HISTORY 74: HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST
Saddleback College
Fall 2009  M/W  12.00 – 1.20 pm
Room: VIL 11-03

Instructor: Marjan Wardaki
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course investigates a series of major problems in the history of the Middle East from the rise of Islam to the 1800s. It introduces you to the conceptual, analytical, and critical investigation of historical issues, to the interpretation of the variety of primary sources utilized by historians investigating the past, and to the critical reading of secondary works of historical scholarship. The course focuses on a number of important historiographical questions including the figure of Muhammad, the processes through which Islam (religion and polity) spread, the status and role of women, Christians, and Jews in Muslim societies, the nature of Islamic empires, the effect of imperialism and colonialism on Muslim societies and their response, and Orientalism.

Additionally, this course aims to cultivate your analytic and expository skills. I have selected readings that will further develop your ability to process, retain and synthesize information. My hope is that this course will equip you to think and write critically and while helping you to become an engaged observer of Middle Eastern history. You will also have an opportunity to refine and improve your communication skills as we will spend time in lecture discussing the reading as a group. Therefore, it is important that you keep up with the assignments and come to class prepared and ready to participate. For detailed information regarding assignments, as well as links to both primary documents and select articles, please visit the History (#) course website on Blackboard (BB).

COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

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**REQUIRED TEXT**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
- Attendance & Participation: 10%
- Written Assignments: 10%
- Papers: 30%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final Exam: 30%

Attendance/Participation is only 10% of your grade. However, a great majority of course content will come from lectures. Therefore frequent absences will likely affect more than your participation grade. If you would like to supplement information covered in lecture, a course textbook will be available on reserve at library.

Participation: Come awake, on time and prepared. If you must leave early, please advise me beforehand (via email.) You will be given three free absences—I will not excuse any other absences, so make sure you use these wisely! Subsequent absences will lower your participation grade. You will also be assessed on your participation in class and will be expected to contribute to class discussions. Note: readings are subject to change, so consult the on-line syllabus weekly to confirm assignment. Lecture outlines will also be posted on Blackboard the day before class.

Turn all assignments in on time in the specified format, location, etc. Late papers will be penalized (no exceptions). Each day a paper is late it will receive a half a grade deduction. Written assignments include questions on the readings, quizzes and primary source analyses. Although comprising only 10% of your grade, each is critical to the learning objectives of the course, so please be diligent in completing them. Check Blackboard weekly for select reading assignments/ questions. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Before submitting any written assignments please make sure you understand Saddleback College’s Academic Honesty Policy.