



**The University of Western Ontario  
HISTORY 2607F**

**History & Civilization of Medieval Islam  
Tuesday, 1:30-4:30pm, MC-105B**

**Instructor: Dr. Maya Shatzmiller Ph.D. FRSC**

Office Hours: Monday 2-4pm, Tuesday 4-5pm  
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2229  
Email: maya@uwo.ca

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**Course Description:**

The course introduces the main events and themes of Islamic history and civilization and their place in world history. Topics include: Muhammad and the Qur'an, the Islamic legal system, social structure and political institutions, literature, philosophy, theology, art and architecture, medicine and science, interaction with Europe, the Crusades, and trade.

**Course Syllabus:**

The Muslim world is at the centre of international and national attention as worldwide awareness of its weight and importance grows. This course is designed to respond to the mounting academic and public interest in the history of Islamic societies, and on the university level to address misconceptions and ignorance about Islamic history in a scholarly manner. I intend this survey course to be the foundational course for the proposed Islamic History and Culture module currently under consideration.

The course will introduce students to the main events and themes of Islamic history and civilization and their place in world history. The course will begin with the seventh century Arab sweep across the Middle East and the creation of a new religion, Islam. The newly established Islamic states, which supplanted the Roman, Persian and Byzantine empires in parts of Europe, Africa and Asia, created a new civilization, no less sophisticated and brilliant than its predecessors. The survey will cover the important achievements of the Islamic world, counting topics such as: Muhammad and the Qur'an, the conquest movement, the Islamic legal system, the economy, social structure and political institutions, literature, philosophy, theology, art and architecture, medicine and science, interaction with Europe, the Crusades, trade, and the translation of Arabic scientific works into Latin. The course is based on the instructor's lectures and on readings from secondary and primary sources.

**Course Materials:**

-Vernon O. Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405. The Making of a Civilization*. (Pearson Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2004)

-*Oxford Islamic Studies online* (Gain access through the UWO Library website)

-Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing In History*, Sixth Edition. (Bedford/St.Martin's, 2010)

**OR**

William Kelleher Storey and Towser Jones, *Writing History. A Guide for Canadian Students*, Third Edition. (Oxford University Press, Canada, 2011)

## Methods of Evaluation:

Participation	Attendance	5%
<i>Encyclopaedia of Islam</i> Assignment	Due Monday, October 17 <sup>th</sup> in the beginning of class	15%
Research Essay (10 pages)	Due Monday, November 7 <sup>th</sup> in the beginning of class	30%
Cumulative Final Exam	Determined by the Registrar (3 hours)	50%

## Course Schedule and Readings:

For Lectures 1-4 in Oxford Islamic Studies online, read: Muhammad and the Caliphate (All 12 sections)

### 1. Orientation Structure, general introduction.

\*Read Lecture on WebCT\* (*Readings*: Egger, xv-xvi, 1-20)

### 2. Muhammad: The man and the mission. The Environment.

*Readings*: Egger, 20-32.

### 3. Political Developments 1: Conquest and the Empire

*Note: No readings, all information will be given in class*

### 4. The Qur'an

*Readings*: Egger, 33-61

For Lectures 5-6 in Oxford Islamic Studies online, read: Law and Society (All 9 sections)

### 5. Social Structures and Institutions. The Islamic City.

\*Encyclopedia of Islam Assignment due\*

*Readings*: Egger, 62-103

### 6. The Legal System

*Readings*: Egger, 114-122

### 7. The Economy.

*Readings*: Egger, 104-113

### 8. Political Developments 2: Regional States

*Readings*: Egger, 94-104

### 9. Arabic Literature, Philosophy and Mysticism

\*Research Essay due\*

*Readings*: Egger, 123-138. Oxford Islamic Studies: Philosophy and Theology (All 13 sections)

### 10. Islamic Medicine and Science

*Readings*: Oxford Islamic Studies: Science, Medicine, and Technology (All 10 sections)

**For Lectures 11-12** in Oxford Islamic Studies online, read: Art and Architecture (All 6 sections)

## **11. Islamic Architecture**

## **12. Islamic Art**

### **Additional Statements**

#### ***Academic Offences:***

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

#### ***Accessibility Options:***

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

#### ***Medical Issues***

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf)

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

### ***Plagiarism:***

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to

make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

### ***Scholastic Offences***

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### ***Support Services***

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### ***Use of Electronic Devices***

Electronic devices may be used for classwork only. No electronic devices will be permitted during tests and exams

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail [vangalen@uwo.ca](mailto:vangalen@uwo.ca).