

## Glassboro State College Senate Curriculum Committee

# Approval Form

2205.213

Proposal Title: Islamic Civilization

Sponsor(s) Dr. Corinne Blake Dept.: History Ext. 6108

Check one:  Course     Specialization     Concentration     Minor     Achievement Certificate

Certification Program     Major Program     Minor Change (please name, deletion or credit/title/catalog change)

Undergraduate     Graduate    3 Credit Hours

<p><b>Step 1 (Department)</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <u>10/13/92</u> Date</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p><u>H. G. Hunter</u> Dept. CC Chairperson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed <u>10/10/92</u> Date</p> <p>_____ Dept. Chairperson</p>	<p><b>Step 2 (Receipt)</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCC# <u>62-93-12</u></p> <p>Proposal Received _____ Date</p> <p><u>OCT 15 1992</u></p> <p><u>Mary A. Putman</u> SCC Chairperson</p>	<p><b>Step 3 (School CC)</b></p> <p>Reviewed <u>10-29-92</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p><u>J. Caldwell</u> School Curr. Comm. Chairperson</p>
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**Step 4 (Academic Dean)**    **Comments:**

Recommend     Not Recommend     Conditionally Recommend (see comments)

Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Date NOV 5 1992

RECEIVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Dean of School

**Step 5 (SCC)**

Open Hearing 12/11/92     Approved by Senate Curriculum Committee 12/11/92  
Date    Date

Returned to sponsor(s) for the following reasons: pending minor changes which were approved

**Step 6 (Senate)**

Presented to Senate 2/19/93     Approved     Not Approved  
Date

Notification to Executive Vice-President/Provost 2/26/93    Mary A. Putman  
Date    Signature, SCC Chairperson

ORIGINAL

**Step 7 (Executive V.P./Provost)**

Received \_\_\_\_\_

Date

If no, reasons are as follows:


Approved  Yes  No

Student credit hours \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty load hours \_\_\_\_\_

Equalized credit hours \_\_\_\_\_

Official copy and approval sheet filed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 1993



Signature, Executive Vice-President/Provost

**Registrar**

Approved course description received 8 Mar. 93  
Date

Hegis Taxonomy and Course Number assigned 2205.213

B. J. Kelsey  
Signature, Registrar

8 Mar. 93  
Date

**Notification forwarded:**

- Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson
- Department Chairperson(s)
- Academic Dean(s)
- Registrar
- Sponsor(s)

## NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

### 1. Details

- A. Islamic Civilization
- B. Dr. Corinne Blake and the History Department
- C. 3 Credits
- D. Course level: Freshman, Sophomore
- E. Curricular effect: major elective
- F. No prerequisites
- G. Time of Implementation: Fall 1993
- H. Adequacy of staff and resources - Dr. Blake will teach the course. She has taught and researched Islamic history at Princeton University and Rutgers University. Our library holdings in Islamic history and culture are certainly adequate for a lower level survey course, and classroom space is available.

### 2. Rationale

This course is designed as a lower level survey course for history majors. It will broaden the history department's menu of non-western course offerings (majors are currently required to take 6 non-western course credits). When we develop a track system as mandated by our five year review, it will also serve as an elective for majors who choose the global track, broadening the range of global course offerings.

In addition, Dr. Blake intends to develop a series of courses in Middle Eastern history at Rowan college. This course, Islamic Civilization, together with another course that is currently offered, Middle East Since 1453, will serve as the foundation of the Middle East program.

Islamic Civilization, a survey course examining Islamic history from the 7th century A.D. to the 18th century, will be offered every fall semester. The course currently entitled "Middle East Since 1453" will be renamed "Modern Middle East" (a request for a minor curricular change is attached). Modern Middle East, a lower level survey course which focuses on the Middle East in the 19th and 20th centuries, will be offered every spring semester as the second half of the introductory survey.

Majors may take either or both of these survey courses for their non-western and/or global track electives. They should also take one or both of these courses before enrolling in the upper level Middle Eastern courses which will be offered from spring 1994.

### 3. Essence of the Course

#### A. Objectives:

Upon completion of Islamic Civilization students will:

1. Have a basic understanding of Islam: its origins, early history, basic beliefs and precepts, legal system, and schisms (especially differences between Sunnis and Shi'is).

2. Be familiar with important Islamic dynasties and governments: the Umayyads, Abbasids, Seljuks, Ottomans, Safavis, and Mughals.

