

HISTORY 223A

GUNPOWDER EMPIRES: OTTOMANS, SAFAVIDS, AND MUGHALS

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Office Hours: T/W/Th. 1:00-2:00

This course is an introduction to the history of the regional Islamic empires of the early modern period: the Ottomans, the Safavids, and the Mughals. Beginning with the emergence of Islam in the seventh century CE and the spectacular conquests of the Turco-Mongol steppe peoples in the thirteenth century CE, the course goes on to examine the formation of Islamic states and societies in the years 1400 through 1900. Topics to be studied include: frontier warriors (*ghazis*) and the Turkic military patronage system; the creation of Sunni and Shi'i Islamic empires; ethnic and religious communities; and the role of merchants, the economy and long distance trade in all three empires. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which early modern empires sought to create centralized states and how they negotiated ethnic and religious differences while ruling over heterogeneous populations before the transformations of the nineteenth century and the rise of nation states.

COURSE POLICIES

Expectations and Rules of Conduct:

- Students are expected to express themselves openly and participate in creating a non-intimidating classroom environment that contributes to open discussion. They are expected to attempt to think objectively and historically and to listen attentively and respectfully to others' remarks.
- Students are expected and required to be present at every class session and to be prepared for class. Unexcused absences will be penalized. (Excused absences are illness or injury to the student; death, injury, or serious illness of an immediate family member or the like; religious reasons; jury duty or government obligation; University sanctioned or approved activities. For other possibilities, check with me.) You must inform me of these absences as soon you are aware of them.
- Students may not take part in any activity that disrupts class.
- All cellular phones, pagers, and alarms must be turned off during class.
- Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. They are violations of university regulations. Students in this class will be held to a high standard of academic integrity, which is defined as "the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception." Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or

citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Such actions will be subject to disciplinary action. If you have any questions about academic integrity, please talk with me. A single instance of cheating and plagiarism will result, at the very least, in a failing grade for that assignment. Depending on the severity of the case, other consequences may include a failing grade for the class, regardless of performance on other assignments, and further disciplinary actions. While all written work must be exclusively your work, you may study and prepare together.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSESSMENT

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, in black ink, and with one-inch margins.

Class attendance and participation in discussions:

This includes coming to class on time having read and thought about the week's material and prepared to discuss it. Knowledge and understanding of readings will enable us to have productive class discussions as well as help you be prepared for other assignments. Attendance without participation will be insufficient and will be reflected in grades. In addition to regular participation, students will lead discussion once a week. This involves working together to raise important issues from the week's reading and getting the rest of the class to engage in discussion. Students are required to meet with me first so we may discuss strategy and issues to be raised. Our meeting should take place preferably a week in advance. Students need to give a no more than ten-minute summary of the readings and raise relevant questions or issues to spark discussion. **15%**

Book Reviews:

Two book reviews of five to seven pages. Guidelines will be provided. 20% each (**total 40%**)

Two Exams:

Take-home essay exams based on readings, lectures, and discussions. Specific reference should be made to appropriate primary and secondary sources covered in class. Questions will ask you to think analytically about significant issues brought up in the course, to synthesize the readings/material/evidence, and to present it all in a coherent, well-supported, and well-written manner, with a cogent analysis. Guidelines and study questions will be provided. First one = **20%**
Second one = **25%**

Notes, Cautionary and Otherwise:

- You must start reading from the *first* week.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. I will not accept an assignment turned in at my office if the student has not attended class that day.
- Electronic submission and late assignments will not be accepted without prior permission.
- Late assignments will be penalized.
- Unless otherwise advised, most class sessions will consist of a combination of lecture and discussion. Please bring appropriate readings and texts to class with you.
- Give yourself sufficient time to complete the reading and prepare before coming to class. Moreover, give yourself sufficient time to understand assignment guidelines, complete writing assignments accordingly, and seek help early if you are having difficulties.

- The schedule below is subject to revision at any time. Changes will be announced in class ahead of time. You are responsible for keeping yourself updated on those changes. Ignorance or absence is not an excuse.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Marshall Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam vol. 3*
 Cemal Kafadar, *Between Two Worlds: The Construction of the Ottoman State*
 Beatrice Forbes Manz,, *The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane*
 Rudi Matthee, *The Politics of Trade in Safavid Iran: Silk for Silver*
 John Richards, *The Mughal Empire*
 Wheeler M. Thackston (ed.), *The Baburnama*
 Saunders, J.J. *The History of the Mongol Conquests*, Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd, 1971,
 Catherine B. Asher and Cynthia Talbot. *India Before Europe* (selections)

SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: (August 28, 29, and 30)

Topic: **Introduction to the course and Islamic Precedent**

Reading: -- Richard Eaton, "Islamic History as Global History," pp. 1-51*
 --Fred Donner, *Early Islamic Conquests*, pp. 3-9; 267-278.*

Recommended Reading:

--Andre Wink: "From Spain to India: The Early Islamic Conquests and the Formation of the Caliphate," 1-25.*
 --Jonathan Berke, *The Formation of Islam*.

