

**Instructor: Elias G. Saba**  
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**Office: Steiner 107**  
**Office Hours: T 12:00 noon-1pm;**  
**W 10:30-11:30am;**  
or by appointment

### **His 295-04: Islamic Empires**

#### **Course Description:**

This class is an introduction to Islamic Empires. After a brief survey of the first Islamic Empires, we will focus on the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires during the early modern and modern periods. Our explorations will center political and religious history, but we will also incorporate intellectual history and cultural expression to gain a better appreciation of the richness and diversity of Islamic Empires in the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia

#### **Course Requirements:**

This is a seminar course. It is imperative that each student carefully reads all of the assigned readings on time and comes to class ready to participate in class discussion.

There will be a simple map quick to help cover the geographical areas we will discuss in this class. The short response essay (~3 pp.) should respond to the readings and concerned for one class session. There will be a midterm to cover the early history of Islamic Empires. The main assignment in this class is the final paper, to be developed in consultation with the instructor. The assignment has been scaffolded into smaller segments, in an attempt to make this process more straightforward. It does, however, mean that you will have to start thinking about your paper and going through the syllabus early on in the semester. I am happy to meet with you during office hours to discuss your paper ideas. I will provide handouts about these assignments throughout the semester.

All assignments must be submitted to pass the course. Late assignments will be penalized a third of a letter grade for every day late. There is no penalty for early assignments.

#### **Grading**

- Short Response Essay (10%)
- Midterm Exam (20%)
- Paper Proposal Abstract (5%)
- Annotated Bibliography (10%)
- Final Paper Outline (5%)
- Final Paper (30%)
- Participation (20%)

**Course Policies:**

- You are expected to attend every class. Two or more unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your final grade. Grinnell College offers alternative options to complete academic work for students who observe religious holy days. Please contact me within the first three weeks of the semester if you would like to discuss a specific instance that applies to you. If you miss a class, make sure you do the assigned readings and get notes from a classmate. Class preparedness and participation is a major factor in the final grade and unexcused absences will count against this final grade. Missing more than 30% of the classes with unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.
- Please send all e-mail to sabaelia@grinnell.edu. During the week, I will respond to within 24 hours. It may take longer to respond during the weekend. Feel free to send any questions you may have about the course, although I rather discuss substantive issues in person rather than via e-mail.
- Breaches of academic integrity will result in an official disciplinary process guided by the Dean's office. If you have questions about the Academic Honesty policy, please consult Academic Honesty The College's Academic Honesty policy is located in the Student Handbook available online at: [http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537#Honesty\\_in\\_Academic\\_Work](http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537#Honesty_in_Academic_Work). The College expects that students are aware of and meet the expectations of this policy. Assignments in this course are not collaborative. If you have any questions, please see me before you turn in your work.
- The College supports students' efforts to meet both class obligations and religious ones. If you plan to observe religious holidays that coincide with class meetings or assignment due dates, please meet with me during the first two weeks of classes so that we may reach a mutual understanding of how you can meet these obligations.
- In order to create a fully inclusive classroom, I welcome students to approach me about distinctive learning needs. In particular, I encourage students with disabilities to have a conversation with me and disclose how our classroom or course activities could impact the disability and what accommodations would be essential. You will also need to have a conversation about and provide documentation of your disability to the Coordinator for Disability Resources, John Hirschman, located on the 3rd floor of the Rosenfield Center, 641-269-3089.

**Textbooks**

- Stephen F. Dale, *The Muslim Empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).
- Douglas Streusand, *Islamic Gunpowder Empires: Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2011).

**Class Schedule:**

Note: Readings are written on the day they are due. For instance, Frederick Cooper's essay is to be read for class discuss on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Readings with an asterisk will be divided among the class, they are not all required for all students.

**Before the Major Empires**

1/23: Class 0:

Introduction to the Class and Class Topics

- Marshall G. S. Hodgson, “The Role of Islam in World History,” in *Rethinking World History: Essays on Europe, Islam, and World History*, ed. Edmund Burke (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), 97-125. [OPTIONAL]

1/25: Class 1

- Frederick Cooper, “Empire Multiplied: A Review Essay,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 46, no. 2 (2004), pp. 247–272.

1/30: Class 2

- Jonathan P. Berkey, *The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society*, 61-82.
- Lapidus, *Islamic Societies*, 7-25.
- Garth Fowden, *Before and After Muhammad: The First Millennium Refocused* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), 2014, 1-15.

2/1: Class 3

- Vernon O. Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization* (Abingdon, England; New York, NY: Routledge, 2016), 86-113.

