San José State University
History Department
HIST 126: ADVANCED TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL HISTORY
BYZANTINE AND ISLAMIC WORLDS
FALL 2019

Four Units

Contact Information

Instructor: Jonathan P. Roth
Office Location: Business Tower 561
Telephone: (408) 924-5505
Email: Jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays 9:30-11:30
Class Days/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 to 4:15
Classroom: Dudley Moorhead 354

Canvas Webpage and MYSJSU Messaging
Make sure your email address is registered with MySJSU is current, as this will be used to send important notices.

Course Description

This course covers the history and culture of the Near or Middle East from the 4th to the 15th centuries. You will critically read primary sources in translation and learn to use them in the study the Byzantine and Islamic Worlds. Finally, you will be challenged to think about the "why" of Medieval Near Eastern history and, its development, and its impact on world history. The class will also improve your reading, writing and analytical skills.

Classroom Protocol

You are responsible for all the material presented in the lectures and assigned in the required readings. Bring at least one unused Blue Book to each examination. Blue Books may be purchased at Spartan Bookshop. Writing correct, clear and concise English is a criterion for grading on all written work. Pay close attention to the corrections and comments made on
your written assignments. If you feel you need special assistance with your writing, come see me. Please turn off or silence cell phones while in class. Students with disabilities or needing special accommodations should see me as soon as possible. If you have any questions or difficulties, do not hesitate to see me after class, come to my office hours or arrange an appointment.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
CLO 1: Understand the concept of the religious state and how it applies both to Byzantium and the Caliphates.
CLO 2: Describe the changing nature of warfare and how this impacted political change in the region.
CLO 3: Analyze the changing economy of the Middle East with a focus on the importance of trade routes.
CLO 4: Critically follow a theoretical historical argument and the evidence and reason used to support it.
CLO 5: Explain how historians use primary sources and other means to reconstruct ancient history
CLO 6: Read, write, and think critically about historical issues and events.

Required Texts/Readings
Textbooks


## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1. Wed. Aug. 21 | Introduction  
Read Treadgold, Introduction; Berkey, Introduction                                                   |
Rome and Persia in the Fourth Century  
Read Treadgold, Chapter One |
The “Fall of the Roman Empire” and the Leonids  
Read Treadgold, Chapter Two |
Persia, Arabia and Africa in the 6th Century |
Economy and Society in the 5th and 6th Centuries  
Read Berkey, Chapters Two to Four |
The Rashidun Caliphs: The Early Islamic State  
Read Treadgold, Chapter Three; Berkey, Chapters Five to Seven |
Old Babylonian Empire  
Read: Van de Mieroop ANE Chapters 5-6 |
Writing Assignment #1 DUE. Class Discussion  
Read: Van de Mieroop ANE Chapters 7-8; Van de Mieroop AE Chapter 5 |
Consolidation of Islam; Babylonian Judaism and the Church of the East.  
Read Berkey, Chapters Twelve to Seventeen |
The Kingdom of Jerusalem, The Assassins, the Ayyubids  
Read Treadgold, Chapter Six; Berkey Chapters Eighteen to Twenty Five |
Art and Literature in the Medieval Middle East |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. Mon. Nov. 4</td>
<td><strong>Writing Assignment #2 DUE. Class Discussion</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Latin Empire and the Byzantine Restoration&lt;br&gt;Read Treadgold, Chapter Seven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Wed. Nov. 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Nov. 11</td>
<td><strong>VETERANS DAY: NO CLASS</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Mongol Invasion&lt;br&gt;Read Treadgold, Chapter Eight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Wed. Nov. 13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Mon. Nov. 18</td>
<td>Mameluke Egypt and The Rise of the Venetian Empire&lt;br&gt;The Collapse of the Ilkhanids, the Black Death, Tamurlane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Wed. Nov. 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Mon. Nov. 25</td>
<td>Late Medieval Islam and The Rise of the Ottomans&lt;br&gt;THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Nov. 27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Mon. Dec. 2</td>
<td>The Paleologoi and the Uniate Struggle&lt;br&gt;Gemistos Plethon and the Byzantine Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Wed. Dec. 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Mon. Dec. 9</td>
<td>The Fall of the Byzantine Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 17: 1215-1430</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Library Liaison**

The History Department Library Liaison is Nyle Monday ([Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu](mailto:Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu)). Contact him for help with any library assignments in your History classes. His telephone number is (408) 808-2041.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in at [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf).

