
HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST I in Fall 2020 (ME1015)

Course Code	ME1015	Professor(s)	Ziad Majed
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-006
Class Schedule	M: 10:50-12:25 in G-009 R: 16:20-17:55 in G-009	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	zmajed@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	702

Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys major themes in the ancient and medieval history of the Middle East. It is organized around two parts.

The first surveys successive civilizations and empires that rose in the region or invaded and dominated it, from the Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Phoenicians, the Persians, to the Greeks and the Romans/Byzantines. The birth of Judaism and Christianity is presented in this part.

The Second covers the rise of Islam, its expansion and the Caliphate it established from the 7th to the late 13th century, when the Mongol seized Bagdad.

Course Learning Outcomes

To learn the historical context and narratives surrounding the civilizations of the Middle East.
To understand how the three monotheistic religions emerged and evolved in the Middle East.
To learn about the history of Islam and its empires from Muhammad's days to the fall of Bagdad in the 13th century.

General Education

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE:

September

Week I – 23rd – 25th

The definition of a “civilization”.

The Mediterranean and the Middle East.

“The long march to civilization”, in Braudel, pp 26- 59

Week II – 28th – 2nd

Mesopotamian States - *“A twofold birth”, in Braudel, pp 60-69.*

The Egyptian empire (*Documents will be shared in class and on Blackboard*).

September 30th – last day to drop/add courses online

October

Week III – 5th – 9th

The Phoenicians and their ports.

Documents will be shared in class and on blackboard (from Ora Negbi, Early Phoenician Presence in the Mediterranean Islands: A Reappraisal, American Journal of Archaeology, Vol. 96, No. 4 (Oct., 1992), pp. 599-615)

Case studies in Class.

Week IV –12th – 16th

The Persian Empire and its expansion.

Documents will be shared in class and on Blackboard (from Olmstead, A.T., History of the Persian Empire, the University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1992).

The Greek City States.

“The miracle of Greece”, in Braudel, pp 258 - 305

Week V – 19th – 23rd

The Roman Empire.

“The Roman takeover of the Greater Mediterranean”, in Braudel, pp 306-335.

Week VI – 26th – 30th

Christianity and its aftermath.

The Bizantine Empire.

Documents will be shared in class and on Blackboard (from Kelly, Christopher, *The Roman Empire, a very short introduction*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2006).

October 28th, Mid-semester

November

Week VII – 2nd – 6th

Midterm.

Muhammed and the birth of Islam.

“The appearance of Islam”, in Hourani, pp 14-21.

Week VIII – 9th- 13th

Islamic expansion

“The formation of an Empire”, in Hourani, pp 22-37.

November 11th to 13t, fall break (no classes)

Week IX – 16th- 20th

The Umayyad Empire

“The Caliphate of Damascus”, in Hourani pp 25 – 31.

The Abbasside Empire

The Caliphate of Bagdad”, in Hourani, pp 32-37

November 16th, Mid-semester grades due

Week X – 23rd – 27th

The fall of Bagdad - *Articles will be shared in class and posted on Blackboard*

The Islamic Society, the fragmented “Islamic World” and the rise of the Mamluks

“The formation of a society” in Hourani, pp 38-58

“The Arab Muslim World”, in Hourani, pp 83-97.

“Cities and their rulers”, in Hourani, pp 130-146.

November 27th, last day to withdraw from a course

last day to choose credit/no credit option

Week XI - 30th – 4th

Review and case studies in class.

December

Week XII – 7th – 11th

Review and case studies in class.

December 11th, last day of classes,

December 12th - 15th, reading days

December 16th – 22th, Final Exam

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Check HI 1015				No

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

In all cases of missed course meetings, the responsibility for communication with the professor, and for arranging to make up missed work, rests solely with the student.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may also recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and *especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.*

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT: As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education

requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

Midterm: 30%

Class participation: 10%

Paper: 30%

Final: 30%

Other
