

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 4313 Medieval Middle East: 476-1453

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Study of the Byzantine Empire, Islam, the Crusades, and the Ottoman Turks.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the origin of the Byzantine Empire.
2. Analyze the historical explanations of Islam.
3. Apply tools of historical analysis to recover, research, and write about the history of the Medieval Middle East.
4. Describe the influence of Islam on the Middle East.
5. Formulate informed conclusions and judgments about the events and people that shaped the era.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate the diversity of the people who lived in the Medieval Middle East through the study of the interaction of religion, slavery and trade.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will complete book reviews and essay examinations testing their knowledge of the Medieval Middle East. Students also must utilize verbal communication skills to discuss interpretations and explanations of historical evidence in class.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will synthesize materials from various sources to complete research projects and construct answers to essay examination questions. Students will reach their own conclusions regarding historical evidence and to support those conclusions through well-constructed arguments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision making from examples and experiences in the European Middle ages. The dilemmas presented in the course may be evaluated in a term paper that is based on decision making process during this era of history.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The Byzantine Empire
 - 1. Byzantine Origins
 - 2. Justinian
 - 3. The Re-conquest
 - 4. The role of the Greek Orthodox Church
 - 5. Economic Forces
 - 6. Office of Barbarians
 - 7. Constantinople
- B. Islam
 - 1. Origins
 - 2. Mohammed
 - 3. The five pillars of Islam
 - 4. Divisions within Islam
 - 5. The Arab Conquest
 - 6. Important doctrines within Islam
- C. The Crusades
 - 1. Origins of the Crusades
 - 2. Early Crusades
 - 3. The First Crusade
 - 4. The Second Crusade
 - 5. The Third Crusade
 - 6. The Fourth Crusade
 - 7. The Children's Crusade
 - 8. Later Crusades
 - 9. Legacy of the Crusades
- D. The Turks
- E. Early Turkish Tribes
- F. The Seljuk Turks
- G. The Ottoman Turks
- H. The Turkish Legacy