Islamic Civilization
Mondays 12:30 – 15:10 pm
HNRS 2130 · CRN 31266 · Gen Ed: HU/DV
Main Campus · Room LI 325 · 3 CR

Instructor: Abdulnaser Kaadan, MD, PhD
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Office hours: Monday, 15:30-16:30
Wednesday, 10:30-12:30.
Friday, 10:30-12:30.
Other office hours are available by appointment via e-mail.

Course description: The evolution and practice of the Islamic sciences, during the Islamic Golden Ages, from origins until the fall of the Islamic civilization. The goal of this course is to encourage the student to think about Islamic sciences from an historical perspective, and to appreciate how Islamic sciences can inform the study of history.

Learning Outcomes: Students will understand Islamic sciences, technology, and medicine, in their historical and social contexts during the Medieval Ages. Through the Umayyad and, in particular, the succeeding Abbasid Caliphate's early phase, lies the period of Islamic history known as the Islamic Golden Age, between 692 and 945, with stable political structures and flourishing trade. Major religious and cultural works of the empire were translated into Arabic. The culture inherited Greek, Indic, Assyrian and Persian influences, and a new
common civilization formed, based on Islam. An era of high culture and innovation ensued.

References:
- George Saliba, Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance
- Howard R. Turner, Science in Medieval Islam: An Illustrated Introduction

Evaluation:
Attendance and participation, 10%
Mid-term examination, 20%
Final examination, 30%
Book or article review, 20%
The most important three scholars in Islamic civilization 20%

Attendance and participation: Attendance and preparation represent ten percent (10%) of the final grade. Adequate preparation means having read the assigned pages prior to class and participating in classroom discussion. More than three (3) absences may result in a failing grade.

Examinations: The mid-term will be either of the essay and short-answer variety, with questions drawn from the text and lectures, or a take-home exam featuring one or more broad essay questions. The final exam will be a take-home exam.

The most important three scholars in Islamic civilization: every student is asked to summarize the most important three scholars in
Islamic civilization, which played an important role in the cultural and scientific advancement, and to explain the causes of these chooses.

**Book or article review:** You are asked to write a review of a book or article dealing with the issue.

**Course outlines:**

Introduction
1 History of the concept
2 Causes
   2.1 Religious influence
   2.2 Government sponsorship
   2.3 Earlier cultural influence
   2.4 New technology

3 Philosophy
   3.1 Metaphysics
   3.2 Epistemology

4 Mathematics
   4.1 Algebra
   4.2 Geometry
   4.3 Trigonometry
   4.4 Calculus
5 Natural sciences
  5.1 Scientific method
  5.2 Astronomy
  5.3 Physics
  5.4 Mechanics
  5.5 Chemistry
  5.6 Geodesy
  5.7 Biology

6 Healthcare
  6.1 Hospitals
  6.2 Pharmacies
  6.3 Medicine
  6.4 Surgery

7 Arts and culture
  7.1 Poetry
  7.2 Art
  7.3 Architecture
    7.3.1 Moorish architecture
  The Mosque–Cathedral of Córdoba
  The Alhambra
The Giralda
Medina Azahara
The Mosque of Cristo de la Luz
The Aljafería Palace

8 Decline
8.1 Invasions
8.2 Economics
8.3 Culture

9 Islamic world contributions to Medieval Europe

10 Transmission routes

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Week 1: Introduction
1 History of the concept

Week 2: 2 Causes
2.1 Religious influence
2.2 Government sponsorship
2.3 Earlier cultural influence
2.4 New technology

**Week 3:** 3 Philosophy
3.1 Metaphysics
3.2 Epistemology

**Week 4:** 4 Mathematics
4.1 Algebra
4.2 Geometry
4.3 Trigonometry
4.4 Calculus

**Week 5:** 5 Natural sciences
5.1 Scientific method
5.2 Astronomy

**Week 6:** 5 Natural sciences
5.3 Physics
5.4 Mechanics

**Week 7:** 5 Natural sciences
5.5 Chemistry
5.6 Geodesy
5.7 Biology

**Week 8:** 6 Healthcare
6.1 Hospitals
6.2 Pharmacies

**Week 9:** 6 Healthcare
6.3 Medicine
6.4 Surgery

**Week 10:** 7 Arts and culture
7.1 Poetry

**Week 11:** 7 Arts and culture
7.2 Art

**Week 12:** 7 Arts and culture
7.3 Architecture
   7.3.1 Moorish architecture
The Mosque–Cathedral of Córdoba
The Alhambra
The Giralda
Medina Azahara

The Mosque of Cristo de la Luz

The Aljafería Palace

**Week 13:** 8 Decline

8.1 Invasions

8.2 Economics

8.3 Culture

**Week 14:** 9 Islamic world contributions to Medieval Europe

9.1 Aristotelianism and other philosophies

9.2 Sciences

9.3 Technology and culture

9.4 literature

10 Transmission routes

**Final Week:** Final Exam

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