

History/NES 383
Spring 2003
TTh 3:30-4:45
Soc Sci 411

Prof. Linda Darling
ldarling@u.arizona.edu
SS 219: 621-9754 or 1586
Office Hours: TTh 1-3 pm

RELIGION AND STATE IN ISLAM

This course examines the relationship between Islam and politics from the era of the Prophet to the present day. This relationship evolved and changed as Muslim society expanded, its political and religious systems developed, and its relations with the surrounding world altered. For that reason we can use it as a lens through which to view the development of the society as a whole, its institutions, modes of thought, and cultural development.

The course format will emphasize the ideas of the Muslims themselves as seen through their writings. Textbooks will be used to provide continuity and chronology, but the major readings are what historians call primary sources, sources written by participants in or witnesses to the historical events themselves. We will read and analyze these sources of information, developing from them a sense of the changes taking place over time. Short analytical essays based on the primary sources readings, and frequent class discussions on the readings and essays, will permit the class to reach conclusions and share findings.

For this kind of class, keeping up with the assignments is mandatory. Readings and essays must be done before the class for which they are listed, and discussions will be based on the readings and essays. Your presence is expected at all classes. Late papers (for whatever reason) will be graded down one full grade, including those turned in to my mailbox or office floor during class time. Your presence in and contribution to the discussions, your questions and comments in class, are part of the learning experience for everyone. Class participation (including attendance and contribution to discussions, and any quizzes) will count 10% of the grade, essays #1-5 30% (6% each), essay #6 10%, the midterm 20%, and the final exam 30%.

Plagiarism: You must cite the source whenever you use someone else's work, even if you are not directly quoting it. Using someone else's work without giving them credit for it constitutes plagiarism, for which there are prescribed penalties.

TEXTS FOR THE COURSE

The following are available for purchase at the bookstore or on reserve in the library:

Antony Black: The History of Islamic Thought (=Black)
Hourani, Albert: A History of the Arab Peoples (=Hourani)
Wickham, Carrie: Mobilizing Islam (-Wickham)

A course packet, entitled "Readings on Religion and State in Islam" (=Readings), is available on the web or at Arizona Print/Copy, 1033 N. Park (not on reserve).

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION

- Jan. 16: Introduction
- Jan. 21: Geography of the Middle East: Living Conditions and Lifestyles
Hourani, 98-108

THE RISE OF ISLAM

- Jan. 23: Muhammad the Prophet: Life and Leadership
Hourani, to p. 21, 147-157; Black, 1-17
- Jan. 28: The Message in its Setting: Challenge and Response
Readings: Selections from the Qur'an
Discussion: The Nature of the Early Community
- Jan. 30: Leadership in the Early Muslim Community
Hourani, 22-25
Readings: Selecting a Caliph
- Feb. 4: Murder of a Caliph: Why or Why Not?
Readings: Tabari, An Account of the Killing of Uthman
SHORT ESSAY #1 DUE
Discussion: The Grounds of Authority
- Feb. 6: The Umayyads: Muslim Dynasties and Persian Precedents
Hourani, 25-32, Black, 18-24
- Feb. 11: The Abbasid Revolution: Redefining the Community
Readings: The Shi'ites; Heresy and Revolt
Discussion: The Basis of Revolt

GOVERNANCE IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

- Feb. 13: Islam and Empire: The Abbasids
Hourani, 32-58; Black, 25-31
- Feb. 18: The Development of Islamic Institutions
Readings: al-Shafi'i, Risala, Chapter V
Discussion: Questions on al-Shafi'i
Hourani, 59-79, 158-171; Black, 32-38

- Feb 20: Caliph and Sultan: Church and State?
Black, 81-90
Readings: Mawardi, On the Contract of the Caliphate
SHORT ESSAY #2 DUE
Discussion: The Basis of Legitimacy
- Feb 25: The Growth of Islamic Civilization: The “Shi’i Century”
Readings: Sectarian Movements
Hourani, 109-129, 172-188; Black, 39-48, 57-78
- Feb. 27: Service to the State: Attitudes of the ‘Ulama’
Readings: A Treatise of the Sharif al-Murtada
Discussion: Officials and Their Rulers
- Mar. 4: The Sunnis Return to Power: The Seljuks and Their Successors
Hourani, 81-97, 189-205; Black, 91-134
- Mar. 6: A Vizier’s Advice to the Ruler: Continuity and Change
Readings: The Book of Governance by Nizam al-Mulk
SHORT ESSAY #3 DUE
Discussion: The Structure of Government
- Mar. 11: MIDTERM
- Mar. 13: The Book of Kings

SPRING BREAK

TRIBES, STATES, AND EMPIRES

- Mar. 25: Invasion and Response: Mamluks and Mongols
Hourani, 130-146; Black, 137-164
- Mar. 27: A Muslim Sociologist’s Analysis of Post-Mongol Society
Readings: The Maqaddimah by Ibn Khaldun
Black, 165-182
Discussion: The Life Cycle of a Dynasty
- Apr. 1: Conquest and Political Legitimacy: Tribal Empires
Black, 183-189
Readings: The Reign of Osman Ghazi
Hourani, 207-230

- Apr. 3: Muslims and Their Rulers: The Individual and the State
 Readings: Ibn Khaldun and Tamerlane
 SHORT ESSAY #4 DUE
 Discussion: The Basis of Obedience
- Apr. 8: The Gunpowder Empires: Ottoman, Safavid, Mughal
 Hourani, 231-248, Black, 193-220
- Apr. 10: Governance of an Empire
 Black, 221-254
 Readings: Advice on the Art of Governance
 SHORT ESSAY #5 DUE
 Discussion: Ideals and Realities
- Apr. 15: Transformation and Threat: The Eighteenth Century
 Hourani, 249-262
- Apr. 17: Western Impact and Islamic Response
 Hourani, 263-278, (279-298), 299-314; Black, 279-307

ISLAM AND THE MODERN WORLD

- Apr. 22: Islam and Modernity: Changing Alignments
 Hourani, (315-332), 333-349
- Apr. 24: Nationalism and Islam
 Hourani, (351-372), 373-400, (401-433), 434-458
 Black, 308-323
 Wickham, to p. 92
- Apr. 29: Islam in Politics
 Black, 324-348
 Wickham, 93-175
- May 1: Islamic Mobilization
 Black, 349-354
 Wickham, 176-226
- May 6: Religion and State
 ESSAY #6 DUE

FINAL EXAMINATION Tuesday, May 13, 2-4pm