**Assignments, Assessment of Student Learning, and Grading Policy**

1. One in-class midterm examination, worth 200 points. The exam will include both objective questions testing the students’ knowledge of the people, places and events covered in the course and also require students to write timed essays through which they will be summarize the evidence for, and analyze the arguments regarding, historical questions. These examinations will demonstrate mastery of CLO 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. The midterm will include both objective and subjective (essay) sections. Bring a blue book (NOT a scantron) to the exam.

2. Four typed analytical essays of at least two and no more than four pages, each discussing a monograph and its thesis. Each essay is worth 100 points each for a total of 400 points. These assignments will demonstrate mastery of CLO 3, 4, 5 and 6.

3. Online sections will be assessed through four quizzes, each worth 50 points for a total of 200 points. These assignments will demonstrate mastery of CLO 1, 2, and 3. You need not
memorize the material in the online sections—if you read them carefully you should be able to do well on the quiz.

4. An in-class final examination, worth 200 points. This examination will demonstrate mastery of CLO 1,2,3,4 and 6. The final will include both objective and subjective (essay) sections. Bring a blue book (NOT a scantron) to the exam.

Writing Assignment Requirements


You must upload a digital copy of your paper onto the Canvas site AND turn in an identical hard copy to the instructor. Late papers and/or projects may be penalized or not accepted. Read the assigned book carefully. If you do not understand something, read it over again if necessary. If you still do not understand something, be sure to contact me before writing your paper. Your paper should give a basic summary of the book as a whole and of each individual chapter. You should note the facts and information presented by the author (not, of course, every instance, but representative examples), but concentrated on the author’s ideas. The basic idea of a historical book is called its “thesis.” You should describe the author’s overall thesis, and survey the book. Do not simply list each chapters’ contents, but explain how the chapters of the book work together to support the thesis. Do not do any outside research on the subject—the assignment is to review the text itself. You should, however, express your view of whether you think the author has been successful in proving his thesis. Papers should be no less than two and no more than four double-spaced pages. Do not include a title page. Write your name, the class and the date on the upper right hand corner of the first page. Number your pages.

Grading Policy

Grades are based on the following totals: A: 930-1000, A–: 900-929, B+: 870-899, B: 830-869, B–: 800-829, C+: 770-799, C: 730-769, C–: 700-729, D+: 670-699, D: 630-669, D–: 600-629, F: 599 or below. A student with a total score of below 599 will fail the course. Extra credit may be available at the discretion of the instructor. Extra credit assignments, if available, will be for the entire class only. Penalties for late assignments may be applicable.

University Policies:

The Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations etc. you may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s Syllabus Information web page at [http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/)
The Late Drop Policy is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/)

**Student Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit the LARC website for more information at [http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/). The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at [http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/). The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at [http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/)

**SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at [http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling).

**Veteran Services**

For Student Veterans, Dependents and Spouses, Reservists and National Guard services are available. The SJSU Veterans Study Lounge is located in Clark 122. For more information contact Maggie Morales at (408) 924-6299 or Maggie.morales@sjsu.edu. The Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) is a Veteran-centered, results oriented, collaboration between VA Medical Center (VAMC) and SJSU. Its office is located in Clark Hall 240. Advising, support and counseling are available. For more information, contact Damian Bramlett at 408 924-5462 or damian.bramlett@sjsu.edu.