

**SYLLABUS**  
**SURVEY OF ARAB HISTORY**  
**ARIC 2346 – 05**  
**Spring 2018**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Anthony T. Quickel, M.A.
<b>Time:</b>	Sunday/Wednesday – 14:00 – 15:15
<b>Room:</b>	Waleed CP66
<b>Contact:</b>	atquickel@aucegypt.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Sunday/Wednesday – By Appointment
<b>Office:</b>	HUSS 2158

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**Course Description:** “This course presents the history of the Arabic-speaking Middle East from pre-Islamic times to the modern era, with emphasis on some of the principal political, economic, social, religious, and cultural developments and their relevance to the contemporary Middle East. The course introduces students to historiographical methodology and different interpretive approaches. It attempts to foster a critical attitude toward sources and provides a context in which students can apply skills and concepts acquired in other required-core.” – AUC Course Catalog

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon the successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Locate, evaluate, and use primary and secondary sources for the study of history
- Understand Middle East history through various historiographical methodologies and interpretive approaches
- Identify key concepts, events, and ideas throughout the course of Arab history
- Distinguish and explain important factors which shaped and drove the evolution of Arab history
- Analyze secondary sources and connect readings in order to create a coherent understanding of a specific historical subject
- Express ideas using the historical skills developed in class to express oneself on a topic in writing

**Requirements and Expectations:** All students are required to attend every class session. Students should be prepared for class by reading the assigned course material. Assignments must be completed and handed in to the instructor on time. Quizzes and tests must be taken during their designated course session; exceptions will only be made in the case of a written medical excuse approved by the university clinic. The instructor reserves the right to introduce quizzes or

short reading assignments in order to check comprehension if students are not participating or prepared on the basis of the assigned class readings.

**Remarks on Attendance:** "A student who misses more than the equivalent of three weeks of class meetings during a semester for any reason may be assigned a reduced grade for the course — including the grade of **"F"** — **solely on the basis of inadequate attendance, regardless of excuse...** Students who miss fewer than three weeks of class sessions may not be penalized on the grounds of attendance alone... Students are personally responsible for making up any academic tasks and assignments missed due to their absence." – AUC University Attendance Policy

**Research Project/Field Report:** Every student will be required to do a small research project or field report in addition to their term paper. The research project/field report involves reading a work of Arabic literature or visiting one of Cairo's historical monuments or museums and then writing a short report and giving a presentation. Books, monuments, and museums must be first approved by the instructor. Appropriate books will have been written in Arabic in their original, but may be translated into English. Monuments or museums must deal with Cairo's heritage after the Arab conquest, but may also include Coptic sites. The written component requires two, double-spaced pages and presentations should last five minutes and include a visual element. Research projects/field reports may be presented during any class time agreed upon with the instructor. The written component will be handed simultaneously to the presentation. All students must have completed their presentations and handed in their written report by 21 March.

**Term Paper:** Students are expected to complete a research paper as part of the course's requirements. Term paper topics may involve any topic discussed throughout the semester. Before writing, topics must be approved with the instructor and the topic should be formulated as a thesis statement. Papers should be between four and six, double-spaced pages. Sources for the paper *must* be academic; there should be at least four article sources and one book source, but more sources are welcomed. Examples of appropriate sources include: peer-reviewed articles, academic websites/blogs, books from reputable publishers. The use of primary sources is highly encouraged, even in translation. Good use of these sources will be reflected in a higher grade. All papers must use citations, in-text or as foot-notes, and a bibliography. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**Grading:**

10%	Participation
20%	Short Tests/Quizzes (2 Tests/Quizzes X 10% Each)
15%	Research Project / Field Report
15%	Midterm
20%	Final
20%	Term Paper

\* Students, who perform poorly at the start of the semester, may be given a chance to improve their grade. The student, however, must have excellent class attendance and show improvement throughout the remainder of the semester. In such cases, the instructor will give each student's case consideration and may offer ways for the student to improve their grade.

**Grading Scale:**

Grade	Points	Description
A	95 – 100%	Excellent
A-	90 – 94%	
B+	86 – 89%	Very Good
B	83 – 85%	
B-	80 – 82%	Good
C+	76 – 79%	
C	73 – 75%	Passing
C-	70 – 72%	
D	60 – 69%	Conditionally Passing
F	below 60%	Failing

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** No tolerance will be given for plagiarism or other violations of the Academic Integrity Code. By virtue of your attendance in the university and in this class, your adherence to the university's code is assumed. If you wish to review the AUC's Academic Integrity Code, please see: <http://schools.aucegypt.edu/academics/integrity/code/Pages/StatementofValues.aspx>

**Notes on Blackboard and Readings:** Readings will be posted on Blackboard. The Encyclopaedia of Islam is available online through the library (only the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition should be consulted for class readings). Entry titles will follow EI2 within quotation marks.