3. Be familiar with characteristic Islamic institutions: the caliphate, mamluks (slave armies), the 'ulema (religious scholars), Muslim cities, etc.

4. Understand social structures characteristic of Islamic societies, as well as issues of religious minorities, gender, and race in Islam.

5. Understand how political, social, cultural, and even religious forms have differed, sometimes radically, in diverse Islamic societies.

6. Understand the variety of responses among different Islamic societies to the challenge of Europe in the 18th century, especially Islamic reform movements.

7. Be familiar with the range of primary materials available to study Islamic societies.

#### B. Topical Outline/Content

Objectives one to seven reflect the content of the course.

#### C. Evaluation of Students

Since this is a lower level course, students will be evaluated on the basis of one midterm examination and one final examination. They will also be asked to write a 1-2 page documentary analysis.

#### D. Evaluation of Course

As a lower level course, Islamic civilization will be evaluated every three years as part of the departmental review. Assessment is also made by the History Department Curriculum Committee every year, which includes peer observation and Student evaluations.

4. Results of Consultations

No other department offers a similar course.

5. Additional Information

Islamic civilization syllabuses from two other colleges are enclosed as examples of how other professors teach similar courses.

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

### Islamic Civilization

This course provides an introduction to the broad currents in Islamic history from the emergence of Islam in the 7th century A.D. through the 18th century. It concentrates on the heartland of the Islamic world, the Middle East, using primary sources as well as secondary interpretations. This course is typically offered during the fall semester.



GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

Philosophy and Religion Department

Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1766  
(609) 863-6048

January 13, 1993

Dr. Corinne Blake  
Department of History  
Rowan College of New Jersey  
Glassboro, New Jersey 08028

Dear Dr. Blake,

I was delighted to read your proposal for a course on Islamic Civilization to be offered by the History Department. A course of this sort is long overdue. I am pleased to see a course offering the basics of Islam, the intimate relationship between religion and society in the Islamic world, and the ways in which that relationship changed over time. The historical approach to religion is, I believe, one of the most effective and fair ways to examine religion in an institution such as ours.

The course objectives as you have outlined them look appropriate for a lower level course. Although our course, Religions of the World, has only a little time to devote to Islam. I have noted that students are very interested in the topic and do try to understand the role religion plays in the Middle East. They usually labor under the stereotypical notions of Islam fostered by the news media during geopolitical confrontations. Although I understand that the course will be required of History majors, I hope that you will also welcome non-majors. Perhaps, as interest builds, a second section could be offered on this important topic.

I am also pleased that one of the course objectives will be to "familiarize students with the range of primary materials available to study Islamic societies." I am deeply committed to training students in methodologies and in mastering source materials. Too often our students read text books with little understanding of the role played by scholarly discussion and debate in every field of study. Attention to methodology sharpens their reasoning skills, brings them into scholarly debates, and enables them to master information resources so essential to ongoing learning. My only suggestion for the course is that you consider asking them to do more written analyses than you have suggested. Perhaps it would be best to see how comprehension levels run during the first semester and to assign documentary analyses as you think necessary. I could easily see three to five such analyses per semester.

I was personally gratified to see that you feel that our library resources are sufficient for a lower level course in Islam. I require students to write research papers and am very concerned that they find resources in Savitz Library. I have

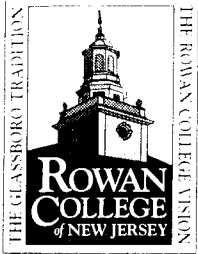
page two

been ordering books in Islam over the last three years, along with books and periodicals in other religions. I am sure that while I was ordering books in Islam, the History Department was ordering books on the history of the Islamic world. We can both be pleased to see the flowering of our efforts providing the support for your course.

I heartily endorse your proposal for "Islamic Civilization." I look forward to teaching students who have taken your course and I will recommend Islamic Civilization to my students.

