

CORE-UA 502-001
Cultures & Contexts Islamic Societies
MW, 2:00pm-3:15pm
Silver 101A
Professor Alatas

Week 1

Lecture 1 (1/27) Introduction, Pre-Islamic Arabia

- - Lapidus. *History of Islamic Societies*, Introduction, chapters 1 and 3 (pp. 1-38). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Lecture 2 (1/29) The Prophetic Mission

- - Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapter 4 (pp. 39-54). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Week 2

Lecture 1 (2/03) Caliphs and Conquerors

- Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapters 5, 6, 7 (55-79)
(<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Lecture 2 (2/05) Patrimonial Monarchs and their Opponents

- Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Chapters 8 and 12 (80-90, 117-125) (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Primary Sources:

- The Constitution of Medina. In W. Montgomery Watt, *Muhammad at Medina*, 221-225.
- Ahmad b. Yahya Al-Baladhuri. *Kitab Futuh al-Buldan*, 420-432, 434-442.

Response paper 1 on the primary source due during recitation meeting.

Week 3

Lecture 1 (2/10) The Abbasid Empire: Power and Politics of Patronage

- - Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapter 9 (pp. 74-84). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Lecture 2 (2/12) The Abbasid Empire: Caliphs, Scholars, and Mystics

- - Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapters 13, 14, 15 (126-149, 154-167). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Primary Source:

- Abu Hamzah. Comments on the Caliphs, 129-132.
- Walid II. Letter. 116-126.
- Al-Ṭabarī. *The History of al-Ṭabarī: The 'Abbāsīd Caliphate in Equilibrium*, translated by C.E. Bosworth (Albany: SUNY Press, 1989), 41-58.

Response paper 2 on Abu Hamzah and Walid II due during recitation meeting

Week 4

Lecture 1 (2/17) President's Day (No Class)

Lecture 2 (2/19) Caliphs and Sultans

- Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapters 20 & 22 (pp. 225-233, 250-254, 293-301). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Primary Source:

- Ibn al-Jawzī. *Virtues of the Imam Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal, volume one*, edited and translated by Michael Cooperson (New York: New York University Press, 2013), Chapters 21, 22, 23, 28, 50.

First analytic paper: Imperial court and Pietist circles: Compare and contrast the description of Baghdadi social life in al-Ṭabarī (from week 3) and Ibn al-Jawzī (from week 4). Due on NYUClasses 2/20 11:55PM

Week 5

Lecture 1 (2/24) Two Caliphates? The Fatimids in Egypt

- Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapters 10, 16, 20 (105-113, 174-180, 225-243). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Lecture 2 (2/26) Jihad and the Frontiers

- Michael Bonner. *Jihad in Islamic History: Doctrines and Practice* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006), 97-101, 127-134 (NYUclasses: "Resources")

Primary Source:

- Idrīs ʿImad al-Dīn. *ʿUyūn al-akhbār*, translated by Shainool Jiwa (London: I.B. Tauris, 2013) 56-68, 219-222, 233-234, 261-265.
- Al-Mawardi. *al-Aḥkam as-Sultaniyyah: The Laws of Islamic Governance*, pp. 10-36.

Second analytic paper:

Imams and Caliphs: compare, contrast, and Contextualize Sunni and Shiʿī political authority in al-Mawardī and Idrīs ʿImad al-Dīn

Paper due Feb 27, 2020 11:55 pm

Week 6

Lecture 1 (3/02) The Khans and the Fall of Baghdad

- - Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, 233-238. (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

In Class Mid-term exam (2/28)

Week 7

Lecture 1 (3/09) Amirs and Saints of the Maghreb

- - Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapters 26, 28, 29 (pp. 369-381, 406-420, 421-424).

(<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Lecture 2 (3/11) Clerisy and Kings of West Africa

- - Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapters 40 and 41 (pp. 588-618).(<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Primary Source:

- - Selections from ʿAbd al-Raḥmān Ibn Khaldūn. *The Muqaddimah*.

Response paper 3 on the primary source due during recitation meeting.

Spring Recess – No Class

Week 8

Lecture 1 (3/23) The House of Osman

- - Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapter 31 (427-462). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Lecture 2 (3/25) The wonder that was Andalusia

- Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapter 27 (382-405). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)
- In-class Screening: When the Moors ruled in Europe

Primary Source:

- - Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq. *The Turkish Letters, 1555-1562*.
 - The Status of Jews and Christian in Muslim Lands, 1772.

*****Response paper 4 on the primary source due during recitation meeting*****

Week 9

Lecture 1 (3/30) The Safavid Shahs and the Shi'ī Clerics

- - Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapter 34 (pp. 490-506). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Lecture 2 (4/01) The Millennial Sovereign

- - Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapter 35 (509-531, 536-7). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Primary Source:

- - The Poetry of Shāh Ismā'īl I.

