

Nanyang Technological University

# HH2004: The Islamicate World

Semester 2, 2017-2018

Academic Units: 3  
Pre-requisites: HH1001  
Instructor: Nadir Firat  
Email: [NFirat@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:NFirat@ntu.edu.sg)  
Office: Sadly none

## Overview

This course is an introduction to the history of the Islamic world from before the time of the Prophet Muhammad to the present day. Throughout this course we will consider key historical events, individuals and concepts from diverse parts of the Islamic world. We will consider the continuity of principles and practices central to Islam, as well as the diversity of Islamic and Islamicate expression over time and space. Using a range of primary sources and key texts in ongoing scholarly debates, we will critically engage with a number of enduringly relevant themes.

## Class/Tutorial Hours and Venue

- The classes will be held once a week on Fridays between 0930 hours - 1130 hours at LT18
- The tutorials will be held on Friday afternoons between 1230 hours – 1530 hours at TR+112 Tutorials will take one hour for each group.

## Learning objectives

- Establish an understanding of the major events in the history of Islamic civilizations.
- Identify and understand the essential beliefs and traditions of Islam.
- Understand the impact of the context in the development of beliefs, rituals, history and common sense.
- Develop and demonstrate critical and analytical historical thinking.

## **Some Rules**

### *Weekly Readings*

The weekly readings are assigned to help you with your understanding and familiarization with the subject discussed in the class. In an ideal world, it is expected you do all of your weekly reading, but failing that, the weekly reading of primary sources assigned for the tutorial sessions is expected and will be evaluated as part of participation in tutorial activities.

### *Academic Honesty*

The universal rules regarding academic honesty will be strictly enforced in this class. Chicago style (full notes-with-bibliography) should be adopted for all written work. Any written work has to be submitted through turnitin and papers with over 24% similarity ratings (excluding small sources and quotes & bibliography) will be returned to be re-written within 24 hours.

### *Late policy*

Late work will incur a penalty of 10% of the maximum grade for every 10 hours. Extensions may be granted until 4 days before the deadline in exceptional cases (and some creative penalty will be applied). Verbal agreements are not binding therefore the extension requests have to be made through a written medium.

## **Assessment**

*Participation in tutorial activities (10%):* This component will be made up of your attendance at the tutorials, weekly reading responses and any other in-tutorial activities.

*Group presentations (20%):* For this component you need to present on a topic of your choice (from the list provided), during class hours.

*Essay (20%):* 1500 word essay on the topics provided, due on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1700 hours.

*Final Exam (%50):* As part of the NTU regulations there will be a final written exam. The exam will be open book and will be held at ...

## **Qur'an**

I recommend the free and open source Qur'an software for computers from the <http://zeker.org/> . It is an easy to use app that comes with multiple translations, and recitations.

#### Week 1 (January 19): **Introduction**

- No readings (YEE-HAW!!)

#### Week 2 (January 26): **Pre-Islamic Arabia**

- Hoyland, Robert G. "Society." In *Arabia and the Arabs: From the Bronze Age to the Coming of Islam*, 113–38. London ; New York: Routledge, 2001.
- Hoyland, Robert G. "Religion." In *Arabia and the Arabs: From the Bronze Age to the Coming of Islam*, 139–66. London ; New York: Routledge, 2001.
- Gibb, Hamilton AR. "Pre-Islamic Monotheism in Arabia." *Harvard Theological Review* 55, no. 4 (1962): 269–280.
- Finster, Barbara. "Arabia in Late Antiquity: An Outline of the Cultural Situation in the Peninsula at the Time of Muhammad." In *The Qur'ān in Context*, 61–114. Brill, 2009.

#### Week 3 (February 2): **Foundational Years and Muhammad**

- Hillenbrand, Carole. "Muhammad." In *Introduction to Islam: Beliefs and Practices in Historical Perspective*, 39–97. Thames & Hudson, 2015.
- Lapidus, Ira M. "The Life of the Prophet." In *A History of Islamic Societies*, 18–28. Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Hitti, Philip. "Chapter VIII." In *History of The Arabs*, 111–23. Macmillan, 1984.
- Suermann, Harald. "Early Islam In The Light Of Christian And Jewish Sources." In *The Qur'ān in Context*, 135–148. Brill, 2009.

