Islamic History II* (HI-625)

HARTFORD SEMINARY, FALL 2010
HISTORY 625

Islamic History II

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Class sessions: Thursdays, 7:00 pm to 9:20 pm
Office hours: Tuesdays, from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Thursdays, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Course Description

This course offers an in-depth introduction to modern Muslim history. Our exploration will be based on historically broad case studies, from the 16th to the 21st centuries, from the Ottoman Empire to Iran, Palestine/Israel, India, Pakistan, Egypt and the US. Each case study will highlight a particular theme, such as modernity, memory and uses of the past, colonialism, gender, transmission and transformation of knowledge, as well as politics and authority. This course is a seminar, which means that all students must contribute to each class discussion, both orally and in writing. The format of analyzing case studies has the specific aim of refining each student’s written and oral interpretative skills.

Evaluation

Grading will be based on

1. Weekly reflections/”talking points” (30%)
2. Mid-term essay (20%) – due on October 28
3. Class presentation (10%)
4. Final essay (30%) – due on December 22
5. Class participation (10%).

Logistics

1) Weekly Reflections:

You will be expected to analyze and discuss the assigned readings at each session. Weekly reflections will be your “talking points.” They will help you organize your thoughts and prepare for each class.
Our class meets on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. You will be required to post your reflection on our class page on SONISWEB by 12:00 pm on the day of the class. In addition, make sure to print out and submit to me one hard copy of your reflection at the start of each class.

Each reflection must be around 2 pages (a bit less or a bit more does not matter). Please approach each reflection as a dialogue between you and the readings. In other words, what are your thoughts on one or two points an author makes? What are some questions that have arisen while you read the assignment?

It is up to you to shape each reflection. Some possible ways may be to

- Reflect on an idea you found intriguing
- Explore how an author presents a particular theme
- Think through implications of a particular idea (don’t make it too broad)
- Compare between this and previous weeks’ readings.
- Trace how this week’s reading speaks to a theme we have encountered earlier.

Make sure that each reflection contains 2 or 3 written questions to be asked in class.

You will be required to start submitting reflections as of our 2nd session. The grade for this assignment will be based on the quantity and quality of your submissions. I will return printed copies of your reflection with a grade of either a “+” or a “-.” Plus stands for pass, and minus for fail.

The scale for the final evaluation will be as follows:

- A=11 passing entries
- B=8 passing entries
- C+= 6 passing entries
- C=5 passing entries
- F=4 or fewer passing entries.

**No late submissions will be accepted.** There will be no way to make up for missed reflections.

2) Midterm and Final Essays:

You will have to submit two essays during the semester. The midterm essay should be 5-7 pages in length. The final essay should be 10-12 pages.

I will assign the topic for the midterm paper. However, you will be responsible for selecting the subject of your final essay.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas for both papers at any stage of preparation.

Grading standards for the essays will be:
A = Excellent. Excellent presentation and analysis that demonstrates original interpretation.
B = Good. Solid command of facts and good attempt at analysis.
C+ = Adequate in the sense of doing minimal compliance with the assignment.
C = Poor; did not complete the assignment adequately but shows some effort.
F = Failing; did not complete the assignment.

3) Class Presentation:

At the end of semester, we will hold three sessions where each student will present and defend their proposal for the final essay. In the week when you present your proposal, you will not be required to submit a reflection. Instead, you will e-mail me your proposal, which must include: a) preliminary title; b) thesis statement (1 paragraph); c) brief outline of your analysis; d) bibliography.

**Texts**

Daniel Goffman. The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe (Cambridge University Press, 2002)

Orhan Pamuk. My Name is Red (Vintage International, 2002)

Roy Mottahedeh. The Mantle of the Prophet (One World, 2000, 2nd ed.)


Amina Wadud. Inside the Gender Jihad (Oneworld Publications, 2006)

*In addition, I will assign short primary source readings, which will be available either on SONISWEB, via e-mail, or as links to online sources.

**Schedule**

September 16 – Introduction

- Marilyn Waldman, “Prehistory and History of the Islamic Community,” Encyclopaedia Britannica article (on SONISWEB)
• Charles Tilly, "The Europe of Columbus and Bayazid," Middle East Report 22, no. 178 (September/October), pp. 2-5 (on SONISWEB)

September 23 – The Ottoman Case

• Goffman, 1-235

September 30 – The Ottoman Case

• Orhan Pamuk, My Name is Read, pp 1-177

October 7- The Ottoman Case

• My Name is Red, pp. 178-413

October 14 – The Case of Iran

• Roy Mottahedeh, The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran, pp. 1-185

October 21 – The Case of Iran

• The Mantle, pp. 186-390

October 28 - The Case of Palestine/Israel

• Ilan Pappe, A History of Modern Palestine, pp. 1-140

Deadline for Midterm Papers

November 4 – Palestine/Israel

• A History of Modern Palestine, pp. 141-293

November 11- Intellectual and Institutional Transitions: The case of the `ulama

• Muhammad Qasim Zaman, The Ulama in Contemporary Islam

November 18 – Contemporary Muslim Revival: Women and Popular Movements

• Mahmood, Politics of Piety

November 25 - no class
December  2 – American Muslims and Muslim Feminism

- Amina Wadud, Inside the Gender Jihad

1st day of class presentations

December 9 - American Muslims

- Excerpts from Steven Barboza, American Jihad: Islam After Malcolm X:
  1) “Allah at Harvard – Ali Asani,” pp. 36-43;
  2) “The Caligrapher – Mohamed Zakariya,” pp. 64-68;
  3) “Nomad – Hamza Hanson,” pp. 350-356;
  4) “Pioneers – Benjamin and Clara Muhammad,” pp. 79-82;
  6) “Converting the Converted – A Mosque in Newark,” pp. 115-118;
  7) “Louis Farrakhan,” pp. 140-150;
  9) “Coming to America – Mona El-Raddaf,” pp. 244-247;

(all Barboza entries will be available on SONISWEB)

2nd day of class presentations

December 16 – 9/11

- Rosalind Gwynne, "Al-Qa’idah and the Qur’an: The 'tafsir' of Usamah bin Laden" (http://web.utk.edu/~warda/bin_ladin_and_quran.htm)

Last day of class presentations

Final papers are due at 4:00 pm on December 22nd