

Modern Muslim Histories (HI-625)

Hartford International University
For Religion and Peace

Fall 2023

Modern Muslim Histories

Timur Yuskaev, PhD

Office: Budd Building, Room 5

E-mail: tyuskaev@hartfordinternational.edu

Phone: 860-509-9554 (email preferred)

Class sessions: Hybrid Synchronous, 77 Sherman **Room 206** and
<https://hartfordinternational.zoom.us/j/92329028628>

Office hours: Mondays and Tuesdays from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Course Description

This course offers an in-depth introduction to modern Muslim histories from the 16th to the 21st centuries. Utilizing a variety of sources, from primary to secondary and fiction, it engages big questions – modernity, “Muslim World,” colonialism, nationalism, globalization, diversity, memory, and religion – through case studies centered in and across sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East/Europe, south and southeast Asia, and North America.

Course fulfills the curricular requirements of MAIRS -Islamic Studies: Foundational Fields), MAIRS - Interreligious Studies Elective, and MAC - Islamic Chaplaincy elective.

Learning Outcomes:

- To demonstrate foundational and critical knowledge of one’s own religion
- To demonstrate the knowledge, capacities, and willingness to respectfully engage other religions and world views
- To demonstrate knowledge and skills for dialogical and constructive engagement with diversity
- To demonstrate the ability to relate theory and practice in the social contexts in which a religion’s communities exist
- To demonstrate foundational and critical knowledge of the Islamic tradition as relevant to Muslim chaplains
- To develop an appreciation of living in a pluralistic world and dialogical skills needed to work in multi-faith and diverse settings
- To acquire a comprehensive knowledge in Islamic Studies, Christian-Muslim Relations, and Interreligious Engagement/Interfaith Dialogue
- To develop the competence to produce original research and written works to advance the scholarship on Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations for the benefit of religious communities, academy, and society

Plagiarism policy – plagiarism is not tolerated, see:

<https://www.hartfordinternational.edu/student-affairs/student-resources/student-handbook>

Evaluation

1. Weekly reflections/"talking points" (35%)
2. Mid-term essay (20%) – **due on October 31**
3. Final essay (35%) – **due on December 22**
4. Class participation (10%).

Logistics

1) Weekly Reflections:

You will be expected to analyze and discuss the assigned readings at each session. Weekly reflections will be your "talking points." They will help you organize your thoughts and prepare for each class.

Our class meets on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm. You are required to email me your reflection by 12:00 pm on the day of the class. Each reflection must be around 2 pages (a bit less or a bit more does not matter). Please approach each reflection as a dialogue between you and the readings. In other words, what are your thoughts on one or two points an author makes? What are some questions that have arisen while you read the assignment?

It is up to you to shape each reflection. Some possible ways may be to

- Reflect on an idea you found intriguing
- Explore how an author presents a particular theme
- Think through implications of a particular idea (don't make it too broad)
- Compare between this and previous weeks' readings.
- Trace how this week's reading speaks to a theme we have encountered earlier.

At the end of each reflection pose 1 or 2 questions you would like to ask in class.

You will be required to start submitting reflections as of our 2nd session. The grade for this assignment will be based on the quantity and quality of your submissions. I will return copies of your reflection with some comments and a grade of either a "+" ("pass") or a "-" ("fail").

The scale for the final evaluation will be as follows:

A=11 passing entries

B=8 passing entries

C+ = 6 passing entries
C=5 passing entries
F=4 or fewer passing entries.

No late submissions will be accepted. There will be no way to make up for missed reflections.

Note that each student will be asked to formally present their reflection and serve as a respondent to another student's reflection once during the semester.

2) Midterm and Final Essays:

You will have to submit two essays during the semester. The midterm essay should be 5-7 pages in length. The final essay should be 10-12 pages.

I will assign the topic for the midterm paper. However, you will be responsible for selecting the subject of your final essay.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas for both papers at any stage of preparation.

Grading standards for the essays will be:

A = Excellent. Excellent presentation and analysis that demonstrates original interpretation.
B = Good. Solid command of facts and good attempt at analysis.
C+ = Adequate in the sense of doing minimal compliance with the assignment.
C = Poor; did not complete the assignment adequately but shows some effort.
F = Failing; did not complete the assignment.

2) Midterm and Final Essays:

You will have to submit two essays during the semester. The midterm essay should be 5-7 pages in length. The final essay should be 10-12 pages. I will assign the topic for the midterm paper. However, you will be responsible for selecting the subject of your final essay. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas for both papers at any stage of preparation.

Grading standards for the essays will be:

A = Excellent. Excellent presentation and analysis that demonstrates original interpretation.
B = Good. Solid command of facts and good attempt at analysis.
C+ = Adequate in the sense of doing minimal compliance with the assignment.
C = Poor; did not complete the assignment adequately but shows some effort.
F = Failing; did not complete the assignment.

Texts*

Orhan Pamuk. *My Name is Red* (Vintage International, 2002)

Roy Mottahedeh. *The Mantle of the Prophet* (One World, 2000, 2nd ed.)

Ilan Pappé. *A History of Modern Palestine* (Cambridge University Press, 2006, 2nd ed.)