Best wishes,

  
Dianne Ashton  
Chair



# Rowan College of New Jersey

Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1701

Date: February 3, 1993

To: Senate Curriculum Committee

From: Bernadyne Weatherford, Chairperson *BW*  
Department of Political Science

Re: New Course Proposed by  
Corinne Blake and the  
History Department

This letter is in support of the change in the catalog description for the History course "Modern Middle East." The changes made are designed to properly explain the content of the course which, from its description, will not excessively duplicate the course offerings in the Political Science Department.

dfk

## History 120: ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

Fall 1991  
Th 2:00

Dr. Seng  
Office: 2102H  
405-4265  
Office Hours: 3:15-4:15

Texts:

Required:

- 1) Albert Hourani, A History of the Arab Peoples (Harvard University Press)
- 2) Norman Itzkowitz, Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition (University of Chicago Press)
- 3) A.J. Arberry, trans., The Koran Interpreted (Macmillan)
- 4) Kenneth Cragg and Marston Speight, Islam From Within: Anthology of Religion (Wadsworth)
- 5) Orhan Pamuk, The White Castle (Braziller)
- 6) Elizabeth Fernea, Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnology of an Iraqi Village (Doubleday).

On Reserve in Hornbake Library:

Ira M. Lapidus, A History of Islamic Societies (Cambridge University Press)  
Amin Maalouf, The Crusade Through Arab Eyes (Schocken)  
M.G.S. Hodgson, The Venture of Islam, vols. 1-3 (Univ. of Chicago Press)  
Arthur Goldschmidt, A Concise History of the Middle East (Westview Press)

**Regarding the texts:** Because of the rich expanse of material but the brevity of the course, we will concentrate on the "heartland" of Islamic civilization, the Arab lands. The first textbook, A History of the Arab Peoples is therefore core reading for the course, for which Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition serves as supplement. Assigned readings for other geographic areas will be on reserve.

A second pair of texts addresses the faith of Islam. It should be underlined that Arberry's The Koran Interpreted is not a translation: as indicated in the title, it is an interpretation but considered to be one of the best in the English language. Islam from Within, is a collection of readings, historical and recent, on religion and philosophy.

You are also required to read two novels. They will be used as part of your final examination. The White Castle, a recent and highly-acclaimed historical novel by Orhan Pamuk, is set in seventeenth-century Istanbul. Guests of the Sheik is an insightful personal record of a neighbourhood in Iraq by anthropologist Elizabeth Fernea and provides a counterpoint from which to study the recent political situation. You should begin reading them immediately.

**Grades:** Final grades for the course will be based on a combination of announced quizzes, short assignments, and a written mid-term and final examination. A map assignment will be handed out during the first class and is due the second class period of the following week. The examinations will include questions based on class lectures, handouts and assigned readings; the final will include a question based on the two novels.

## Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

- Week 1: September 2**  
**Subject:** Introduction: the scope of present-day Islam.  
Context: pre-Islamic Society.  
**Reading:** (Required) Hodgson, vol. 1:48-63; 103-145.  
Map assignment (to be handed out in class)  
(Recommended) Goldschmidt, 7-26.
- Week 2: September 9**  
The Prophet and the Community of Believers  
(Req) Map assignment due second class.  
Hourani, 1-21; Hodgson, 146-186  
(Rec) Cragg & Speight, 71-77
- Week 3: September 16**  
Pillars of Islam and the articles of faith. The Qur'an, Hadith and Sunna.  
(Req) Hourani, 147-157; Cragg & Speight, 49-70; 78-98  
Koran, surahs 96; 19; 79; 81:1-4; 82; 24:35-44  
(Rec) Cragg & Speight, 1-47; 71-77.
- Week 4: September 23**  
Early history: Conquest and Schism  
(Req) Hourani, 22-58  
(Rec) Hodgson, 187-314; Lapidus, 37-67; Cragg & Speight, 65-66
- Week 5: September 30**  
Legitimation and Authority: State and Law.  
(Req) Hourani, 59-79; Cragg & Speight 97-117  
(Rec) Hodgson, 315-358
- Week 6: October 7**  
Regionalization of Islamic Societies. The Central Asian Connection.  
(Req) Hourani, 81-146  
(Rec) Hodgson, 473-495
- Week 7: October 14**  
External threats: the Crusaders and the Mongols.  
(Req) Hourani, 130-146; Maalouf, 123-139, Parts 5, 6, and epilogue  
(203-266)  
(Rec) Hodgson, 359-443
- Week 8: October 21**  
Orthodox versus heterodox Islam: The Sunni path versus the mystical Sufi path. The debates of the early philosophers.  
(Req) Hourani, 158-188; Cragg & Speight, 118-151; 173-207  
(Rec) Hodgson, vol. 2: 153-254

