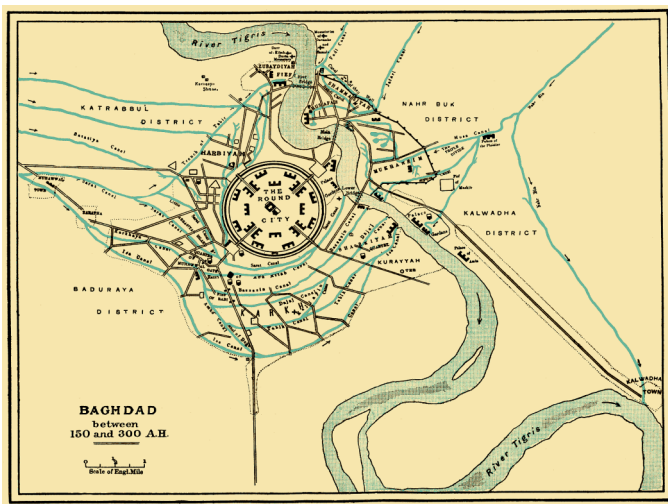
ONLINE OFFERING (ASYNCHRONOUS)

INSTRUCTOR: JUNAID QUADRI

This course surveys the history of the Middle East from the pre-Islamic era to recent events and debates. You will study the culture and milieu in which Islam emerged, its remarkably quick expansion, the new cultural syntheses these early conquests produced, and the political and religious forms they engendered.



As we move into the more stable middle period, you will learn about the similarities and differences between the various empires that ruled the areas now known as the Middle East, and how they produced distinctive identities while drawing on a common religious heritage. Towards the end of the semester, we will examine the impact of European colonialism, attempts at modernization in the turbulent nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the particular challenges that face the Middle East today.



Throughout, we pay attention to the various political, religious, economic and social components of the historical moments we study, as well as the various sectors of Middle Eastern society.

COURSE PERSONNEL

Instructor:

Junaid Quadri

email: jquadri@uic.edu

Office Hours: W 3:00-4:00 pm, or by appointment.

All meetings will be conducted through the “Office Hours” link on Blackboard (which will take you to a virtual “course room” where we can discuss over video/audio.)

Teaching Assistant:

Caterina Scalvedi

email: cscalv2@uic.edu

Availability: T 8:30-9:30 am, or by appointment.

All meetings will be conducted through the “Office Hours” link on Blackboard (which will take you to a virtual “course room” where we can discuss over video/audio.)

Teaching Assistant:

Joshua Hoxmeier

email: jhoxmeie@uic.edu

Availability: 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, or by appointment.

All meetings will be conducted through the “Office Hours” link on Blackboard (which will take you to a virtual “course room” where we can discuss over video/audio.)

COURSE MATERIALS

There are two required texts for this course:

Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples: With a New Afterword* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010)

James L. Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), 4th edition

Please note that the Gelvin text is also available as an electronic copy.

All other course materials will be provided to you via Blackboard (uic.blackboard.com).

Getting the texts: The UIC Bookstore is open starting August 17, but in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, both texts can be ordered online from the Bookstore website, uicbookstore.org (click on “Course Material/Books” in the top left corner). You can have your books shipped to you (orders over \$100 ship for free); or arrange for a curbside pickup Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm.

GRADING SCALE

A	85% - 100%
B	75% - 84%
C	65% - 74%
D	50% - 64%
F	< 50%

COURSE EVALUATION

In an asynchronous online course, you are given a wide degree of latitude in determining a work schedule that works for you. However, **it is imperative that you are aware of what is required of you each week, and structure your workload such that you are on top of the material and all deadlines.** Throughout the semester, there will be four tests. These are meant to evaluate your comprehension of the material from both the readings and lectures, as well as your ability to synthesize, compare, analyze and respond to that material. In addition, I will ask you to complete two extended written assignments throughout the semester; and two small quizzes. Further details follow:

Quizzes (1%, 2%) — There will be small, low-stakes “quiz” in each of Weeks 2 and 3. The purpose of these quizzes is to get you oriented with the class and the online functionalities required to take subsequent Tests (see below). The **Introductory Survey** in week 2 is worth 1% of your final grade, and will simply ask you to introduce yourself and tell us your reason for taking this class. The **Syllabus Quiz** in week 3 is worth 2% of your final grade, and will ask you to respond to 3-5 multiple-choice questions drawn from the syllabus. This is my way of ensuring that you have read the syllabus and are familiar with the way the class will work. You can take each quiz any time before **11:00 pm (Chicago time) Friday night** of the week it’s due.

