The course is an introductory survey of the politics, society, and culture of the pre-modern Middle East from the birth of Islam in Arabia to the beginnings of European domination of the region, seventh through the eighteenth centuries. Themes such as state formation, sectarianism, political legitimacy, imperial consolidation, and contacts with the Christian world will be examined on the example of early Arab empires and the Ottoman and Safavid states.

BEGINNINGS OF ISLAM AND THE ISLAMIC POLITY

0. **Th Sep 22** Introduction: Islam in historical perspective

   Independent viewing assignment:
   - *Islam: Empire of Faith* (part I)

1. **Tu Sep 27** The prophet as messenger, leader, and model
   **Th Sep 29** The evolution of the first Islamic state

   **Readings**:
   - “The Qur’an and Other Islamic Texts,” in M. E. Gettleman and S. Schaar, *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader*, 12-26

   Independent viewing assignment:
   - *Hajj: The Pilgrimage*

2. **Tu Oct 4** The problem of political legitimacy and schisms
   **Th Oct 6** Discussion

   **Readings**:
   - Saunders, 39-75
   - Richard Yann, *Shiite Islam*, 15-34
THE AGE OF ARAB DYNASTIC EMPIRE

3. Tu Oct 11  Formation of an empire
   Th Oct 13  …and a civilization

Readings:

   Saunders, 77-105
   Leila Ahmed, Women and Gender in Islam, 79-101

Independent viewing assignment:
   Islam: Empire of Faith (part II)

4. Tu Oct 18  Societal tensions in the domain of the caliphate
   Th Oct 20  Rival caliphates

Readings:

   Saunders, 106-198

FROM DISUNITY TO RE-CONSOLIDATION

5. Tu Oct 25  The challenges from the West and the East: The crusades and the Mongols
   Th Oct 27  Fragmentation

Readings:

   Rashid al-Din Fazlullah, “The Mongol Conquest of Baghdad,” in Gettleman and Schaar, 48-51
   Excerpt from Ibn Khaldun's Muqaddimah, ed. Charles Issawi, 99-126
   Ross Dunn, The Adventures of Ibn Battuta, 1-12; 41-62

6. Tu Nov 1  Discussion
   Th Nov 3  MID-TERM EXAMINATION
RE-CONSOLIDATION OF MUSLIM EMPIRES

7. **Tu Nov 8** Foundations and rise of the Ottoman state
**Th Nov 10** Ottoman institutions and expansion

Readings:

- Norman Itzkowitz, *Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition* 3-61
- Kritovoulos, *History of Mehmed the Conqueror* in McNeill and Waldman, 312-36

Independent viewing assignment:

*Islam: Empire of Faith: The Ottomans* (part III)

8. **Tu Nov 15** Film: "The Age of Sulayman"
**Th Nov 17** The gunpowder empires (16th century): Safavid Iran and Mughal India

Readings

- Ira Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 226-47
- “Letters from Selim and Isma’il,” in McNeill and Waldman, 337-44
- Stephen Dale, *The Muslim Empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals*, 1-9; 48-76

THE MUSLIM WORLD AND THE RISE OF MODERN EUROPE

9. **Tu Nov 22** Internal and external challenges
**Th Nov 24** Holiday -- Thanksgiving

Readings:

- Itzkowitz, 63-109
- Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *The Complete Letters*, v-vii; 353-373

10. **Tu Nov 29** Discussion
**Th Dec 1** Towards the modern Middle East

Reading:

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 47-59, 69-87

(OVER)
READING LIST

Norman Itzkowitz, *Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition*
J. J. Saunders, *A History of Medieval Islam*

(Both available at the University Bookstore and on hard-copy Reserves at SSH Library)

All other readings can be accessed on TED (Web-Ct)

The films for independent viewing are available at SSH Video and Film Reserves.

REQUIREMENTS

Mid-term exam on November 3 (35%)
Final exam (comprehensive) on December 8 (8:00 a.m.) (65%)

Both exams are mandatory and in-class. They cannot be administered before the scheduled dates under any circumstances. Bring blue book and pen/pencil.

Students are responsible for following University rules governing academic honesty, as explained on the following web site: http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html
Access to electronic devices, including cell phones, is not allowed during examinations.