

MEDIEVAL ISLAM

Crusaders, Turks, & Mongols

Winter 2015, MW 12-1:30 pm, 117 Lokey Education Building

This course explores the route and realms of Medieval Islam from the approximately the 10th thru 14th centuries CE through the eyes of adventurers, traders, pilgrims, warrior-poets, and chroniclers who witnessed its marvels and penned its many stories. Strong focus is placed on reading primary source materials in English translation and craft of writing analytical historical analysis based on primary sources. *No prior background is required.*

INSTRUCTOR: **Sean W. Anthony**, Assistant Professor of Islamic History
 office: 309 McKenzie Hall
 office hours: MWF 2:30-4:00; or by appointment
 email: swanthon@uoregon.edu

Course Website. Please consult the course website regularly for announcements. The website is accessible via UofO's *Blackboard* system (see <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>). The site contains general course information, reading assignments, research guides, lecture handouts, study questions for discussion, paper assignments, visual images, links to other sites, etc.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Books Required for Purchase (available at the Duck Store):

Paul M. Cobb. *The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Christopher Tyerman. *The Crusades: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Tim Mackintosh-Smith and James E. Montgomery, ed. and tr. *Two Arabic Travel Books: Abū Zayd al-Sīrāfī's Accounts of China and India and Ibn Faḍlān's Mission to the Volga*. New York: NYU Press, 2014.

Readings, Assignments, and Class Participation

Please consult this syllabus frequently throughout the quarter. It will serve as your guide for the readings and assignments necessary for you to participate in and benefit from class time to maximum extent possible. As is necessary, I will continue to update the content of the syllabus as needed, particularly the class schedule, as the quarter progresses.

Readings

Much of the basic work you will be doing outside of class will focus on your readings. For most days, there are two types of readings present on the syllabus: primary source readings and supplemental readings. It is particularly important in this class to focus on the *primary source readings*—when you come to class at the beginning of the week, I expect that you will have read and taken notes for in-class discussion and questions on

these assigned texts. Before each session, you must email to swanthon@uoregon.edu at least **3 questions** about the primary source reading assignment.

Assignments

The bulk of your grade for this course will be evaluated based on three assignments: an **2 in-class presentation papers** and a **final essay** written in response to prompts based off class lectures and readings.

Your in-class presentations will be on *primary sources readings* in translation assigned in class and consists of two components. The first is the completion of the **Textual Analysis Handout** due the day of your in-class presentation and handed in to me. The second is a 15-20 minute, in-class presentation on the source and its historical significance.

Your final essay will be assigned from a prompt and due at the end of the quarter. This essay will ask you to carefully adjudicate a historiographical debate and will serve as your attempt to express your own ideas in a medium-length essay (5 to 7 pages in length, 1.5 spaced, standard font such as Times New Roman or Garamond) on an assigned topic. These topics will require you to draw extensively upon the assigned readings and the ideas discussed in class and will be scrutinized and evaluated on the basis of the criteria of academic writing. **Essays should be emailed to islamic.history.papers@gmail.com as a Word file by 5:00pm Pacific Standard Time on the due date.**

Developing and mastering the ability to write critically and to engage historical events and persons with critical acumen is a difficult, but worthwhile, task. Even if you never revisit the topic of this course again, the skills you acquire in writing and improving your essays will serve you well for the rest of your life. I therefore beseech you to take time to write your essays well. Further instructions on class paper assignments can be found on the assignment handouts and course **Grading Rubric**.

Class Participation

"80% of success is showing up."

-Woody Allen

This class depends on you to function fully. If you do not participate in class discussions, do not present assigned articles, and fail to communicate to me any indication that you've read the texts (and such indications could be in the form of insightful observations or cantankerous bewilderment), then I will be compelled to give you a low-grade.

Grading Scheme

Participation and Attendance	15 %
Presentations (x2)	50 %
Analytical Essay	35 %

Learning Objectives

- Develop an historical understanding of Medieval Islam and the relevance of the historical transformations of the period to the modern world

- Identify and employ historical methods and terminologies to understand societal and cultural change
- Synthesize arguments from historical evidence and express them in formal prose.

