

Subject overview

This subject examines the complex interactions of the European and Islamic civilization from the time of the Prophet Muhammad until the present. Selected topics include historical perspective; the concept of the “other”; Islam in European literature; Islam and the Western media; the Iraq war; Israel and the Palestinians; the United States, the nation of Islam, and the Muslim world.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this subject, students will be able to:

- Recognize the contributions Islam has made to Western Civilization.
- Identify the various interactions of Islam and the West over time.
- Interpret Muslim perceptions of the West.

Assessment overview

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Oral seminar presentation | 10% of total assessment |
| • Film Analysis | 20% of total assessment |
| • Essay | 30% of total assessment |
| • Final Examination | 40% of total assessment |

Subject modules

- Overview: The Cold War and the concept of the “other”; The collapse of Communism and the New World Order
- The Early Middle Ages: The nature of Islam, Muslim expansion and the mediaeval threat to Europe.
- Muslim Spain and Sicily and what Europe gained from Islam.
- European Fight- back: The Crusades and the Reconquista of Spain; the threat of the Turks and significance of the Fall of Constantinople in 1453
- The Ottoman Empire: the Enlightenment
- The rise of European Exploration and Imperialism.
- Orientalism and Muslims as the “other”.
- The Changing Role of Islam in European Literature.
- Islam in the imagination of Europe: Fantasy and children’s literature, the arts (painting, music etc), and film.
- Islam and the Western Media: September 11th and the War on Terrorism.
- The end of the Cold War and the rise of Globalisation, Rogue States and the Clash of Civilisations
- Flashpoints/case studies: The Iraq war and occupation and Oil in the Persian Gulf; Democratization and the reshaping of the Middle East; Israel and the Palestinians; Immigration, Multiculturalism and Islam in the West.; Immigration and Islam in England, France and Germany; The United States, the Nation of Islam and the Muslim world in general.

Required readings

- Qureshi, E. & Sells, M.A. (eds) (2003). *The new crusades: Constructing the Muslim enemy*. New York City, USA: Columbia University Press.
- Students will also read a variety of journal articles assigned by Academic Teaching Staff.

Questions?

If you have questions about any of the subject summaries, please contact us.