

Module 2, Weeks 7-12

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History 1F90

Islamic Empires

For general instructions about the course see HIST General Outline on sakai

Text for Seminars and Lectures:

All Seminar and Lecture Readings are available on the SAKAI site.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this module, you should be able to demonstrate the following:

- Learn several major events related to the Middle East
- Become familiar with the establishment of major empires in the Middle East
- Be able to analyse several secondary sources related to the Middle East
- Learn various interpretations of historians of the past
- Discuss and analyze major developments in the Middle East
- Develop oral and writing skills in analysing historical texts

Week 7. Introduction: When did the Islamic Empire begin?

Readings for lecture:

The Formation of the Islamic State

Fred M. Donner

Journal of the American Oriental Society, Vol. 106, No. 2 (Apr. - Jun., 1986), pp. 283-296

Published by: American Oriental Society

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/601592>

Seminar readings:

Boundaries and Frontiers in Medieval Muslim Geography

Ralph W. Brauer

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, New Series, Vol. 85, No. 6 (1995), pp. 1-73

Published by: American Philosophical Society

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1006658>

Questions to ponder:

In your opinion, was geographical boundary important to the historian of the early Islamic period? Why were maps important? How cartography was represented? How was the frontier of the Islamic Empire distinguished?

Week 8. The Abbasid Empire: The Golden Age

Readings for lecture:

Translation as Self-Consciousness:

Ancient Sciences, Antediluvian Wisdom, and the ‘Abbāsīd Translation Movement

Hayrettin Yücesoy

Journal of World History, Vol. 20, No. 4 (Dec., 2009), pp. 523-557

http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy.library.brocku.ca/journals/journal_of_world_history/v020/20.4.yucesoy.html

Seminar readings:

The Glory That Was Baghdad

Jason Goodwin

The Wilson Quarterly (1976-), Vol. 27, No. 2 (Spring, 2003), pp. 24-28

Published by: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40261181>

Questions to ponder:

When was the city of Baghdad founded? Why was Baghdad important? When did Baghdad become important? Why was Baghdad the symbol of the Islamic civilization? What ethnic groups did contribute to the development the Abbasid Empire in Baghdad?

Week 9. The coming of the Mongol nomads

Readings for lecture:

Who Ran the Mongol Empire?

D. O. Morgan

The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland , No. 1 (1982), pp. 124-136

Published by: Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25211311>

Seminar readings:

Ghazan, Islam and Mongol Tradition: A View from the Mamlūk sultanate

Reuven Amitai-Preiss

Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London , Vol. 59, No. 1 (1996), pp. 1-10

Published by: Cambridge University Press on behalf of School of Oriental and African Studies

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/619387>

Questions to ponder:

Who was Ghazan? Why conversion to Islam was important to the Mongol Empire? What was the Yasa? Were the Yasa and the Islamic law different or similar? In your opinion, to what extent did the Mongols preserve their nomadic tradition?

Week 10. Turkish nomads founded the Ottoman Empire

Readings for lecture:

Ottoman Methods of Conquest

Halil Inalcik

Studia Islamica , No. 2 (1954), pp. 103-129

Published by: Maisonneuve & Larose

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1595144>

Seminar readings:

The Ottoman Theatre 1839-1923

Nermin Menemencioglu

Bulletin (British Society for Middle Eastern Studies) , Vol. 10, No. 1 (1983), pp. 48-58

Published by: Taylor & Francis, Ltd.

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/194559>

Questions to ponder:

Who was Namik Kemal? Why do you think he was an important figure? What was the contribution of minorities to the Ottoman theater? What was the impact of Western music on the traditional military music of the Ottoman Empire? How did reforms change the social life of the Ottomans?

Week 11. NO CLASS

**Week 12. From the imperial Pahlavi to the Islamic Revolution
Assignment Due**

Readings for lecture:

The Qum Protests and the Coming of the Iranian Revolution, 1975 and 1978

Charles Kurzman

Social Science History, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Fall, 2003), pp. 287-325

<http://web.ebscohost.com.proxy.library.brocku.ca/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=914d0e44-ac2b-4775-a934-5d2ecee333b%40sessionmgr14&vid=2&hid=17#>

Seminar readings:

Popularity of Islamic and Persian Names in Iran before and after the Islamic Revolution

Nader Habibi

International Journal of Middle East Studies , Vol. 24, No. 2 (May, 1992), pp. 253-260

Published by: Cambridge University Press

Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/164297>

Questions to ponder:

How have political and cultural reforms affected the selection of names? What factors do contribute to the selection of names in Iran? What was the impact of the Islamic Revolution on the selection of names? In your opinion, what were the most important cultural differences between the Islamic and Pahlavi regimes?

Assignment for Module 2

Topic:

Various ethnic and religious groups contributed to the development of Baghdad and the emergence of the Islamic Golden Age during the Abbasid Empire. Based on the lectures and seminar readings, discuss various cultural, political, religious and social factors, which contributed to the formation of an Islamic civilization in Baghdad.

Details (some instructions of module 1 have been applied below):

- Use M.L. Rampolla, *A pocket guide to writing in history* for the preparation, writing and formatting of your essay.
- **In addition to the course materials, you should use external sources (total 4 sources). THE ESSAY SHOULD REPRESENT YOUR OWN ATTEMPT AT ANALYSIS AND YOUR OWN THOUGHTS ON THE TOPIC.**
- **Your assignment should be between 800 and 1000 words (10% of your final grade).**
- **A hard copy of the essay is due at the beginning of lecture in the final week of the module (week 12); essays that are received after the start of lecture will be considered late and treated according to the guidelines provided in the course outline.**
- **Papers that are either too long or too short may receive a penalty of 5%.**
- **Late papers will be penalized according to the guidelines provided in the course outline; it is your responsibility to ensure that your paper is received on the due date.**
- **Be sure to keep all rough notes for the paper as you may be asked to submit these.**
- **Be sure to keep an electronic version of the paper in case you are asked for this, but note that electronic submissions via e mail are not acceptable.**
- Your essay must be **properly formatted** according to the conventions laid down in Rampolla, *Pocket Guide to Writing History*. **Essays that are not properly formatted**

will be penalized by 5-10% depending on the nature of the problem. Improperly formatted papers may also be returned for revision and resubmission at the instructor's discretion.

- Give your paper a title that accurately reflects its content and argument; do NOT title it "HIST 1F90 ESSAY", "ESSAY 1", etc.
- **Title page must be formatted according to the template provided on SAKAI; essays without title pages or that do not utilize the template format will receive a penalty of 5%.**
- Essays should have page numbers placed at **bottom centre commencing on first page of text [not title page]** and running continuously to last page.
- Papers are marked on CONTENT, ORGANIZATION, STYLE, and FORMATTING. Style and organization are particularly important: be sure that your paper is effectively organized and is free of errors of spelling and grammar. Please consult the grading rubric on p. 6 of the course outline for further guidelines.
- As indicated in the course outline you must submit your paper to turnitin.com before handing in the hard copy, and you must submit a copy of the turnitin.com report along with your essay.

**** END OF PROF. MIRZAI'S MODULE ****