2/6: Class 4

- \*Carter Vaughn Findley, *The Turks in World History*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005, 56-75.
- \*Paul M. Cobb, “The World of Saladin,” in Hannes Möhring, *Saladin: The Sultan and His Times, 1138-1193*, tr. David S. Bachrach, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008, ix-xxiii.
- \*“Crusades,” William H. McNeill and Marilyn Robinson Waldman, eds., *The Islâmic World*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), 1983, 184-206.

**Global Entanglements and the Rise of Turkic Power**

2/8: Class 5

- Dale, *Muslim Empires*, 1-9
- \*David Ayalon, “The Mamluks: The Mainstay of Islam’s Military Might,” in Shaun E. Marmon, ed., *Slavery in the Islamic Middle East*, Princeton: Markus Wiener, 1999, 89-117.
- \*Michal Biran, “The Mongol Transformation: From the Steppe to Eurasian Empire,” *Medieval Encounters* 10.1–3 (2004), pp. 339–361.

2/13: Class 6

- Sanjay Subrahmanyam, “Connected Histories: Notes Towards a Reconfiguration of Early Modern Eurasia,” *Modern Asian Studies* 31.3 (1997): 735-762.
- Dale, *Muslim Empires*, 10-47.

**Introducing the Early Modern Empires**2/15: Class 7: **Ottomans**

- Streusand, 29-53.
- Ronald Jennings, "Some Thoughts on the Gazi-Thesis," *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 76 (1986): 151-161.
- Kritovoulos, *History of Mehmed the Conqueror* (selections), in W. McNeill and M. Waldman (eds.), *The Islamic World* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1973), 312-336.
- **SHORT-RESPONSE ESSAY DUE.**

2/20: Class 8: **Ottomans**

- Streusand, 53-134.

2/22: Class 9: **Safavids**

- Streusand, 135-58.
- \*Rudi Matthee, "Was Safavid Iran an Empire?" *Journal of the Social and Economic History of the Orient* 52 (2009): 840-873.
- \*Chapter 4: "Monumental Challenges and Monumental Responses: The Reign of Abbas I (1587-1629)," in Andrew Newman, *Safavid Iran: Rebirth of a Persian Empire* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2006), 50-73.

2/27: Class 10: **Safavids**

- Streusand, 158-200.
- \*Sussan Babaie et al., *Slaves of the Shah: New Elites of Safavid Iran*, London: I. B. Tauris, 2004, 1-19.
- \*Hans R. Roemer, "The Qizilbash Turcomans: Founders and Victims of the Safavid Theocracy," in V. Moreen and M. Mazzaoui (eds.), *Intellectual Studies on Islam: Essays Written in Honor of Martin B. Dickson* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1990), 27-40.

3/1: Class 11: **Mughals**

- Streusand, 201-243.
- Abu'l Fazl ibn Mubarak, *Akbarnama* (selections), in W. McNeill and M. Waldman (eds.), *The Islamic World* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1973), 353-373. - SKIM

3/6: Class 12: **Mughals**

- Streusand, 243-91.
- M. Athar Ali, "Sulh-i Kul and the Religious Ideas of Akbar," in *ibid.*, *Mughal India: Studies in Polity, Ideas, Society, and Culture* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006), 158-172.

3/8: Class 13: **MIDTERM**

## 3/13: Class 14: Imperial Culture, Kingship

- Dale, 135-76.

- Francis Robinson, “Ottomans-Safavids-Mughals: Shared Knowledge and Connective Systems,” *Journal of Islamic Studies* 8/2 (1997), 151-84.

## 3/15: Class 15: Kingship

- Dale, 48-105
  - Lapidus, *Islamic Societies*, 538-42.
  - **Paper Proposal Abstract Due**
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## 4/3: Class 16: Kingship

- \*Matthew Melvin-Koushki, “Tamerlane,” *Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, 542-43.
- \*Ibn Khaldun: Personal Narrative of a Meeting with Timur,” in Scott C. Levi and Ron Sela, eds., *Islamic Central Asia: An Anthology of Historical Sources*, 171-75.
- \*Azfar Moin, *The Millennial Sovereign: Sacred Kingship and Sainthood in Islam*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012), 23-55.
- \*Chapter 1, “Safavid, Mughal, and Ottoman Empires,” in Stephen P. Blake, *Time in Early Modern Islam*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2013, 21-47.

## 4/5: Class 17: Sufisms

- Marshall Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam, Vol. 2: The Expansion of Islam in the Middle Periods*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977, 201-30.
- \*Ahmet T. Karamustafa, *God’s Unruly Friends: Dervish Groups in the Islamic Later Middle Period, 1200-1550*, Oxford: Oneworld, 2006, 13-32.
- \*Nile Green, “Transgressions of a Holy Fool: A Majzub in Colonial India,” in Barbara D. Metcalf, ed., *Islam in South Asia in Practice*, Princeton: Princeton UP, 2009, 173-84.