Muhammad Qasim Zaman. *The Ulama in Contemporary Islam* (Princeton University Press, 2002)

Saba Mahmood. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* (Princeton University Press, 2005)

Rudolph T. Ware III, *The Walking Qur'an: Islamic Education, Embodied Knowledge, and History in West Africa* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014)

*All the assigned readings are available via Digital Theological Library or posted in CANVAS

Schedule

1. **September 6:** Introduction, part 1

- Charles Tilly, "The Europe of Columbus and Bayazid," *Middle East Report* 22, no. 178 (September/October), pp. 2-5 (posted in Canvas)
- Francis Robinson, "Technology and Religious Change: Islam and the Impact of Print," *Modern Asian Studies* 27, no. 1 (1993), pp. 229-51. (Canvas)

Suggested/not required: Marilyn Waldman, "Prehistory and History of the Islamic Community," *Encyclopaedia Britannica* article (Canvas)

2. **September 13** – Introduction 2: Trade and the Ottoman Empire

- Kenneth Pomeranz and Steven Topik, Chapter 1, "The Making of Market Conventions" from *The World that Trade Created: Society, Culture, and the World Economy, 1400 – the Present* (M.E. Sharpe, 1999), pp. 3-48 (Canvas)
- Marshal Hodgson, Prologue and Ch. 3, "The Ottoman Empire" from *The Venture of Islam*, vol. 3, pp. 3-15 and 99-132. (Canvas)

- Daniel Goffman, Introduction and Ch 5, “The Ottoman-Venetian association” from *The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 1-22 and 137-164 (Canvas)

3. **September 20** – Ottomans

- Orhan Pamuk, *My Name is Red*, pp 1-177

4. **September 27** - Ottomans

- *My Name is Red*, pp. 178-413

5. **October 4** – Iran

- Roy Mottahedeh, *The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran*, chapters 1 – 3 (pp. 1-109)

6. **October 11** – The Case of Iran

- *The Mantle*, Chapters 4-6 (pp. 110- 247)

7. **October 18** – The Case of Iran

- *The Mantle*, Chapters 7-9 and Epilogue (pp. 248-390)

8. **October 25** – Overview and preparation for the midterm

Assignment:

- 1) re-read your notes for all the readings in the course so far, as well as your and your colleagues’ reflections and your notes from our class discussions.
- 2) While you’re reviewing the notes and reflections, browse through every text we have read so far and see what you can highlight in those texts as particularly fruitful – any details that signal some important themes. Warning: Do not just state themes. Rather note details (with references to page numbers) and, for yourself, make a note of how those details in different texts we’ve read highlight one or more themes. Also, pay attention to the context within which those details took place.
- 3) Read:
 - Taleqani, “Last sermon” (posted in CANVAS)
 - Bazargan, “Religion and Liberty” (posted in CAVNAS)
- 4) Write a reflection that focuses on ONE detail in ONE of these two texts.

Provide a quote where the detail occurs. Ask an analytical question that would allow you to unpack it. Answer the question in three paragraphs with the help of Mottahedeh and at least one more text we have read in the course. In the second or third paragraphs, make sure to briefly engage the other of the two primary sources (for example, if your overall focus is on Bazergan's piece, make sure to somehow bring up Taleqani's piece in one of your three paragraphs.) As always, conclude with a question. But make sure that the question is of the sort that can be answered with the help of the texts we have read so far in the course.

9. November 1 – Deadline for Midterm Papers

Note: No readings are assigned this week – kind of... (see below) Instead, write your midterms.

The **midterms** are due by the end of the day **Tuesday, October 31**.

Be ready to discuss your paper during class. In order to do so, please submit a **short overview** of your midterm in this week's Discussion/Reflections thread by **12:00 pm on Wednesday, November 1**. Take 5-10 minutes to write it up. It should include: 1) an indication of your central example; 2) your midterm's central question, as directed to that central example it; 3) and how you answer it, and what material you use as you do so.

Be ready to discuss your paper during our class.

I will post/email the midterm assignment a week before it is due. Please know that one option would be to transform your reflection from the previous week into a 5–7-page paper. (PhD students will be required to write a 10–12-page paper, which must incorporate at least three texts we have read in the course.)

10. November 8 – The Case of Palestine/Israel

- Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine* (half the book)

11. November 15 – The Case of Israel/Palestine

- Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine* (the rest of the book)

November 20-22 Reading Days (No Class on November 22)

12. **November 29:** Intellectual and Institutional Transitions: The case of the *`ulama*

- Malika Zeghal, “Religion and Politics in Egypt: The Ulema of al-Azhar, Radical Islam, and the State (1952-94).” (posted in CANVAS)
- Muhammad Qasim Zaman, *The Ulama in Contemporary Islam*.

13. **December 6** – Contemporary Muslim Revival: Gender Politics

- Juliane Hammer, “Activism as Embodied Tafsir: Negotiating Women’s Authority, Leadership and Space in North America,” in *Women, Leadership, and Mosques: Changes in Contemporary Islamic Authority*, eds. Hilary Kalmbach and Masooda Bano, Leiden: Brill, 2011): 457-480 (posted in CANVAS)
- Mahmood, *Politics of Piety*

14. **December 13** – The Qur’an: A Case Study

- Rudolph T. Ware III, *The Walking Qur’an*

Final papers are due on December 22

Please submit via email to
tyuskaev@hartfordinternational.edu