

RLST/ARAB 2320 - Muslim World

Spring 2019 – CORE (Human Diversity)

* *This syllabus is provisional; content & requirements may change at the discretion of the instructor.*

NOTE: Important announcements, instructions and updates will be communicated via colorado.edu email. It is your responsibility to check your messages and keep current.

Time & Location: T/Th 12:30–1:45PM HUMN 1B90

Instructor:

Prof. Brian A. Catlos

Eaton Humanities 282

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(Please put **ARAB/RLST 2320** as the subject line; your e-mail **MUST** come from your colorado.edu address)

Office hours: T 9:30–10:30am & W 9–10am, and by appointment (in any event, even during office hours you are advised to email ahead to reserve/confirm your meeting).

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Office hours: TBA

Overview:

Focusing on the history of the Muslim World in the age of the caliphates, this course takes an interdisciplinary, comparative approach to the development of Islamic society, focusing on social structure, politics, economics, and religion. Students will use primary and secondary sources to write a research paper, and make in-class presentations, to cultivate critical thinking, research, and writing skills.

Course Completion and Evaluation

Attendance and participation is required. Students will be expected to complete reading for seminars prior to the date in question, and regularly prepare presentations. More than four unexcused absences may result in failure. All assignments must be completed. A grade of 60% on the essay and exam are required to pass. A minimum grade of 80% is required on the map quiz (students may re-take the quiz twice). Students must complete and submit an enrollment form at their first class. Students entitled to accommodations for accessibility, athletics or other reasons must provide documentation and meet with the professor within one week of starting class.

Everyone will prepare a research paper (16-20pp) on a topic of their choice, determined in consultation with the professor.

Reading list

Donner, Fred McGraw. *Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam*. Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010.

Hodgson, Marshall G. S. *The Venture of Islam. Conscience and History in a World Civilization*. Vols 1 & 2. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974.

Ruthven, Malise. *Islam: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Optional

Lindsay, James E. *Daily Life in the Medieval Islamic World*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2008.

Additional textbooks may be added at the discretion of the professor.

Supplementary readings will be distributed normally as pdfs via [Canvas](#) or in class.

Tips for Success in this Course

- complete all reading in advance of classes for which it is assigned
- review your material on a weekly basis
- consult frequently with your TA and professor in office hours or by appointment
- ask questions in class if you are unsure of the material or simply curious (if you don't want to ask in class, send an email)

Assignments & Assessments

- Mid-term tests: 25%
- Participation/Quizzes/Responses 10%
- Book review 10%
- Research Paper 30%
- Final 25%

Mid-Term Tests

There will be two mid-term tests. Each test will be based on the material covered up to that point (from the time of the previous mid-term). Lecture material and readings will be covered. These are scheduled for October 3 and 24. Question formats may include: short-answer/ identification, and essay-type questions.

Participation/Quizzes/Responses

Participation is expected in the form of answering and posing questions, taking part in discussion, and – depending on how the class develops – making short presentations. There will also be a map quiz on October 3. A source map will be posted on Canvas in the first week. If you have any concerns regarding your ability to participate, please make an appointment in office hours to discuss with the professor.

Book (Source) Review & Research Paper

See the Source Review & Research Paper Instruction Sheet.

Lectures:

The syllabus provides a rough guide of the course structure which we will adjust as we go forward. In principle, lectures will be posted on Canvas via Camtasia shortly after they have been completed. Remember laptops, phones and other digital or electronic devices are not to be used in class except by arrangement with the professor.

Final:

The final exam will be held at the officially scheduled date and time.

Remember:

More than four unexcused absences may result in failure. All assignments must be completed. A grade of 60% on the essay and exam are required to pass. A minimum grade of 80% is required on the map quiz (students may re-take the quiz twice). If you require an accommodation, or have any other issues that relate to your ability to attend class or complete work that may arise during the term, please contact with the professor as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements if possible. You must fill in an enrolment form to attend class.

Schedule of Classes

Classes are held twice weekly for 75-minutes and combine lecture, discussion, short responses, and presentations.

The class schedule is provisional and may change as the course progresses.

Lectures will be posted on [Canvas](#) at the end of each week.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments
27-Aug (T)	1: Islam and the Origins of Western Culture	FD 1-38	
29-Aug (Th)	2: The Pre-Islamic Near East	Hoyland	
3-Sept (T)	3: The Age of The Prophet	MR 1-81; Armstrong 71-88	
5-Sept (Th)	4: The Message	FD 39-89	
10-Sept (T)	5: al-Qur'an	MR 82-158	
12-Sept (Th)	6: The Pillars of Islam	[MH I: 3-188]	
17-Sept (T)	7: Dar al-Islam		Choose source
19-Sept (Th)	8: The Rashidun (630–660)	FD 90-144 [MH I: 187-230]	
24-Sept (T)	9: Conquest		
26-Sept (Th)	10: The Rise of the Umayyads	FD 145-193	Research Topic
1-Oct (T)	Mid-term 1		
3-Oct (Th)	Research Orientation Librarian, Frederick Carey Norlin E113 bring a laptop		Source Review
8-Oct (T)	11: The Caliphate	FD 194-226 [MH I: 231-279]	
10-Oct (Th)	12: The Decline and Fall of the Umayyad Caliphate		
15-Oct (T)	13: Reading sources		
17-Oct (Th)	14: The Rise of the Abbasids`	MH I: 280-314	
22-Oct (T)	Essay workshop		
24-Oct (Th)	Mid-term 2		
29-Oct (T)	15: The Golden Age		
31-Oct (Th)	16: The Decline of the Abbasids		
5-Nov (T)	17: The Islamic East		
7-Nov (Th)	Guest Lecture: Prof. Hiroshi Takayama (University of Tokyo)		
12-Nov (T)	18: The Islamic West (650--1100)	MH I: 315-409; Armstrong 88-104	
14-Nov (Th)	19: Ifriqiya & Egypt (650--1100)	Infidel Kings Part 4First	Rough Draft
19-Nov (T)	Thanksgiving Break		
21-Nov (Th)	Thanksgiving Break		
26-Nov (T)	20: Golden Age- Authority and Order Rough Draft		
28-Nov (Th)	21: Golden Age- Authority and Order II		
3-Dec (T)	22: Golden Age - State & Society	MH I: 410-496	Peer Report/ FCQs
5-Dec (Th)	23: Barbarian Invasions A		
10-Dec (T)	24: Barbrian Invasions B		Final Draft
12-Dec (Th)	Review Session		

Final exam to be held on Sunday, 15 December, 4:30–7pm in HUMN 1B90 unless otherwise notified.

Accommodation For Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services](#) website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office](#) website.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment And/Or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Religious Holidays & Observance

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you should send the Instructor an email during the first week of class outlining any anticipated absences or accommodations for religious purposes.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Extensions are granted only for documented illness or similar circumstances. Papers must be handed in on time or late

Course Materials and Assignments

The Instructor will keep course materials and unclaimed tests and exams until the beginning of the following semester.

Your continuation in this course indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions expressed by the Instructor and outlined in the enrolment form.