## Schedule of Classes and Assignments

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<b>Course Overview</b>	
<b>31 January</b>	Introduction to Class – Syllabus and course overview
<b>Unit 1:</b>	<b>Pre-Islamic Arabia and the Byzantine/Sassanian Near East</b>
<b>4 February</b>	The Late Antique Near East – The Byzantines and Sassanians <b>Read:</b> Kennedy, <i>The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates</i> , (Edinburgh: Pearson, 2004): 1-14; Hoyland, <i>In God's Path: The Arab Conquests and the Creation of an Islamic Empire</i> , (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2015): 8-30.
<b>6 February</b>	<b>End of Add/Drop Period</b>
<b>7 February</b>	Arabia and the Near East on the Eve of Islam – Conflict, Tribalism, and the Jahiliyya Age <b>Read:</b> Donner, <i>The Early Islamic Conquests</i> , (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1981): 11-50; Irwin, "Pagan Poets," <i>The Penguin Anthology of Classical Arabic Literature</i> , (New York: Penguin, 2006): 1-29.
<b>Unit 2:</b>	<b>The Birth of the Muslim Community</b>
<b>11 February</b>	Historiography, The Prophet, Revelation, and the Early Muslim Community <b>Read:</b> Kennedy, <i>The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates</i> , (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2004): 15-49; Donner, <i>Muhammad and the Believers at the Origins of Islam</i> , (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2010): 39-89. <b>Documentary:</b> "Empire of Faith: Part 1 – Prophet Muhammad and Rise of Islam"
<b>14 February</b>	The Constitution of Medina and the Early Islamic Polity <b>Read:</b> Donner, <i>Muhammad and the Believers at the Origins of Islam</i> , (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2010): 227-232; Humphreys, <i>Islamic History: A Framework for Inquiry</i> , (Cairo: The American Univ. in Cairo Press, 1992): 92-98.
<b>Unit 3:</b>	<b>Succession and the Rashidun</b>
<b>18 February</b>	The Rashidun and Succession to the Prophet <b>Read:</b> Kennedy, "The Caliphate," in <i>A Companion to the History of the Middle East</i> , ed. by Youssef M. Choueiri, (Oxford:

Blackwell, 2005): 52-66; Kennedy, *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates*, (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2004): 50-81.

**21 February**

Ridda Wars, Fitna, and Conquest

**Read:** Kennedy, *The Great Arab Conquests: How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In*, (New York: Da Capo Press, 2007): 34-65; Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam*, Vol. 1, (Chicago: Chicago Univ. Press, 1977): 197-223.

**25 February**

**QUIZ 1 – Units 1, 2, 3**

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**Unit 4:**

**The Umayyads and the Rise of the 'Ulama**

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**28 February**

The Umayyads, Reforms, and the Rise of the 'Ulama

**Read:** Kennedy, *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates*, (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2004): 82-122.

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**Unit 5:**

**The Abbasid Age**

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**4 March**

Black Banners from the East and the Establishment of the Abbasid Caliphate

**Read:** Bennison, "A Stormy Sea: The Politics of the 'Abbasid Caliphate," in *The Great Caliphs: The Golden Age of the 'Abbasid Empire* (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 2009): 10-53; Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2002): 51-66.

**7 March**

**No Class – Watch: "Islam: Empire of Faith, Part II"**

**11 March**

A Golden Age – the House of Wisdom, Baghdad and Samarra, Culture in the Abbasid Age

**Read:** Bennison, "Baghdad's 'Golden Age': Islam's Scientific Renaissance, in *The Great Caliphs: The Golden Age of the 'Abbasid Empire* (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 2009): 158-202; Hillenbrand, *Islamic Art and Architecture*, (London: Thames and Hudson, 1999): 38-60.

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**Unit 6:**

**The Fatimids – A Rival Caliphate**

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**14 March**

The Rise of the Fatimids, Cairo, and Shi'i Propaganda

**Read:** Halm, *The Fatimids and their Traditions of Learning*, (New York: IB Tauris, 2001): 3-40.

**18 March**

Cairo of the Fatimids – Art and Culture in Fatimid Egypt

**Read:** Bloom, "The Origins of Fatimid Art," *Muqarnas* 3 (1985): 20-38; Sanders, *Ritual, Politics, and the City in Fatimid Egypt*, (Albany: SUNY Press, 1994): 39-82.

