

HUMN3850/RLST3250: The Mediterranean: Religion Before Modernity

Preliminary Syllabus, Spring 2019

* *This syllabus is provisional, course details 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. Course materials will be posted on [Canvas](#).

Time & Location:

TTh 9:30–10:45, Hellems 251

Instructor:

Prof. Brian A. Catlos

Humanities 282

(303) 492-1634; brian.catlos@colorado.edu

(Please put HUMN/RLST3850 as the subject line; your e-mail MUST come from a colorado.edu address)

Office hours: T 1–2pm, W 9–10am & by appointment [please email if you are coming to office hours]

Overview:

Through a series of studies of historical actors, groups and cultures across the Mediterranean in the Age of the Crusades, this course offers an innovative approach to the multi-faceted history of Muslim-Christian-Jewish relations. It invites students to reassess established paradigms regarding cultural, ethnic and religious identity, and to reappraise their own assumptions regarding such forces and their role in human history.

Lectures

Attendance at class is expected (more than 3 recorded absences may result in sanction or denial of credit). Participation is expected and graded. It is the students' responsibility to keep up-to-date with any syllabus changes or other announcements made in class.

Required Texts

The primary texts will be:

Catlos, Brian A. *Infidel Kings and Unholy Warriors : Faith, Power, and Violence in the Age of Crusade and Jihad*. (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2014). **IKUH**

Ibn Jubayr and Ronald J. C. Broadhurst. *The Travels of Ibn Jubayr, Being the Chronicles of a Mediaeval Spanish Moor Concerning His Journey to the Egypt of Saladin, the Holy Cities of Arabia, Baghdad the City of the Caliphs, the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, and the Norman Kingdom of Sicily*. (London: J. Cape, 1952). **TIJ**

Usamah ibn Munqidh and Paul M. Cobb. *The Book of Contemplation: Islam and the Crusades*. (London: Penguin Books, 2008). **UMBC**

Supplementary readings will be distributed as pdfs via D2L; normally at least one week in advance.

Course Completion and Evaluation

Graded assignments consist of 1 mid-term test, 1 essay (12–14 pages) and a final exam, plus regular short reading quizzes and lecture write-ups.

Mid-Term Test

This will be a take-home test consisting of short essay questions.

Essay

This is a 12- to 14-page research essay, based on lecture material and course readings, as well as outside research. Each paper will examine one historical personality and his/her relation with/approach to religious identity and diversity. A list of personalities will be provided. The essay will be completed in stages through the term – timely completion of all “benchmarks” is mandatory.

Final Exam

The final examination will be held during the scheduled exam period, and will cover material from the whole course.

Participation, Quizzes and Write-ups

Your mark is based on your engagement in class discussions, and understanding of readings and guest lectures.

Bonus Lectures

During the course of the semester, several guest scholars will be coming to CU Boulder to give talks on matters related to the course; extra grades will be awarded for each of these that you attend if you submit a brief written report.

Schedule of Classes, Spring 2019

Check each week for supplementary readings and material on [Canvas](#)