## 4/10: Class 18: Sufisms

- \*Said Amir Arjomand, “Religious Extremism, (*Ghuluww*), Sufism, and Sunnism in Safavid Iran,” *Journal of Asian History* 1/1 (1981) 1-35.
- \*Kathryn Babayan, “Sufis, Dervishes, and Mullas: The Controversy over Spiritual and Temporal Dominion in Seventeenth-Century Iran,” in Charles Mellville, ed. *Safavid Persia: The History and Politics of an Islamic Society* (London and New York: I.B. Raus, 1996), 117-137.
- John Curry, “Sufism and Society in the Ottoman Empire” interview in *Ottoman History Podcast*, Aug. 9 2013. <http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2013/08/sufism-ottoman-empire.html>.

## 4/12: Class 19: Imperial Economics

- Dale, 106-134.
- \*Ömer Lütfi Barkan and Justin McCarthy, “The Price Revolution of the Sixteenth Century: A Turning Point in the Economic History of The Near East,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 6 (1975): 3-28.
- \*Sajida S. Alvi, “Religion and State during the reign of Mughal Emperor Jahangir (1605-27): Nonjuristical perspectives,” *Studia Islamica* 69 (1989): 95-119.

- **Annotated Bibliography Due**

4/17: Class 20

- Ralph S. Hattox, *Coffee and Coffeehouses: The Origins of a Social Beverage in the Medieval Near East* (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1988), 3-45, 112-136
- \*Rudi Matthee, "Coffee in Safavid Iran: Commerce and Consumption," Rudi Matthee, *The Pursuit of Pleasure: Drugs and Stimulants in Iranian History, 1500-1900* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009), 144-176
- \*Eminegül Karababa and Güliz Ger, "Early Modern Coffeehouse Culture and the Formation of the Consumer Subject," *Journal of Consumer Research* 37.5 (2011): 737-760

4/19 Class 21: Women in Empire

- Leslie Peirce, *The Imperial Harem: Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1993), 91-112.
- \*Gregory Kozlowski, "Private Lives and Public Piety: Women and the Practice of Islam in Mughal India" in *Women in the Medieval Islamic World: Power, Patronage, and Piety*, edited by Gavin R.G. Hambly (New York: St. Martin's Press), 469-88.
- \*The 'Jewels of Wonder': Learned Ladies and Princess Politicians in the Provinces of Early Şafavid Iran" in *Women in the Medieval Islamic World: Power, Patronage, and Piety*, edited by Gavin R.G. Hambly (New York: St. Martin's Press), 325-49.
- Nikki R. Keddi, "Review: Women in the Medieval Islamic World: Power, Patronage, and Piety by Gavin R. G. Hambly" *Iranian Studies* 33 (2000) 242-45.

4/24 Class 22: Golden Ages(?)

- Dale, 177-207
- **Final Paper Outline Due**

4/26 Class 23: Art

- \*Annemarie Schimmel, *The Empire of the Great Mughals: History, Art, Mughals*, trans. Corinne Attwood (London: Reaktion Books, 2004), 263-298.
- \*"Architecture under the Ottomans after the Conquest of Constantinople" in *The Art and Architecture of Islam, 1250-1800* by Sheila S. Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), 213-230.

5/1 Class 24:

- \*Ebba Koch, "The Delhi of the Mughals Prior to Shahjahanabad as Reflected in the Patterns of Imperial Visits" in *Mughal Art and Imperial Ideology*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 163-82.
- \*Robert Ousterhout, "Ethnic Identity and Cultural Appropriation in Early Ottoman Architecture" *Muqarnas* 12: 48-62.
- \*Basil Gray, "The Arts in the Safavid Period" in *Cambridge History of Iran* vol. 6, ed. Peter Jackson and Lawrence Lockhart (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 877-912.

5/3 Class 25: Free Class

- Dale, 247-287.
- Bernard Lewis, "Ottoman Observers of Ottoman Decline," *Islamic Studies* 1 (1962), 71-87.

5/8: Class 26: Decline and Disintegration

- \*Linda Darling, "The Myth of Decline," introductory chapter in her *Revenue Raising and Legitimacy: Tax Collection and Finance Administration in the Ottoman Empire, 1560-1660* (Leiden, New York, and Köln: Brill, 1996), 1-21.
- \*Martin Dickson, "The Fall of the Safavid Dynasty," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 82 (1962), 503-517.
- \*M. Athar Ali, "The Passing of Empire: The Mughal Case," *Modern Asian Studies* 9 (1975): 385-396.

5/10 Class 27: Review and Wrap-Up

**FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE BY 5:00PM ON FRIDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2018.**