
HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST I in Fall 2019 (HI1015)

Course Code	HI1015	Professor(s)	Ziad Majed
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	
Class Schedule	MR: 16:55-18:15 in G-009	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	zmajed@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

This course surveys major themes in the ancient and medieval history of the Middle East. It is organized around two parts.

The first surveys successive civilizations and empires that rose in the region or invaded and dominated it, from the Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Phoenicians, the Persians, to the Greeks and the Romans/Byzantines. The birth of Judaism and Christianity is presented in this part.

The Second covers the rise of Islam, its expansion and the Caliphate it established from the 7th to the late 13th century, when the Mongol seized Bagdad.

Course Learning Outcomes

To learn the historical context and narratives surrounding the civilizations of the Middle East
To understand how the three monotheistic religions emerged and evolved in the Middle East
To learn about the history of Islam and its empires from Muhammad's days to the fall of Bagdad in the 13th century

General Education

Course Outline

Week I

Session I Introduction: The definition of a “civilization”

READINGS

“The long march to civilization”, in Braudel, pp 26- 59

Session II Introduction: The Mediterranean and the Middle East II

READINGS

“The long march to civilization”, in Braudel, pp 26- 59

Week II

Session I The Egyptian empire

READINGS

Documents will be shared in class and on Blackboard.

Session II Mesopotamian States

READINGS

“A twofold birth”, in Braudel, pp 60-69

Week III

Session I The Persian Empire

READINGS

Documents will be shared in class and on Blackboard (from Olmstead, A.T., *History of the Persian Empire*, the University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1992)

Session II

The Persian Empire and its expansion

READINGS

Documents will be shared in class and on Blackboard.

Week IV

Session I

The Phoenicians and their ports

READINGS

Documents will be shared in class and on blackboard (from Ora Negbi, Early Phoenician Presence in the Mediterranean Islands: A Reappraisal, *American Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. 96, No. 4 (Oct., 1992), pp. 599-615)

Session II

Review and conclusions on the first civilizations

Week V

Session I The Greek City States

READINGS

"The miracle of Greece", in Braudel, pp 258 - 305

Session II The Roman Empire

READINGS

"The Roman takeover of the Greater Mediterranean", in Braudel, pp 306-335.

Week VI

Session I

Christianity and its aftermath

READINGS

Chapters 1 and 2 in Peter and Esposito

Session II

The Bizantine Empire

READINGS

Documents will be shared in class and on Blackboard (from Kelly, Christopher, *The Roman Empire, a very short introduction*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2006)

Week VII

Session I MIDTERM

Session II Muhammed and the birth of Islam

READINGS

“The appearance of Islam”, in Hourani, pp 14-21

Week VIII

Session I Islamic expansion

READINGS

“The formation of an Empire”, in Hourani, pp 22-37

Session II The Umayyad Empire

READINGS

“The Caliphate of Damascus”, in Hourani pp 25 - 31

Week IX

Session I The Abbasside Empire

READINGS

The Caliphate of Bagdad”, in Hourani, pp 32-37

Session II The fall of Bagdad

READINGS

Articles will be shared in class and posted on Blackboard

Week X

Session I The Islamic Society, the fragmented “Islamic World” and the rise of the Mamluks

READINGS

“The formation of a society” in Hourani, pp 38-58

“The Arab Muslim World”, in Hourani, pp 83-97.

“Cities and their rulers”, in Hourani, pp 130-146.

Session II Visit in Paris

Week XI

Class presentations

Week XII

Class presentations

Week XIII

Review and conclusions

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Articles, documentaries and maps will be used in class.

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
The Mediterranean in the Ancient World	Braudel, Fernand	Penguin	9780140283556	Yes
A history of the Arab peoples	Hourani, Albert	FABER	9780571288014	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Midterm: 30%

Class participation: 20%

Class presentations: 20%

Final: 30%

Other