**MIDTERM**

- Week 9: October 28**  
The art of the written word; science and technology. The legacy of early Islamic culture and its influence on the West.  
(Req) Hourani: 189-205; Cragg & Speight, 152-172
- Week 10: November 4**  
Turks and the Ottoman Empire.  
(Req) Hourani, 207-248; Itzkowitz, 1-109  
(Rec) Hodgson, vol. 3: 99-133
- Week 11: November 11**  
Three Islamic Empires: Ottoman, Safavid and Moghul. Islam in the East.  
(Req) Lapidus, 276-299; 434-466  
(Rec) Lapidus, 467-488 (South-east Asia)
- Week 12: November 18**  
Western expansion into the Middle East. Orientalism and the "Exotic East".  
(Req) Hourani, 249-278  
(Rec) Hodgson, 3: 134-161; 165-249
- Week 13: November 25 (No class Thursday, Thanksgiving)**  
Reform and revivalist movements in the 19th century.  
(Req) Hourani, 279-332  
(Rec) Pamuk and Fernea
- Week 14: December 2**  
Post-WWI. Nationalism. Reform and revivalist movements.  
(R) Hourani, 33-440; Lewis article (on reserve)  
(O) Cragg & Speight, 208-247; Pamuk and Fernea
- Week 15: December 9**  
Contemporary issues (to be announced).  
Discussion of Midaq Alley and Guests of the Sheik  
(R) Hourani, 401-458; Cragg & Speight, 208-247  
(O) Haddad (on reserve)

Dina Le Gall  
30 Macalester, 102  
Office Hours: Tues. 11: 30-12:30  
Thur. 12: 30- 1: 30  
& by appointment

## INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

HISTORY 50-05  
Fall 1992

### Course Objectives

Considering Islam as an all-encompassing civilization rather than a religion alone, this class offers a three-fold enquiry. First, it studies the Islamic religious tradition as manifested in theology, ritual practice, law, the organization of religious life, and the tension between the orthodox and alternative visions of Islam. Second, it surveys the history of Islamic societies from the emergence of the umma (community) of Muhammad in the 7th century through the world-wide diffusion of Islam in pre-modern times. Third, it probes the various responses of Islam to the challenges of modernity, from the revivalism and reformism of the 18th and 19th centuries to the current Islamic resurgence.

### Required Readings

- 1) Bernard Lewis. The Arabs in History. New York, 1966.
- 2) J.J. Saunders. A History of Medieval Islam. London, 1965.
- 3) Norman Itzkowitz. Ottoman Empire and Islamic Tradition. New York, 1972.
- 4) J.L. Esposito. Islam: The Straight Path. New York, 1988.
- 5) Bernard Lewis (ed.). Islam: From the Prophet Muhammad to the Capture of Constantinople. 2 vols. New York and Oxford, 1987.
- 6) Packet of Selected Readings.

### Course Requirements

- 1) Active participation in class discussion
- 2) Three essays on assigned topics (due 21 September, 19 October, 23 November)
- 3) Final exam

All assignments must be completed and the essays handed in on time. The essays, the final exam, and participation in class discussions each count 20% towards the final grade.

## SESSIONS AND READING SCHEDULE

### Part One: The Age of the Caliphate

1) Introduction: Aim and Scope of Course

2) Arabia and the Middle East Before Islam

Lewis, The Arabs in History, chapter 1

Esposito, pp. 3-7

Eric Wolf, "The Social Organization of Mecca and the Origins of Islam"

3) Muhammad and the Establishment of the Islamic Community (1)

Lewis, The Arabs in History, chapter 2

Esposito, pp. 7-20 (7-19)

W. M. Watt, "Muhammad"

4) Muhammad and the Establishment of the Islamic Community (2)

W. M. Watt, Muhammad at Medina, pp. 221-8

5) The Era of the Early Islamic Conquests

Lewis, The Arabs in History, chapter 3

Esposito, pp. 37-45 (34-41)

Lewis, Islam, I, chapter 14, sections 62, 63, 65

6) The Umayyad Empire

Lewis, The Arabs in History, chapter 4

Esposito, pp. 45-51, 54-57 (42-47, 50-52)

Lewis, Islam, I, chapter 1, section 5

G.R. Hawting, The First Dynasty of Islam, chapter 1

7) The Abbasid Revolution

H. Kennedy, The Early Abbasid Caliphate, chapter 2

Lewis, Islam, I, chapter 1, sections 6, 7

8) The Abbasid Empire and the Disintegration of the Caliphate

Saunders, chapters 7-8

Esposito, pp. 51-53, 57-62 (47-48, 52-59)