Tests (12%, 15%, 15%, 15%) — There will be a test in each of **weeks 4, 8, 12 and 15**. Test 1 is worth 12% of your final grade, and the other three tests are worth 15% each. I will release the test on Blackboard on Friday morning, and you can take it any time before **11:00 pm (Chicago time) Friday night**. There will be a 60 minute time limit on each test. You will be asked to answer 15 questions in multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank format, and 3 questions that require short but comprehensive written responses. Each test will evaluate your command of material covered since the last test. (i.e., Test 1 will cover Weeks 1 to 4; Test 2 will cover Weeks 5 to 8, etc.).

Chapter Summary Assignment (20%) — On **Friday, October 2 (week 6)**, by **11:00 pm (Chicago time)** you will be asked to submit a summary of an extended chapter on some aspect of Middle Eastern/Islamic civilization. The list of eligible chapters will be provided to you. Further details can be found on Blackboard under “Assignments”. The summary will be **800-1000 words long**, and will count for **20% of your final grade**. You are **strongly encouraged** to start working on this assignment well in advance of the deadline.

Media Survey & Analysis Assignment (20%) — On **Friday, November 20 (week 13)**, by **11:00 pm (Chicago time)** you will be asked to submit a survey and analysis of media reports on a current issue having to do with the Middle East. This issue will be one you choose yourself, though I offer some guidance on how to get started and other relevant details in a separate document on Blackboard under “Assignments”. The summary will be **1000-1250 words long**, and will count for **20% of your final grade**. You are **strongly encouraged** to start working on this assignment well in advance of the deadline.

COURSE POLICIES

Keeping up with the Course Material: Because this course is an asynchronous online offering, students will need to be extremely self-motivated, organized, disciplined and capable of budgeting their time. It is important that you **take control of your involvement with the course**, rather than approach it passively. It is **crucial that you familiarize yourself with the course schedule** (see the next four pages), and stay abreast of all deadlines. Look ahead to see what's coming up so that you're well prepared. Please note that you will have to **both do the assigned readings and watch the lecture videos** to succeed on the tests. Also note that you are strongly advised to **start your assignments as early as possible**.

Missed or Late Work Policy: A large part of your success at UIC and beyond will depend on your ability to meet deadlines. The deadlines for all evaluations in this course are listed in the weekly schedule. In order to ensure that you are eligible for the maximum possible grade, you are expected to submit all work by the due date given. **Late submissions will be penalized 10% per day up to a maximum of five days. After five days, I will be unable to accept your submission.** Those who cannot complete an evaluation (test or assignment) on time for medical or other urgent reasons will be asked to provide relevant documentation (e.g., a doctor's note in case of illness). In cases of extenuating circumstances, please let me know well in advance.

Academic Integrity Policy: As an academic community, UIC is committed to providing an environment in which learning, research, and scholarship can flourish and in which all endeavors are guided by academic and professional integrity. All members of the campus community—students, staff, faculty, and administrators—share the responsibility of insuring that these standards are upheld so that such an environment exists. Instances of academic misconduct are taken very seriously at UIC, and the associated penalties can be serious; they will be handled pursuant to the Student Disciplinary Policy available at: <https://dos.uic.edu/community-standards/academic-integrity/>. In particular, **please review the FAQ at https://edelberg.people.uic.edu/crediting_others/index.htm to ensure that your work steers well clear of anything that could be construed as plagiarism.** The assignments in this course will be screened by **SafeAssign**, an anti-plagiarism software.

Disability Accommodation: UIC is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access the programs, courses, services, and activities on offer. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome, but must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). You may contact DRC at 312-413-2183 (and/or consult the following link: <https://drc.uic.edu>).

Grievance Procedures: UIC is committed to the most fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity involving students and employees. Freedom from discrimination is a foundation for all decision making at UIC. Students are encouraged to study the University's "[Nondiscrimination Statement](#)". Students are also urged to read the document "[Public Formal Grievance Procedures](#)".

