

# **RLST/ARAB 2320 - Muslim World, 600-1250**

## **Preliminary Syllabus, 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 11am–12:15pm KTCH 1B60

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

**Assistant:** name (email)

office hours and location

### **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 Islamicate 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 February 7 and April 9. 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 February 7. 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 in our classroom 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](#) after each class.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments
15-Jan (T)	1: Islam and the Origins of Western Culture		
	<b>Unit I: Arabic Origins (500–750)</b>		
17-Jan (Th)	2: The Pre-Islamic Near East	FD 1-38; Hoyland	
22-Jan (T)	3: The Prophet	MR 1-81; Armstrong 71-88	
24-Jan (Th)	4: Revelation	FD 39-89	
29-Jan (T)	5: al-Qur'an	MR 82-158	Choose source
31-Jan (Th)	6: The Pillars of Islam	[MH I: 3-188]	
5-Feb (T)	<b>Library Orientation Norlin E260B</b>		
7-Feb (Th)	<b>Mid-term 1</b>		
12-Feb (T)	7: The Rashidun (630–660)	FD 90-144 [MH I: 187-230]	
<b>14-Feb (Th)</b>	<b>Bonus Event:</b> “A Mediterranean Saint for Christians and Muslims: St. George and al-Khidr” (Prof. Erica M. Ferg, Regis University) 9:30am <b>location TBA</b>		
14-Feb (Th)	8: Conquest		Research Topic
	<b>Unit II: The Golden Age of Islam (750–1000)</b>		
19-Feb (T)	9: Fitna	FD 145-193	Source Review
21-Feb (Th)	10: Umayyad Caliphate (660-750)	FD 194-226 [MH I: 231-279]	
26-Feb (T)	11: The Umayyad Caliphate II		
28-Feb (Th)	<b>Film:</b> <a href="#">An Islamic History of Europe</a>		Report/ Bibliography
5-Mar (T)	12: The Coming Revolution		
7-Mar (Th)	13: The Revolution		Research Proposal
12-Mar (T)	14: Abbasid Caliphate (750-950)	MH I: 280-314	
14-Mar (Th)	15: The Islamic West (650--1100)	MH I: 315-409; Armstrong 88-104	
19-Mar (T)	16: The Islamic West (650--1100) II	Infidel Kings Part 1	Outline
21-Mar (Th)	17: Ifriqiya & Egypt (650--1100)	Infidel Kings Part 4	
<b>26-Mar (T)</b>	<b>March Break</b>		
<b>28-Mar (Th)</b>	<b>March Break</b>		
2-Apr (T)	18: Ifriqiya & Egypt (650--1100) II		First Rough Draft
4-Apr (Th)	19: Golden Age- Authority and Order		
9-Apr (T)	<b>Mid-term 2</b>		
11-Apr (Th)	20: Golden Age- Authority and Order II		
<b>15 April (M)</b>	<b>Bonus Event</b> “Ideologizing the Iberian Medieval Past: the Myth of al-Andalus and the Reconquista Paradigm” (Prof. Alejandro García Sanjuan, Universidad de Huelva) – <b>time/location TBA</b>		
<b>16 April (T)</b>	<b>Bonus Event</b> Muslims of Medieval Sicily” (Prof. Alex Metcalfe, Lancaster University) 9:30am <b>location TBA</b>		
16-Apr (T)	<b>Guest Lecture:</b> TBA (Prof. Daniel Koenig, University of Konstanz) <b>time/location TBA</b>		
			Rough Draft
<b>17 April (W)</b>	<b>Bonus Event</b> “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)	21: Golden Age - State & Society	MH I: 410-496	
	<b>Unit III: The Barbarian Invasions (1000–1250)</b>		
23-Apr (T)	22: Barbarian Invasions I		Peer Report/ FCQs
25-Apr (Th)	23: Barbarian Invasions II		
30-Apr (T)	24: Barbarian Invasions II		Final Draft
2-May (Th)	Conclusion & Review via <a href="#">Canvas</a>		

Final exam to be held on Monday, 6 May 4:30–7pm in KTCH 1B60 unless otherwise notified.

**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 email at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu). If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Injuries guidelines](#) under the Quick Links at the [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with your professor.

### **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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the 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 the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

### **Discrimination and Harrassment**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the [OIEC website](#).

### **Honor Code**

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [academic integrity policy](#) of the institution. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>.

### **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.**