Lewis, Islam, I, chapter 2

D. Sourdel, "The Abbasid Caliphate"

Hugh Kennedy, The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates, chapter 7

9) Turks and Crusaders

Saunders, chapters 9-10

Esposito, pp. 62-65 (59-61)

C. Cahen, "Crusades"

Usamah ibn Munqidh, "A Moslem View of the Crusaders"

10) Mongols and Mamluks

Saunders, chapter 11

Lewis, Islam, I, chapter 5, sections 22, 23, 24, 26; chapter 6, section 27

A. Goldschmidt, A Concise History of the Middle East, pp. 119-128

B. Lewis, Islam in History, chapter 14

**Part Two: Islamic Institutions**

11) Ritual, Theology, and Law

Esposito, pp. 20-36, 68-95 (19-33, 69-94)

Lewis, Islam, II, chapter 1, section 1; chapter 2, sections 5, 6; chapter 4, section 9

12) The Caliphate: Practice and Theory

Lewis, Islam, I, chapter 9, sections 42, 43, 44

B. Lewis, "Politics and War," pp. 156-174

Ann K. S. Lambton, State and Government in Mediaeval Islam, chapter 2

13) The Military Institution: Slave Soldiers and Islam

H. Kennedy, The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates, pp. 205-211

D. Pipes, Slave Soldiers and Islam, chapter 3

14) Concept of Self and Other

- Lewis, Islam, II, chapter 7, sections 36, 37; chapter 11, sections 74-78
- B. Lewis, "Politics and War," pp. 174-208
- C. Cahen, "Dhimma"
- B. Lewis, Islam in History, Chapter 7

15) Land Tenure and Agriculture in Medieval Islam

- A. Hourani, A History of the Arab Peoples, pp. 98-104
- E. Ashtor, A Social and Economic History of the Near East in the Middle Ages, chapter 2
- C. Cahen, "Ikta`"

16) Urban Life

- A. Hourani, A History of the Arab Peoples, chapters 7-8
- I. Lapidus, Muslim Cities in the Later Middle Ages, chapter 3
- S. Stern, "The Constitution of the Islamic City"

17) Shi`i Islam

- Esposito, pp. 112-115 (109-113)
- A. Rippin, Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices, chapter 8
- B. Lewis, "The Shi`a in Islamic History"

18) Sufism

- Esposito, pp. 103-112 (101-109)
- A. Rippin, Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices, chapter 9

19) Family and Women

- Esposito, pp. 95-103 (94-101)
- Leila Ahmed, "Women and the Advent of Islam"
- F. Rahman, "Status of Women in the Qur'an"
- Elizabeth W. Fernea and Basima Qattan Bezirgan (eds.), Women in the Muslim World, chapter 2

20) Islamic Civilization

- Saunders, chapter 12
- B. Lewis, The Arabs in History, chapter 8

### Part Three: From Gunpowder Empires to Contemporary Islam

21) The Rise and Heyday of the Ottoman Empire

Itzkowitz, chapters 1-2

22) The Ottoman Empire in the Post Suleymanic Age

Itzkowitz, chapters 3-4

23) Safavid Iran

Ira Lapidus, A History of Islamic Societies, chapter 13

24) Moghul India

Ira Lapidus, A History of Islamic Societies, chapter 18

25) The Diffusion of Islam in Southeast Asia and Africa

Ira Lapidus, A History of Islamic Societies, chapters 19-21

26) The Impact of the West: Challenges

B. Lewis, The Middle East and the West, chapter 2

27) The Impact of the West: Responses

Esposito, pp. 116-152 (114-147)

H. A. R. Gibb, Mohammedanism, chapter 10

28) The Islamic Resurgence: The Sunni World

Esposito, pp. 152-160, 162-174 (147-154, 156-175, 187-191)

P.J. Vatikiotis, Islam and the State, chapter 3

B. Lewis, "The Return of Islam"

D. Pipes, "The Islamic Revival of the Seventies"

29) The Islamic Resurgence: The Iranian Revolution

Esposito, 175-186 (1991 edition only)

M.E. Yapp, The Near East since the First World War, pp. 330-53

John L. Esposito, Islam and Politics, pp. 178-198

E. Sivan, "Sunni Radicalism in the Middle East and the Iranian Revolution"