Other class policies

Computers, cellphones, etc. Please, no texting, no email checking, no laptop/ipad/netbook usage in class. All of the readings you'll need for class will be available in your course packet, and I'd much prefer you interact with your classmates and me rather than a machine. And, besides, science is on my side! (For now at least; see <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom>)

Academic Honesty. All of the regular rules of the university apply. If you are unfamiliar with these, please do consult the Student Conduct and Community Standards at the Office of Student Life:

<http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/tabid/68/Default.aspx>

All the work and ideas that you hand in must be your own, and my policy towards plagiarism is one of absolute *zero tolerance*. If you are unsure of what plagiarism is, an excellent guide exists here at UO:

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>

Attendance. This class is taught for your sake and your peers' sake, so for Pete's sake, please attend class! The quality of your classroom experience and those of your classmates depends on your commitment. *Your grade will suffer if you do not attend, guaranteed.*

REFERENCE WORKS

A selection of basic reference dealing with Islamic history and civilization be found at the Knight Library and accessed via the library's online resources. Below is a list of the most authoritative and useful:

- *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 2nd edition; the gold standard of Islamic studies and abbreviated as *EF*. It is easily accessed online at <http://referenceworks.brillonline.com.libproxy.uoregon.edu>
- *Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE*; the third edition of *EF* is underway but still in its infancy, most including articles falling under the letter 'A'.
- *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History*, ed. D. Thomas et al. (Leiden, 2009-2013)
- JSTOR: useful for essentially any class you'll take here at Oregon, by logging into jstor.org via Oregon's proxy server and/or at the library, you have access to a wealth of scholarly articles on Islamic history and civilization. If you're looking for a place to find sources on the Internet, this should be one of your first stops (Wikipedia, while useful in some respects, tends to be VERY unreliable and/or ideological for early Islamic history).

COURSE SCHEDULE (WINTER 2015)

Week 1

1.a. (05 Jan) Course Introduction

1.b. (07 Jan) The Abode of Islam

READINGS:

Cobb, *Race for Paradise*, 9-35

Week 2

2.a. (12 Jan) Beyond the Abode of Islam

READINGS:

Aziz al-Azmeh, "Barbarians in Arab Eyes," *Past & Present* 134 (1992): 3-18.

Ibn al-Faqīh and Ibn Khurradādhbih on the Travels of the Radhāniyya and Ibrāhīm ibn Ya'qūb; in *Ibn Faḍlān and the Land of Darkness: Arab Travellers in the Far North* (New York 2012), 111-114, 162-68.

Ibn Faḍlān, *Mission to the Volga*, tr. James E. Montgomery (New York 2014), 190-259.

2.b. (14 Jan) Beyond the Abode of Islam (2)

READINGS:

Sallām the Dragoman's Quest for Alexander's Wall, in Emeri van Donzel and Andrea Schmidt, *Gog and Magog in Early Eastern Christian and Islamic Sources: Sallam's Quest for Alexander's Wall* (Leiden 2010), 121-65.

Abū Zayd al-Sirāfi, *Accounts of China and India*, tr. Tim Mackintosh-Smith (New York 2014), 20-133.

Week 3

3.a. (19 Jan) **MLK Day – NO CLASS**

3.b. (21 Jan) Reconquista in the Islamic West: al-Andalus and Sicily

READINGS:

Cobb, 36-77

Excerpts from the *Song of the Cid* (ca. 1200), tr. Rita Hamilton; in Olivia Remi Constable, ed., *Medieval Iberia* (Philadelphia 1997), 111-15

Week 4

4.a. (26 Jan) Islamic Jerusalem Before the Crusades

READINGS:

Suleiman Ali Mourad, "The Symbolism of Jerusalem in Early Islam," in Tamar Mayer and S. A. Mourad, eds., *Jerusalem: Idea and Reality* (London 2008), 86-102.

The *Isrā'* and *Mi'raj* (Night Journey and Ascension) of the Prophet, from Ibn Ishāq (pronounced: Is-hāq), *The Life of Muhammad*, tr. A. Guillaume (Oxford 1955), 181-87

Nāṣer-e Khusraw (d. 1088), *Safarnāmah*, tr. W.M. Thackston (New York 1986), 19-38

4.b. (28 Jan) Christian Pilgrimage to the Jerusalem (1)

READINGS:

Adomnan (and Arculf) (late-seventh to early-eighth century CE), *The Holy Places*, in John Wilkinson, *Jerusalem Pilgrims Before the Crusades* (Warminster 2002), 167-206.

Hugeburc (wr. mid-eighth century CE), *Life of St. Willibald*, in Wilkinson, *Jerusalem Pilgrims*, 233-51.

Week 5

5.a. (02 Feb) Christian Pilgrimage to Jerusalem (2)

"Two Accounts of the German Pilgrimage of 1064-65" from the *Annals of Nieder-Altaich* and the *Chronicle of Marianus Scottus*; in Brett Edward Whalen, ed., *Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages* (Toronto 2011), 175-80.