Date		Theme	Readings	Assignment
15-Jan (T)	1	Introduction/ Bob Dylan, Bill Gates & What Islam Gave the West		
17-Jan (Th)	2	The Mediterranean	Horden & Purcell, <i>The Corrupting Sea</i> , chaps. 1 & 2; Catlos, "Why the Mediterranean?"	
22-Jan (T)	3	Christianity to 1000	IKUH: Introduction; Brown, <i>The World of Late Antiquity</i> , chaps. 1–3	
24-Jan (Th)	4	Christianity & Islam to 1000	Egger, <i>A History of the Muslim World</i> , chaps 1–2; Bulliet, <i>The Case for Islamo-Christian Civ.</i> , chap. 1 Stillman, <i>The Jews of Medieval Islam</i> , pp. 3–39	
29-Jan (T)	5	Islam & Judaism to 1000		
31-Jan (Th)	6	Islam & Judaism to 1000		
5-Feb (T)	7	Film: An Islamic History of Europe		Report
7-Feb (Th)	8	Library Orientation: Norlin E260B		Take Home Test Assigned
12-Feb (T)	9	Mediterranean Minorities	Catlos, "Ethno-Religious Minorities" Meet w/ Prof this week Ellenblum, <i>The Collapse of the Eastern Med.</i> , chaps 1 & 2	
14-Feb (Th)	10	Guest Lecture: "A Mediterranean Saint for Christians and Muslims: St. George and al-Khidr" (Prof. Erica M. Ferg, Regis University) – location TBA		
19-Feb (T)	11	Islamic Spain	IKUH: 1 & 2	Declare Essay Topic
21-Feb (Th)	12	Presentations		Take Home Test Due
26-Feb (T)	13	Islamic & Christian Spain	IKUH: 3 & 4	
28-Feb (Th)	14	Presentations		
5-Mar (T)	15	Norman Sicily	IKUH: 5 & 6	Research Statement
7-Mar (Th)	16	Presentations		
11 April (M)		Bonus Event "The Captive Sea: Slavery, Communication, and Commerce in Early Modern Spain and the Mediterranean" (Prof. Daniel Hershenzon, University of Connecticut)		
12-Mar (T)	17	Guest lecture: " The Captive Sea: Slavery, Communication, and Commerce in Early Modern Spain and the Mediterranean " (Prof. Daniel Hershenzon, University of Connecticut)		
14-Mar (Th)	18	Fatimid Egypt	IKUH: 7 & 8	
19-Mar (T)	19	Presentations	Submit Preliminary Bibliography	Meet with Prof
21-Mar (Th)	20	Did the Crusades Really Happen?		
26-Mar (T)		March Break		
28-Mar (Th)		March Break		
2-Apr (T)	21	Crusader States	IKUH: 9 & 10	Submit Bibliography
4-Apr (Th)	22	Presentations		
9-Apr (T)	23	Usama ibn Munqidh/Diplomats & Travellers	UMBC: Selections	
11-Apr (Th)	23	Presentation/ Essay Updates		Essay Outline
15 April (M)		Bonus Event "Ideologizing the Iberian Medieval Past: the Myth of al-Andalus and the Reconquista Paradigm" (Prof. Alejandro García Sanjuan, Universidad de Huelva) – time/location TBA		
16-Apr (T)	24	Guest lecture: "Muslims of Medieval Sicily" (Prof. Alex Metcalfe, Lancaster University)		
		Bonus Event TBA (Prof. Daniel Koenig, University of Konstanz) time/location TBA		
17 April (W)		Bonus Event "Muslims and Islam in Medieval and Early Modern Europe – New Directions" A colloquium held 10–5pm in the Physics Skybox (attend and report on any one session)		
18-Apr (Th)	25	Sicily, Egypt and Anatolia: A Mediterranean Triangle		
23-Apr (T)	26	Ibn Jubayr	TIJ: Selections	Essay Rough Copy Due
24-Apr (W)		Bonus Event TBA (Dr. Pierre Savy: École Française de Rome) – time/location TBA		
25-Apr (Th)	27	Presentation – Ibn Jubayr / Essay updates		
30-Apr (T)	28	Fall of the Roman Empire	IKUH: Conclusions	Essay due
2-May (Th)	29	Conclusions: Religious Identity in the Medieval Mediterranean via Canvas		

Scheduled Time for Final Exam: Tuesday, May 8, 4–7pm. The Exam will be an on-line/ open book examination held during the exam period and accessed via [Canvas](#).

Grading

Take Home Test: 15%

Essay: 25%

Final Examination: 25%

Participation, Quizzes and Write-ups: 35%

You must submit the essay to be eligible for credit in this course. You must score better than 60% on the final to get credit.

Presentations

Starting on 21 February, when we have begun reading *Infidel Kings and Unholy Warrior*, you will begin making formal presentations on the material.

These presentations will be 30 minutes in length, you may refer to the text, use supplementary materials and use power point or other resources.

Each presentation will cover one chapter of the book.

Each of you will make 3 presentations over the course of the semester, and each presentation will be done as “group project” with one of your colleagues.

You will want to start work on the presentation a few days in advance. I can meet with the people scheduled for February 21 after class on February 14, or at another time that works for all of us.

Regarding the content of the presentation; it should review in brief the narrative of the chapter, on top of which you should discuss in depth one or two aspects of Christian-Muslim-Jewish relations as they come out in the material.

If you are not presenting, you should come having read the material and prepared to ask questions.

Schedule of Presentations TBA

21-Feb Th

Infidel Kings, Chapter 1: TBA

Infidel Kings, Chapter 2: TBA

28-Feb Th

Infidel Kings, Chapter 3: TBA

Infidel Kings, Chapter 4: TBA

7-Mar Th

Infidel Kings, Chapter 5: TBA

Infidel Kings, Chapter 6: TBA

19-Mar T

Infidel Kings, Chapter 7: TBA

Infidel Kings, Chapter 8: TBA

4 Apr Th

Infidel Kings, Chapter 9: TBA

Infidel Kings, Chapter 10: TBA

11-Apr Th

Usama ibn Munqidh, (selections): TBA

25-Apr Th

Ibn Jubayr (selections): TBA

Extensions are granted only for documented illness or similar circumstances. Papers must be handed in on time or late penalties will be applied. There will be no assignments for “extra credit.”

Academic Integrity

All work submitted for this course must be original and your own work; all sources must be properly and clearly cited. Use of improperly attested material in essays or unauthorized material in exams constitutes plagiarism and may, at the instructor’s discretion, result in removal from or a failing grade on the course.

Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu.

Classroom Behaviour

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 differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities.

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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

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 full details of University policy at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550.

Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

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.