Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different. Please refer to your instructor’s syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.
NELC 3502 Islamic Civilization through the Ages

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores the routes and realms of Islamic Civilization from the approximately the 10th thru 14th centuries CE through the eyes of adventurers, traders, pilgrims, slaves, warrior-poets, and chroniclers who witnessed its marvels and penned its many stories. Strong focus is placed on reading primary source materials in English translation and craft of writing analytical historical analysis based on primary sources. No prior background is required.

Instructor:

office:

office hours:

email:

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
The course consists of two 80 minute meetings per week dedicated to lectures and discussions. Please read the assigned materials during the week they are assigned and come to discussions prepared with questions and observations on the readings.

Readings: Assigned readings for each session are indicated on the attached schedule of lectures. All books on the syllabus been placed on reserve at the library; all articles and primary readings can be found on the course website via Carmen (http://carmen.osu.edu). Reading assignments given by author only on the syllabus (e.g., “Cobb, 1-25”) refer to the class textbooks listed below:


Readings, Assignments, and Class participation
This class thrives on in-class discussions of texts that we’ve read together before coming to class. In order to demonstrate to me that you’ve read the assigned reading prior to coming to class
and to help me steer in-class discussion, you are required to email me (anthony.288@osu.edu) a minimum of 3 questions on the assigned readings prior to the beginning of class. Your class participation grade is directly dependent on your turning in these questions and your vocal participation in class discussions.

Please consult this syllabus frequently throughout the quarter. It will serve as your guide for the readings and assignments necessary for you to participate in and benefit from class time to maximum extent possible. As is necessary, I will continue to update the content of the syllabus as needed, particularly the class schedule, as the quarter progresses.

Readings. Much of the basic work you will be doing outside of class will focus on your readings. For most days, there are two types of readings present on the syllabus: primary source readings and supplemental readings. It is particularly important in this class to focus on the primary source readings—when you come to class at the beginning of the week, I expect that you will have read and taken notes for in-class discussion and questions on these assigned texts. Before each session, you must email to anthony.288@osu.edu at least 3 questions about the primary source reading assignment.

Assignments. The bulk of your grade for this course will be evaluated based on three assignments: an in-class presentation papers and a final essay written in response to prompts based off class lectures and readings.

Your in-class presentations will be on primary sources readings in translation assigned in class and consists of two components. The first is the completion of the Textual Analysis Handout due the day of your in-class presentation and handed into me. The second is a 15-20 minute, in-class presentation on the source and its historical significance.

Your final essay will be assigned from a prompt and due at the end of the quarter. This essay will ask you to carefully adjudicate a historiographical debate and will serve as your attempt to express your own ideas in a medium-length essay (5 to 7 pages in length, 1.5 spaced, standard font such as Times New Roman or Garamond) on an assigned topic. These topics will require you to draw extensively upon the assigned readings and the ideas discussed in class and will be scrutinized and evaluated on the basis of the criteria of academic writing. Essays should be emailed to anthony.288@osu.edu as a Word file by 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time on the due date.

Developing and mastering the ability to write critically and to engage historical events and persons with critical acumen is a difficult, but worthwhile, task. Even if you never revisit the topic of this course again, the skills you acquire in writing and improving your essays will serve you well for the rest of your life. I therefore beseech you to take time to write your essays well. Further instructions on class paper assignments can be found on the assignment handouts and course Grading Rubric.

Class Participation. “80% of success is showing up,” once said Woody Allen. This class depends on you to function fully. If you do not participate in class discussions, do not present assigned
articles, and fail to communicate to me any indication that you’ve read the texts (and such indications could be in the form of insightful observations or cantankerous bewilderment), then I will be compelled to give you a low-grade.

**Grading Scheme.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations (x2)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical Essay</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Class Policies**

*Computers, cellphones, etc.* Please, no texting, no email checking, no laptop/ipad/netbook usage in class. All of the readings you’ll need for class will be available in your course packet, and I’d much prefer you interact with your classmates and me rather than a machine. And, besides, science is on my side! (For now at least; see [http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom](http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom))

**Academic Misconduct.** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/](http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/)).

**Disabilities Policy.** Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; [http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/).

FOR YOUR SAFETY, the OSU Student Safety/Escort Service is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.