"Peter the Hermit's Pilgrimage," from William of Tyre, *A History of Deed Done Beyond the Sea*; in Whalen, *op. cit.*, 184-88.

5.b. (03 Feb) The First Crusade and the Capture of Jerusalem

READINGS:

Cobb, *Race for Paradise*, 78-103

Peter Tudebode and Raymon d'Aguilers on the Fall of Jerusalem, in Edward Peters, *The First Crusade: The Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres and Other Source Material* (Philadelphia 1971), 245-55.

"Two Letters from the Jewish Geniza," in E. Peters, *First Crusade*, 263-72.

Ibn al-Athīr and Ibn al-Qalānisī on the Fall of Jerusalem, in E. Peters, *First Crusade*, 272-75.

Week 6

6.a. (09 Feb) The Rise of the Zengids and the Second Crusade

READINGS:

Cobb, 124-65

Ibn al-Qalānisī (d. 1160) on Zengī and Nūr al-Dīn, tr. H.A.R. Gibb, *The Damascus Chronicle of the Crusades* (London 1932), 256-62, 333-37

6.b. (11 Feb) Nūr al-Dīn's Jihād

READINGS:

‘Alī ibn Ṭāhir al-Sulāmī (d. 1106), *The Book of Jihād*, tr. Niall Christie¹ [Brooke

Ibn ‘Asākir (d. 1176), *Forty Ḥadīths for Inciting Jihād*; in Suleiman Mourad and James E. Lindsay, *The Intensification and Reorientation of Sunni Jihad Ideology in the Crusader Period* (Leiden 2012).

Week 7

7.a. (16 Feb) Muslim Accounts of the Franks in the Levant

READINGS:

Cobb, 104-23

Usāma ibn Munqidh, *The Book of Contemplation*, tr. P. Cobb (New York 2008), 131-54.

Travels of Ibn Jubayr, tr. R.J.C. Broadhurst (London 1952), 313-22.

7.b. (18 Feb) The Rise of Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn al-Ayyūbī

READINGS:

Cobb, 166-93

Bahā’ al-Dīn Ibn Shaddād on Saladin; from *The Rare and Excellent History of Saladin (al-Nawādir al-ṣultāniyya wa-l-maḥāsini al-Yūsufiyya)*, tr. D.S. Richards (Aldershot 2001), 13-38

Week 8

8.a. (23 Feb) Saladin and the Third Crusade

READINGS:

Ibn al-Athīr on Saladin's liberation of Jerusalem; *The Chronicle of Ibn al-Athīr for the Crusading Period from al-Kāmil fī l-tārīkh, 2: The Age of Nur al-Din and Saladin*, tr. D.S. Richards (Aldershot 2007), 330-35.

‘Imād al-Dīn al-Iṣfahānī on Saladin's liberation of Jerusalem; in F. Gabrieli, *Arab Historians of the Crusades*, tr. E.J. Costello (London 1969), 146-75.

8.b. (24 Feb) Heirs to Saladin: Ayyūbids and Mamlūks

READINGS:

¹ <http://www.arts.cornell.edu/prh3/447/texts/sulami.html>

Cobb, 194-218

Week 9

9.a. (02 Mar) The Mongol Hordes

READINGS

The Secret History of the Mongols

Ibn al-Athīr on the Mongol Invasions; from D.S. Richards, tr., *The Chronicle of Ibn al-Athīr for the Crusading Period from al-Kāmil fī l-tārīkh*, 3: *The Ayyubids after Saladin and the Mongol Menace* (Aldershot 2008), 3: 202-13.

9.b. (04 Mar) Hülegü, The Fall of the Baghdād and the Īl-Khāns

READINGS:

‘Aṭā Mālek Jovayni, *Tārīkh-e Jahān-Goshā*, tr. J. A. Boyle; in *The World of Islam*, ed. W.H. McNeill and M.R. Waldman (Chicago 1973), 253-72.

Rashid al-Din, *Jawāme‘ al-tavārikh* Rashīd al-Dīn on Hülegü and the last ‘Abbāsīd Caliph, tr. W. Thackston

Week 10

10.a (09 Mar) Osman’s Dream: The Ottomans

READINGS:

Cobb, 246-70.

Aşıkpaşazade, *Tawārikh-i āl-i ‘Uthmān*, tr. Robert Dankoff; in Barbara H. Rosenwein, ed., *Reading the Middle Ages* (Toronto 2014), 451-55.

10.b. (11 Mar) The Ottomans (2b)

READINGS:

Laonikos Chalkoondyles, *The Histories*, tr. Anthony Kaldellis (Washington, DC 2014), 3-91.