WEEK 2: (September 4, 5, and 6)

Topic: **Mongol Precedent:**

Reading:

-- J.J. Saunders, *History of the Mongol Conquests*, pp. 1-193.
 --Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*, Chapter five, "The Mongols and the Northeast Passage," 153-185.*
 --Joseph Fletcher, "The Mongols: Ecological and Social Perspectives," 1-50.*

Recommended Readings:

--Thomas Allsen, *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia*.
 --Linda Shaffer, "Southernization," *Journal of World History* 5,1 (1994): 1-22*

WEEK 3: (September 11, 12, and 13)

Topic: **Timurid foundations**

Reading: Manz, *The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane*

Recommended Reading:

Manz, "Tamerlane's Career and its Uses," *Journal of World History*, Vol. 13, No. 1, 2002, pp. 1-25.*

Rudi Paul Lindner: "What was a Nomadic Tribe?" *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol 24, No. 4. (1982) 689-711.*

WEEK 4: (September 18, 19, and 20)

Topic: **The problem of origins and foundation**

Reading: Marshall Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam*, Vol. III, pp. 1-132.

William H. McNeil, *The Age of Gunpowder Empires**

FIRST BOOK REVIEW OF MANZ'S RISE AND RULE OF TAMERLANE DUE SEPTEMBER 20.

WEEK 5: (September 25, 26, and 27)

Topic: **Ottomans**

Reading: Cemal Kafadar, *Between Two Worlds*, 29-59, 118-54

Inalcik, *The Ottoman Empire in the Classical Age*, 3-55*

Rudi Paul Lindner: *Nomads and Ottomans*, 1-51*

Recommended: M. Fuad Koprulu, *The Origins of the Ottoman Empire (selections)*

FIRST TAKE HOME EXAM DUE SEPTEMBER 27.

WEEK 6: (October 2, 3, and 4)

Topic: **Safavids**

Reading: Andrew J. Newman, *Safavid Iran: Rebirth of a Persian Empire*, 1-124.*

WEEK 7: (October 9, 10 and 11) **NO CLASS**

WEEK 8: (October 16, 17, and 18)

Topic: **Mughals**

Reading: Asher and Talbot. *India Before Europe*, 25-53; 115-152.*

Richards, *The Mughal Empire*, 1-79; 165-185, 225-282.

WEEK 9: (October 23, 24, and 25)

Topic: **The Baburnama**

Reading: Thackston, ed. *Baburnama*

WEEK 10: (October 30, 31, and November 1)

Topic: **Merchants and long distance trade**

Reading:

- Suraiya Faroqhi, "Trade: Regional, inter-regional and international," 474-531*.
 Richards, *The Mughal Empire*, chapter 9
 Edmund Herzig, "The Rise of the Julfa Merchants in the Late Sixteenth Century," 305-22*
 Sebouh Aslanian, "Trade Diaspora vs. Colonial State," 37-96.*
 Matthee, *The Politics of Trade in Safavid Iran*.

WEEK 11: (November 6, 7, and 8)

Topic: **The use of "Service Nomads," slaves, elites and state centralization.**

Reading:

- Article on "Devshirme/Janissaries" in *Encyclopedia of Islam*.*
- Lewis Coser, "The Alien as a Servant of Power: Court Jews and Christian Renegades," *The American Sociological Review*, vol. 37 (1972): 574-581.*
- Metin Kunt, "Ethnic-Regional (Cins) Solidarity in the Seventeenth-Century Ottoman Establishment," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 5, 3 (June 1974): 233-239*
- J.P. Palmer, "The Origin of the Janissaries," *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, XXXV, 2 (1935).*
- David Ayalon, "Mamlukiyat" in Ayalon, *Outsiders in the Lands of Islam: Mamluks, Mongols and Eunuchs*, 321-339.*
- Sussan Babaie, et al., *Slaves of the Shah*, pp. 1-48.*

WEEK 12: (November 13, 14, 15)

Topic: **Administrative Structures**

- I. Metin Kunt, *The Sultan's Servants*, 31-99.*
- Savory, "The Principal Offices of the Safawid State during the Reign of Shah Isma'il I," 91-105.*
- Stephen Blake, "The Patrimonial-Bureaucratic Empire of the Mughals," *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 39, (Nov. 1979): 77-94.*

WEEK 13: NO CLASS--*Thanksgiving Holiday: November 20-22*

WEEK 14: (November 27, 28, and 29)

Topic: **Military technologies and organization**

Reading: Jos Gommans, *Mughal Warfare*, pp. 67-97, 169-99.*

Rhoads Murphey, *Ottoman Warfare*, pp. 105-31, 169-92.*
 Rudi Matthee, "Unwalled cities and restless nomads," 389-416.*

SECOND BOOK REVIEW ON ANY READINGS ON SYLLABUS EXCEPT MANZ DUE NOVEMBER 29. PLEASE CONFIRM CHOICE OF READING WITH ME IN ADVANCE.

WEEK 15: (December 4, 5, and 6)

Topic: **The management of religious difference and the role of women**

Reading: Braude and Lewis, "Introduction" to *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire*.*

Aron Rodrigue, "Difference and tolerance in the Ottoman Empire, interview with Nancy Reynolds," *Stanford Electronic Humanities Review*, February 27, 1996. (available online at <http://www.stanford.edu/group/SHR/5-1/text/rodrigue.html>)

Vera B. Moreen, "Status of Religious Minorities in Safavid Iran, 1617-1661," in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, 40:2: 119-134.*

Leslie Pierce, *The Imperial Harem, selections*.*

Dal, *Domesticity and Power in Mughal India*, 1-50.*

Kathryn Babayan, "Sufis, Dervishes and Mullas", pp. 117-38.

Robert McChesney, "Barrier of Heterodoxy ?", pp. 231-67.

Take-home exam (2) due on December 11.