**Reference Works**

A selection of basic reference dealing with Islamic history and civilization be found at the university library and accessed via the library’s online resources. Below is a list of the most authoritative and useful:
• Encyclopaedia of Islam, 2nd edition; the gold standard of Islamic studies and abbreviated as EI². It is easily accessed online at:
  http://referenceworks.brillonline.com

• Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE; the third edition of EI³ is underway but still in its infancy, most including articles falling under the letter ‘A’.

• Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History, ed. D. Thomas et al. (Leiden, 2009-2013)

• JSTOR (http://jstor.org): useful for essentially any class you’ll take here at OSU, by logging into jstor.org via OSU’s proxy server and/or at the library, you have access to a wealth of scholarly articles on Islamic history and civilization. If you’re looking for a place to find sources on the Internet, this should be one of your first stops (Wikipedia, while useful in some respects, tends to be VERY unreliable and/or ideological for early Islamic history).
COURSE READING AND LECTURE SCHEDULE

**Week 1**
Wed (Jan 13)  Course Introduction
Fri (Jan 15)  The Abode of Islam

**READINGS:**

Cobb, *Race for Paradise*, 9-35

**Week 2**
Wed (Jan 20)  Beyond the Abode of Islam

**READINGS:**


[1] Excerpts from Šā’id al-Andalusī’s *Classes of Nations* (*Tabaqāt al-umam*)

Fri (Jan 22)  Strangers in Strange Lands

**READINGS:**


**Week 3**


**Week 4**
Wed (Feb 3)  **NO CLASSES – LECTURE OUT OF TOWN**

Fri (Feb 5)  Slaves and Slavery in the Islamic World

**READINGS:**


Week 5
Fri (Feb 12) Ibn al-Sāʾī *Consorts*, xi-xxv, 1-57

Week 6
Wed (Feb 17) Ibn al-Sāʾī, *Consorts*, 58-145


Fri (Feb 19) Slaves on Horses

READINGS:

[6] al-Jāḥiz, *Virtues of the Turks*


Week 7
Wed (Feb 24) New Turks: The Great Seljuq Empire
Fri (Feb 26) Sultans and Caliphs: Political Legitimacy in the Late Abbasid Commonwealth

READINGS:


Week 8
Wed (Mar 2) Islamic Jerusalem Before the Crusades

READINGS:


Fri (Mar 4)  Christian Pilgrimage to Jerusalem in the Islamic Period

READINGS:


Week 9

Wed (Mar 9)  The First Crusade and the Capture of Jerusalem

READINGS:

Cobb, *Race for Paradise*, 78-103


Fri (Mar 10)  The Rise of the Zengids and the Second Crusade

READINGS:

Cobb, 124-65


Week 10

Wed (Mar 14)  NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK

Fri (Mar 16)  NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK
**Week 11**

**Wed (Mar 23)** Nūr al-Dīn’s Jihād

**READINGS:**


[16] ‘Alī ibn Ṭāhir al-Sulāmī (d. 1106), The Book of Jihād, tr. Niall Christie¹

**Fri (Mar 25)** Muslim Accounts of the Franks in the Levant

**READINGS:**

Cobb, 104-23


**Week 12**

**Wed (Mar 30)** The Rise of Ṣalāh al-Dīn al-Ayyūbī

**READINGS:**

Cobb, 166-93


**Fri (Apr 1)** Heirs to Saladin: Ayyūbids and Mamlūks

**READINGS:**

Cobb, 194-218


**Week 13**

**Wed (Apr 6)** The Mongol Hordes

**READINGS**

¹ http://www.arts.cornell.edu/prh3/447/texts/sulami.html
Fri (Apr 8) Hülegü, The Fall of the Baghdad and the Īl-Khāns

READINGS:

[23] Rashid al-Din, Jawāmeʿ al-tāvārikh: Rashīd al-Dīn on Hülegū and the last ʿAbbāsid Caliph, tr. W. Thackston AMMAAR KHAN

Week 14

Wed (Apr 13) Osman’s Dream: The Ottomans

READINGS:

Cobb, 246-70.

Fri (Apr 15) The Ottomans: Two Views


Week 15

Wed (Apr 20) Temür (Tamerlane) and the Mongol Restoration


Fri (Apr 22) Heresy, Mysticism, and Empire: The Šafawīds

M. Mazzaoui, The Origins of the Šafawīds, Šīʿism, Šūfīsm, and the Ġulāt (Wiesbaden 1972), 41-86.