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<p>Week 1 8/24 - 8/28</p>	<p>Lecture Video: What is the Middle East? Reading: NONE</p>
<p>Week 2 8/31 - 9/4</p>	<p>Lecture Video: The Pre-Islamic Milieu Reading: Hourani, <i>History of the Arab Peoples</i>, pp. 1-14 Submission: Introductory Survey, due 9/4 by 11:00 pm (1% of final grade)</p>
<p>Week 3 9/7 - 9/11 Labor Day Holiday (9/7)</p>	<p>Lecture Video: Thinking about History Readings: * Patricia Crone, “What do we actually know about Mohammed?” (online reading) * Ira Lapidus, “Historians and the Sources,” pp. 26-30 (available on Blackboard) Submission: Syllabus Quiz, due 9/11 by 11:00 pm (2% of final grade)</p>
<p>Week 4 9/14 - 9/18</p>	<p>Lecture Video: The Prophetic Mission: “What Muhammad Came With...” Readings: * Hourani, <i>History of the Arab Peoples</i>, pp. 14-21 * Toshihiko Izutsu, <i>Ethico-Religious Concepts in the Qur’an</i>, pp. 45-54 & 28-31 (available on Blackboard) Submission: TEST 1, due 9/18 by 11:00 pm (12% of final grade; covers weeks 1 to 4)</p>
<p>Week 5 9/21– 9/25</p>	<p>Lecture Video: Arab-Muslim Conquests Reading: Hourani, <i>History of the Arab Peoples</i>, pp. 22-25</p>

<p>Week 6 9/28 – 10/2</p>	<p>Lecture Video: Trials of Succession Reading: Lesley Hazelton, <i>After the Prophet</i>, pp. 83-90, 98-100, 125-143 (available on Blackboard) Submission: CHAPTER SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT, due 10/2 by 11:00 pm (20% of final grade)</p>
<p>Week 7 10/5 - 10/9</p>	<p>Lecture Video: The Umayyads: Empire & Architecture Reading: Hourani, <i>History of the Arab Peoples</i>, pp. 25-32</p>
<p>Week 8 10/12 - 10/16</p>	<p>Lecture Video: The Abbasids: Revolution, Golden Age & Decline Reading: Hourani, <i>History of the Arab Peoples</i>, pp. 32-58 Submission: TEST 2, due 10/16 by 11:00 pm (15% of final grade; covers weeks 5 to 8)</p>
<p>Week 9 10/19 - 10/23</p>	<p>Lecture Video: The Mongols: Terror and Efflorescence Reading: Ian Frazier, “Invaders: Destroying Baghdad,” in <i>The New Yorker</i> (online reading)</p>
<p>Week 10 10/26 - 10/30</p>	<p>Lecture Video: Post-Abbasid World and Governance Reading: Hourani, <i>History of the Arab Peoples</i>, pp. 83-97, 113-125, 130-146</p>

<p>Week 11 11/2 - 11/6 Election Day Holiday (11/3)</p>	<p>Lecture Video: The Gunpowder Empires: Ottomans & Safavids</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gelvin, <i>The Modern Middle East: A History</i>, pp. 21-31 * Hourani, <i>History of the Arab Peoples</i>, pp. 209-214
<p>Week 12 11/9 - 11/13</p>	<p>Lecture Video: The Age of European Empire</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gelvin, <i>The Modern Middle East: A History</i>, 90-116 (peruse the photo essay on pp. 117-139) * Hourani, <i>History of the Arab Peoples</i>, pp. 249-253, 258-270 <p>Submission: TEST 3, due 11/13 by 11:00 pm (15% of final grade; covers weeks 9 to 12)</p>
<p>Week 13 11/16 - 11/20</p>	<p>Lecture Video: World War I, the Nation-State System and Nationalism</p> <p>Reading: Gelvin, <i>The Modern Middle East: A History</i>, pp. 189-229</p> <p>Submission: MEDIA SURVEY & ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT, due 11/20 by 11:00 pm (20% of final grade)</p>

<p>Week 14 11/23 - 11/27</p> <p>Thanksgiving holiday (11/26 & 11/27)</p>	<p>Lecture Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Roots of the Palestine-Israel Conflict * The Iranian Revolution <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gelvin, <i>The Modern Middle East: A History</i>, pp. 230-247 * Janet Afary, "Iranian Revolution," <i>Encyclopaedia Britannica</i> (online reading) * D. Parvaz, "Iran 1979: The Islamic Revolution that shook the world," <i>Al Jazeera</i> (online reading)
<p>Week 15 11/30 - 12/4</p>	<p>Lecture Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * American Foreign Policy * The Return of Islam(ism): Is Islam Exceptional? <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gelvin, <i>The Modern Middle East: A History</i>, pp. 300-316 * Shadi Hamid, <i>Islamic Exceptionalism</i>, Chapter 1 & pp. 42-49 (avail. on Blackboard) <p>Submission: TEST 4, due 12/4 by 11:00 pm (15% of final grade; covers weeks 13 to 15)</p>