

# HIST21191

## Histories of the Islamic World

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### ***Welcome!***

Islam has deeply shaped our world for nearly 1500 years. Not only is it one of the largest faiths in human history, but its political, social, cultural, and intellectual ramifications have been vast. The Islamic world has reached historically far beyond the Middle East, its cradle, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to Central Asia and from the steppes of Russia to the tropical forests of Indonesia and West Africa. Its reach today extends the world over—indeed, we can fairly say that Islam formed the first truly global civilisation.

This module examines the history of the Islamic world and Islamic societies from their origins in Arabia in the 7th century to the dawn of the modern era, asking the following questions: What is Islam? What is Islamic civilization and how did it develop? What were/are its values? Is it one civilization or many? We will explore the importance of Islam as a diverse faith tradition as well as its role in creating states, fostering trade, structuring societies, circulating ideas, and giving meaning to millions of people. The module therefore provides a key foundation in understanding the emergence of the modern, globalised world, which could not have occurred without these transformations.

## **Indicative Weekly Content:**

- Beginnings to 632 CE
- The Conquest Society (632 to 750 CE)
- Forging a Global Civilisation (750 to 1250 CE)
- The Swahili Coast
- West African Savannah States
- The Consolidation of Traditions
- Cosmopolitan Empires of West Africa
- Early Modern 'Gunpowder Empires': Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Dynasties
- Reformist Movements



## **How is it Taught?**

The course is 33 hours of contact time in 2 x 1 hour lectures and 1 x 1 hour seminar per week. This time will be a combination of online lecture, synchronous and asynchronous discussion, source analysis, and group activities.

## **How are you Assessed?**

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| 1.) Map Quiz   | (10%) |
| 2.) Weekly Quizzes (due date for completion of all quizzes in Week 12) | (40%) |
| 3.) Take-home Final Essay, 3000 words                                  | (50%) |

## **Indicative Readings:**

- AHMED, Shahab. *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic* (2015).
- ESPOSITO, John, ed. *The Oxford History of Islam* (1999).
- HODGSON, Marshall. *The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization* (1977). 2 vols.
- LAPIDUS, Ira. *Islamic Societies to the Nineteenth Century: a Global History* (2012).
- SALVATORE, Armando, and Babak Rahimi, eds. *The Wiley-Blackwell History of Islam*