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**Unit 7: Caliphate in the West – Al-Andalus**

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**18 March** Al-Andalus and the Western Umayyad Caliphate

**At Home, Watch:** "Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain" – **Complete:** Worksheet

**21 March** **MIDTERM – Units 4, 5, 6, and 7 – Research Paper Topic Due**  
**Research Projects / Field Reports must be submitted by this point**

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**Unit 8: The Age of the Sultans and Crusades**

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**25 March** Fragmentation and the Rise of the Sultanate: Seljuks, Zengids, and Ayyubids

**Read:** Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2002): 106-132; Chamberlain, "The crusader era and the Ayyubid dynasty," in *The Cambridge History of Egypt*, ed. by Carl F. Petry, vol. 1 (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999): 211-241.

**28 March** Crusade and Jihad – Jerusalem, the Crusader Kingdoms, and the Muslim Response

**Read:** Irwin, "Islam and the Crusades," in *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades*, ed. by Jonathan Riley-Smith (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1997): 211-257; Hillenbrand, "The Crusades: A short historical overview" and "Jihad in the Period from the Death of Nur al-Din until the Fall of Acre (569-690/1174-1291)," in *The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives*, (New York: Routledge, 2000): 14-26, 171-255.

**28 March** **Last Day to Drop Class**

**1-8 April** **SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS!**

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**Unit 9: The Mamluks**

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**11 April** The Rise of the Mamluks and Terror in the East

**Read:** Northrup, "The Bahri Mamluk Sultanate, 1250-1390," in *The Cambridge History of Egypt*, ed. by Carl F. Petry, vol. 1 (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999): 242-289; Garcin, "The regime of the Circassian Mamluks," in *The Cambridge*

*History of Egypt*, ed. by Carl F. Petry, vol. 1 (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999): 290-317.

**15 April**

Culture and Life in the Mamluk Sultanate

**Read:** Shoshan, "Popular culture and high culture in medieval Cairo," in *Popular Culture in Medieval Cairo*, (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1993): 67-78; Berkey, "Culture and society during the late Middle Ages," in *The Cambridge History of Egypt*, ed. by Carl F. Petry, vol. 1 (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999): 375-411.

**18 April**

Trade and the Black Death

**Read:** Rogers, "To and Fro: Aspects of Mediterranean Trade and Consumption in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries," *Revue du monde musulman et de la Méditerranée*, 55-56 (1990): 57-74; Constable, "Muslim trade in the late medieval Mediterranean World," in *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, ed. by Maribel Fierro, (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2008): 633-647; Tucker, "Natural Disasters and the Peasantry of Mamluk Egypt," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 24(2), (May 1981): 215-224.

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**Unit 10:**

**The Ottomans**

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**22 April**

Gunpowder and the Janissaries, the Fall of Constantinople, and Expansion

**Read:** Fleet, "The Rise of the Ottomans," and Imber, "The Ottoman empire (tenth/sixteenth century), in *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, ed. by Maribel Fierro, (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2008): 313-331, 332-365.

**25 April**

Suleiman the Magnificent, the New Political Regime, and Trade

**Read:** Masters, "Trade in the Ottoman Lands to 1215/1800," in *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, ed. by Maribel Fierro, (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2008): 665-678; Faroqhi, *The Ottoman Empire and the World Around It*, (London: IB Tauris, 2004): 1-26; Finkel, "Possessor of the kingdoms of the world," in *Osman's Dream: the History of the Ottoman Empire*, (New York: Basic Books, 2005): 115-151.

**29 April**

**Term Paper Due**

**2 May**

A New Order – Society, Culture, and Life in the Early Ottoman Empire

**Read:** Faroqhi, "Women's Culture," and "Town Life: Urban Identity and Lifestyle," in *Subjects of the Sultan: Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire*, (New York: IB Tauris, 2000): 101-107, 146-161; Mikhail, "The Heart's Desire: Gender, Urban Space and the Ottoman Coffee House," in *Ottoman Tulips, Ottoman Coffee*, ed. by Sajdi, (New York: IB Tauris, 2007): 133-170.

6 May

**QUIZ 2: Units 8, 9, and 10**

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**Unit 11**

**Colonialism and Decline?**

9 May

Colonialism and Interference – Napoleon, the Crimean War, and British/French Meddling

**Read:** Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples*, (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, ): 265-314.

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**Unit 12**

**The Modern Middle East**

13 May

The World Wars and Zionism

**Read:** Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples*, (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2002): 265-352.

The Cold War and the Arab Spring

**Read:** Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples*, (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2002): 353-452.

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**20 May**

**FINAL EXAM – 11:30 – 13:30**

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### IMPORTANT DATES

6 February	End of Add/Drop Period
25 February	QUIZ 1 – Units 1, 2, 3
21 March	MIDTERM – Units 4, 5, 6, and 7 – Research Paper Topic Due
21 March	Research Projects / Field Reports
28 March	Last Day to Drop Class
1-8 April	SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS!
29 April	Term Paper Due
6 May	Quiz 2: Units 8, 9, and 10
20 May	Final Exam – 15:30 – 18:00