*****Paper on visit to the MET due on NYUClasses 4/01 11:55PM *****

Week 10

Lecture 1 (4/06) Muslim Sultans in the Lands below the Winds

- Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, chapter 38 (pp. 561-580). (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)

Lecture 2 (4/08) The Wahhabi Mission and the Saudi State

- Lapidus, *Islamic Societies*, chapter 25 (pp. 359-361) (<https://getit.library.nyu.edu/go/9405650>)
- Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 572-575 (NYUclasses: "Resources").

Primary Source:

- Pierre du Jarric. *Akbar and the Jesuits: An Account of the Jesuit Missions to the Court of Akbar*, 14-23.
- *Suluk Garwa Kencana* (The Song of the House of Gold) in M.C. Ricklefs. *The Seen and Unseen Worlds in Java, 1726-1749*, 115-121.

*****Response paper 5 on the primary source due during recitation meeting*****

Week 11

Lecture 1 (4/13) The Decline and Abolishment of the Ottoman Caliphate

- Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 489-511 (NYUclasses: "Resources").

Lecture 2 (4/15) Islam and Political Modernity: The Middle East

- Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 512-534 (NYUclasses: "Resources").

Primary Source:

- Sulaymān b. ʿAbdallāh b. Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Wahhāb, "On the Rule Governing Travel to the Land of Idolatry and Friendship with the Unbelievers," 129-131.
- ʿAbd al-Rahman al-Kawakibi, "Summary of the Causes of Stagnation." In *Modernist Islam, 1840-1940: A Sourcebook* (Oxford: OUP, 2002), 152-157.

Week 12

Lecture 1 (4/20) Islam and Political Modernity: The Indian subcontinent

- Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 620-649 (NYUclasses: "Resources")

Lecture 2 (4/22) Islam and Political Modernity: Iran

- Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 469-488 (NYUclasses: "Resources").

Primary Source:

- ʿAli ʿAbd al-Raziq. "Message not Government, Religion not State." In *Liberal Islam: A Sourcebook* (Oxford: OUP, 1998), 29-36.

- Sir Muhammad Iqbal. "Presidential Address to the 25th Session of the All-India Muslim League" Allahabad, 29 December 1930.
- Sayyid Abul A'la Maududi, "The Islamic State: Its Nature and Characteristics," 138- 147.

Week 13

Lecture 1 (4/27) Islamism

- Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 822-835 (NYUclasses: "Resources").

Lecture 2 (4/29) Al-Qaeda: New or Old Politics?

- - Jason Burke. "Al-Qaida and its Affiliates." In *The Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics*, edited by John L. Esposito & Emad El-Din Shahin (Oxford; OUP, 2013), 630-642.

Primary Source:

- Ayatollah Khomeini. *Governance of the Jurist (Velayat-e Faqeeh)*, translated by Hamid Algar. (Tehran: Institute for Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini's Work), pp. 29-39.
- Sayyid Qutb. *Milestone: Ma'alim fi'l-tareeq.*(Birmingham: Maktabah, 2006) pp. 56-62, 145-156.

*****Third analytic paper: Choose two from the five thinkers we read in week 12 and 13 ('Abd al-Razīq, Iqbal, Maududi, Khomeini, Qutb). Analyze and compare their thoughts on the role of religion in modern politics and society. Due on NYUClasses 4/29 11:55PM*****

Week 14

Lecture 1 (5/04) ISIS

- Graeme Wood, "What ISIS Really Wants?" *The Atlantic*, March 2015 Issue. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/03/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>
- Quinn Mecham, "How much of a state is the Islamic State?", *Washington Post*, February 5 2015: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2015/02/05/how-much-of-a-state-is-the-islamic-state/?utm_term=.7bed246858fe
- In-Class Screening: The Secret History of ISIS

Lecture 2 (5/06) Post-Islamism

- Asef Bayat, "Post-Islamism at Large," 3-30 (NYUclasses: "Resources").

Primary Source:

- Abdullah Azzam. "What Jihad Taught Me." In *The Contemporary Arab Reader on Political Islam*, edited by Ibrahim M. Abu-Rabi'. (Alberta: University of Alberta Press, 2010), 42-47.
- Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. *A Message to the Mujahidin and the Muslim Ummah in the Month of Ramadan.* Al-Hayat Media Center.

- Osama bin Laden. "Declaration of Jihad, August 23 1996." In *Messages to the World: The Statements of Osama bin Laden*, edited by Bruce Lawrence, translated by James Howarth. London: Verso. 2005, 23-30.

Week 15

Lecture 1 (5/11) Final Review