

## HISTORY 827.01: Seminar in the History of the Islamic World

Fall 2010-Winter 2011, W 4:30-6:18  
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course no.: 27260

### Objectives:

This is a two-quarter research seminar in the history of the Islamic world with emphasis on processes of state building and empire formation. The purpose is to bring together graduate students interested in a broad variety of topics. You will have the opportunity to explore a particular subject in depth through your original research, share your findings with your classmates, and participate in an active process of peer evaluation. You will also have the chance to discuss historiographical and methodological issues, expand your reading in the scholarly literature, and explore original sources relevant to your topic of interest. Readings have been selected for the early part of the seminar to provide a thematic focus that will serve as a point of departure for our discussions.

### Course requirements:

- 1) You must take both quarters of the seminar and submit a finished research paper by the stated deadline at the end of spring quarter.
- 2) Peer interaction and peer criticism are vital elements of the experience to be gained from a graduate seminar. Attend every class and participate in discussion. On days when book reviews are due or project proposals are presented, read your classmate's papers and reports attentively and come prepared to discuss them.
- 3) Graded assignments for fall quarter:
  - a. You will write short reviews of assigned articles and books. These reviews are to be circulated electronically to the instructor and your classmates **by noon on the day** before that work is scheduled for discussion in seminar. You will read your classmates' reviews before class and come to class prepared to discuss them.
  - b. A discussion leader will be chosen in advance for each reading discussed in class.
  - c. You will prepare a topic statement and preliminary bibliography for your research project and distribute it to your instructors and classmates **by 9 a.m. on 11 October**. You will read your classmates' bibliographies before class; in class **on 13 October, you will make a brief oral presentation** on your topic and your bibliography and comment on your classmates' bibliographies.
  - d. You will prepare an **outline** of your research project, along with tentative conclusions. You will distribute your outline to your instructors and classmates **by 9 a.m., 22 November**. You will prepare **written comments** of your classmates' outlines, to be circulated by the start of class on **24 November**. On **24 November**, you will give an **oral presentation** of your proposed project and comment on your classmates' presentations.
- 4) In spring quarter, in addition to interim progress reports, the goal is to submit an original research paper of about 25 pages (plus notes) and to make an effective oral presentation about it at the last meeting of the course.

**Grading:**

You will receive a grade of P (= “Progress”) at the end of winter quarter. At the end of spring quarter, you should expect a final grade to be calculated for both quarters about as follows:

punctuality and participation	25%
short written assignments	25%
progress reports and seminar paper	50%

Let’s plan to review the grading formula at the start of spring quarter.

**Enrollment Policy:**

This is a two-quarter seminar. You *may not* drop out of the seminar at the end of winter quarter and receive a grade calculated on this basis. All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the Chair of the Department after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.

**Attendance and Punctuality:**

Given that the course meets only once a week, attendance is required at all meetings of the class. Punctuality in completing assignments and active participation in the discussion are also essential and will be factored into your final grade, as noted above under Grading.

**Academic Misconduct:**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)).

Here is a direct link for discussion of plagiarism:

[http://cstw.osu.edu/writingCenter/handouts/research\\_plagiarism.cfm](http://cstw.osu.edu/writingCenter/handouts/research_plagiarism.cfm)

Here is the direct link to the OSU Writing Center: <http://cstw.osu.edu>

**Disability Services:**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

**Books:**

In the opening weeks of the quarter, to provide a common frame of reference, we will read and discuss several articles and books relevant to the thematic focus of the seminar. The books listed have not been ordered at the book stores. Multiple copies of all the titles are available either electronically or through Ohiolink. Students enrolled in the class should request these titles at

least *twelve to fourteen days* in advance of need in order to be sure of having them to read during the week preceding the class in which each book will be discussed.

Di Cosmo, Nicola, "State Formation and Periodization in Inner Asian History," *Journal of World History*, 10.1 (Spring 1999), 1-40

Allsen, Thomas, *Mongol Imperialism*, 1987 (15 Ohiolink copies)

Findley, Carter Vaughn, *The Turks in World History*, 2005 (13 Ohiolink copies)

Dale, Stephen, *The Muslim Empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals*, 2010 (6 Ohiolink copies)

possibly another reading (to be selected) with a more modern focus

### FALL QUARTER 2010 SCHEDULE

W	22	Sept	Introduction to the course; starting to think about paper topics
W	29	"	Discussion of readings: Di Cosmo: "State Formation and Periodization"
			<b>Deadline reminder: reports on assigned readings must be circulated electronically by noon on the day before that work is scheduled for discussion.</b>
W	6	Oct	Discussion of readings: Allsen, <i>Mongol Imperialism</i>
M	11	"	<b>DEADLINE: Statement of Topic and Preliminary Bibliography due in writing by 9 a.m.</b>
W	13	"	Presentation of Paper Topics; Discussion
W	20	"	Discussion of Readings: Findley, <i>Turks in World History</i>
W	27	"	Discussion of Readings: Dale, <i>Muslim Empires</i>
W	3	Nov	Discussion of reading on modern topic (? or Ottoman Text Readings)
W	10	"	Paper Research, or Ottoman Text Readings
W	17	"	Paper Research, or Ottoman Text Readings
M	22	"	<b>DEADLINE: Outline and Tentative Conclusions due in writing by 9 a.m.</b>
W	24	"	Discussion of Outlines and Tentative Conclusions

### WINTER QUARTER 2011 SCHEDULE (Tentative)

W	5	Jan	Organizational Meeting; Brief Progress Reports
W	12	"	tba
W	19	"	tba

W	26	”	tba
W	2	Feb	tba
W	9	”	Ottoman Text Readings; Progress Reports
W	16	”	Ottoman Text Readings
W	23	”	Ottoman Text Readings
W	2	Mar	Ottoman Text Readings
W	9	”	No class: work on papers
W	16	Mar	<b>All papers due by 2:30 p.m.;</b> in-class presentations (20 minutes each)