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 encounters 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 27 Introduction: Islam in historical perspective

Independent viewing assignment:
Islam: Empire of Faith
http://whiv.alexanderstreet.com/View/897551
(part I)

1. Tu Oct 2 The prophet as messenger, leader, and model
Th Oct 4 The evolution of the first Islamic state

Readings:

J. J. Saunders, A History of Medieval Islam, 1-37
https://roger.ucsd.edu:443/record=b5800843~S9
“The Qur’an and Other Islamic Texts,” in M. E. Gettleman and S. Schaar, The Middle East and Islamic World Reader, 12-26
Fred Donner, “Muhammad and the Believers’ Movement,” in Muhammad and the Believers, 39-89

2. Tu Oct 9 The problem of political legitimacy and schisms
Th Oct 11 Film: Hajj: The Pilgrimage

Readings:

Saunders, 39-75
Heinz Halm, Shi’a Islam, 3-9, 15-37
THE AGE OF ARAB DYNASTIC EMPIRE

3. **Tu Oct 16**  Formation of an empire  
   **Th Oct 18**  Consolidation of Islamic 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 23**  Societal tensions and rival sovereignties  
   **Th Oct 25**  The challenges from the West and the East: The crusades and the Mongols

Readings:

- Saunders, 106-198  
- Rashid al-Din Fazlullah, “The Mongol Conquest of Baghdad,” in Gettleman and Schaar, 48-51

FROM DISUNITY TO RE-CONSOLIDATION

5. **Tu Oct 30**  Fragmentation  
   **Th Nov 1**  Discussion

Readings:

- Vernon Egger, A History of Muslim World since 1260, 4-23  
- Ross Dunn, The Adventures of Ibn Battuta, 1-12; 41-62  

6. **Tu Nov 6**  MID-TERM EXAMINATION  
   **Th Nov 8**  (To be announced)
RE-CONSOLIDATION OF MUSLIM EMPIRES

7. **Tu Nov 13** Foundations and rise of the Ottoman state
   **Th Nov 15** Ottoman institutions and expansion

Readings:
   - Suraiya Faroqhi, *The Ottoman Empire*, 41-55, 59-81
   - Kritovoulos, *History of Mehmed the Conqueror* in McNeill & Waldman, 312-36

Independent viewing assignment:
   - *Islam: Empire of Faith: The Ottomans* (part III)

8. **Tu Nov 20** Film: "The Age of Sulayman"
   **Th Nov 22** Holiday -- Thanksgiving

Readings:
   - Ira Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 226-47
   - “Letters from Selim and Isma’il,” in McNeill & 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 27** Gunpowder empires (16th century): Safavid Iran and Mughal India
   **Th Nov 29** Internal and external challenges

Readings:
   - Norman Itzkowitz, *Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition*, 63-109
   - Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *The Complete Letters*, v-vii; 353-373

10. **Tu Dec 4** Discussion
    **Th Dec 6** Towards the modern Middle East

Reading:
   - James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 47-59, 69-87
   (OVER)
READINGS

J. J. Saunders, *A History of Medieval Islam* can be accessed from Roger on campus terminals and VPN enabled personal computers.  
https://roger.ucsd.edu:443/record=b5800843~S9

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

REQUIREMENTS

Mid-term exam on November 6 (35%)  
Final exam (comprehensive) on December 13 (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