#### Week 4 (February 9): **Quran and Hadith**

- Hillenbrand, Carole. "The Qur'an." In *Introduction to Islam: Beliefs and Practices in Historical Perspective*, 99–152. Thames & Hudson, 2015.
- De Blois, Francois. "Islam in Its Arabian Context." In *The Qur'ān in Context*, 615–624. Brill, 2009.

#### Week 5 (February 16): **The Four Caliph**

- Madelung, Wilferd. "Abu Bakr." In *The Succession to Muhammad: A Study of the Early Caliphate*, 28–56. Cambridge University Press, 1998.

- Crone, Patricia. "First Civil War and Sect Formation." In *God's Rule: Government and Islam*, 17–23. Columbia University Press, 2004.
- Hitti, Philip. "The Struggle Between 'Ali and Mu'Awiyah for the Caliphate." In *History of The Arabs*, 178–88. Macmillan, 1984.

#### Week 6 (February 23): **Islamic Caliphate – Umayyads**

- Crone, Patricia. "Umayyads." In *God's Rule: Government and Islam*, 33–47. Columbia University Press, 2004.
- Lapidus, Ira M. "Nomadic Kingdom to Syrian Monarchy." In *A History of Islamic Societies*, 45–55. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

#### Week 7 (March 2): **Islamic Caliphate – Abbasids**

- Hitti, Philip. "The Establishment of the 'Abbasid Dynasty." In *History of The Arabs*, 288–96. Macmillan, 1984.
- Hitti, Philip. "The Golden Prime of the 'Abbasids." In *History of The Arabs*, 297–316. Macmillan, 1984.
- Lapidus, Ira M. "Fall of the 'Abbasid Empire." In *A History of Islamic Societies*, 103–11. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

#### Week 8 (March 16): **Shiism**

- Momen, Moojan. "Early History of Shi'i Islam AD 632 - 1000." In *An Introduction to Shi'i Islam*, 62–85. Yale University Press, 1985.
- Momen, Moojan. "The Imamate." In *An Introduction to Shi'i Islam*, 147–60. Yale University Press, 1985.
- Berkey, Jonathan P. "Shi'ism." In *The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East, 600–1800*, 2:130–40. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

#### Week 9 (March 23): **Colonialism**

- Nasr, Seyyed Vali Reza. "European Colonialism and the Emergence of Modern Muslim States." In *The Oxford History of Islam*, 549–600. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Kuran, Timur. "Part II: Organisational Stagnation." In *The Long Divergence: How Islamic Law Held Back the Middle East*, 45–168. Princeton University Press, 2012.
- Hitti, Philip. "Chapter LII." In *History of The Arabs*, 745–58. Macmillan, 1984.
- Cole, Juan. *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East*. St. Martin's Press, 2007.

#### Week 10 (March 30): **Islamic Revivalism, Wahhabism, Jihadism, Islamism**

- Hillenbrand, Carole. "Jihad." In *Introduction to Islam: Beliefs and Practices in Historical Perspective*, 305–41. Thames & Hudson, 2015.
- Michael Bonner, *Jihad in Islamic History: Doctrines and Practice*, Princeton University Press, 2008, pp 1-19
- Voll, John Obert. "Foundations for Renewal and Reform: Islamic Movements in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries." In *The Oxford History Of Islam*. Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Denoeux, Guilain. "The Forgotten Swamp: Navigating Political Islam." *Middle East Policy* 9, no. 2 (2002): 56.

Week 11 (April 6): **Islamic Revivalism, Wahhabism, Jihadism, Islamism**

**\*The essay is due today at 1700 hours.**

- Sabet, Amr. "Wilayat Al-Faqih and the Meaning of Islamic Government," 2014.
- Ahmad Moussali, *Wahhabism, Salafism and Islamism: Who is the Enemy?*, Conflicts Forum Monograph, January 2009.
- Tibi, Bassam. "Why Islamism Is Not Islam." In *Islamism and Islam*, 1–30. Yale University Press New Haven, CT, 2012.

Week 12 (April 13): **Contemporary Middle East**

- Lapidus, Ira M. "The Arab Middle East." In *A History of Islamic Societies*, 535–525. Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Lapidus, Ira M. "Republican Turkey." In *A History of Islamic Societies*, 501–12. Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Gelvin, James L. *The Modern Middle East: A History*. 4 edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Week 13 (April 20): **Review**

بالتوفيق!