History 234

General instructional objective:

Students will acquire an introductory knowledge of the history of Lebanon in the different epoch covered and the different types of sources available for the historian.

Specific Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to explain:

- The different narratives of the history of Lebanon
- The origin(s) of “Lebanism”
- The origins of Lebanese pluralism
- The origins of the sectarian based political system
- Significant institutional, social, economic and cultural developments.

Learn how to read and interpret historical documents

Identify, read and assess primary sources

Analyze and organize evidence

Articulate historical arguments

Write thoughtful essays on historical topics or texts.

Make oral presentations
The course is conducted in Arabic (Lectures, discussion, exams and writing exercises) and requires reading and writing proficiency in this language. Readings, however, are in both Arabic and English.

The course surveys the origins of Islam, its expansion and adaptation, internal divisions, institutional developments and the rise and fall of the Ummayad dynasty.

The course also introduces students to original Arabic historical writings through the reading and interpretation of a number of selections pertaining to specific issues in Islamic history.

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to have acquired knowledge which would enable them

Origins of Islam in Arabia, Muslim conquests, Internal tensions and divisions, the Ummayad dynasty and caliphate and non Muslims in the Islamic state.

Students are also expected to improve their skills in the following:

Interpretation and analysis of historical texts.
Improvement of research and writing skills.
Improvement of oral presentation skills.

Resources available to students:

The Encyclopedia of Islam
Other assigned readings are on electronic reserve.

Readings in English

F. Donner, 'introduction'
A.R. Gibb, Pre Islamic Monotheism in Arabia,
G. R. Hawting, “the Origins of the Islamic Sanctuary at Mecca”,
H. Kennedy, “The origins of the Qyas-Yaman dispute in Bilad al-Sham”.
Lapidus, “the Arab Conquests and the Formation of Islamic Society”,
F.E. Peters, “The Arabs on the frontier of Syria before Islam”.
Shahid, “The Jund System in Bilad al-Sham: its origin”.
R.B. Sergent, "The Constitution of Madina"

Readings in Arabic
محمد خريسات، دور العرب المتصرة في الفتن واهب
رضوان السيد، السلطة في الإسلام: دراسة في نشوء الخلافة
جورج صليبا، نشأة العلوم العربية
عرفان شهيد، أسرار النصر العربي في فتح الشام: معركة اليرموك
نقولا زياد، التطور الاداري في بلاد الشمال بين بيزنطة و العرب
زكريا القضاة، معاهدة فتح بيت المقدس، العهد العمرية
وداد القاضي، مدخل الى دراسة عهود الصلح الإسلامية زمن الفتح

Main Themes
Pre Islamic Arabia and its vicinity
The age of the prophet and the Rashidun
Conquest and after
Fitna and subsequent civil war
Mu’awiyya and the establishment of the Umayyad Caliphate
Administration of empire
Science in the

Grading:
Mid-Term Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 35%
Class Participation: 20%
Short paper: 20%

Course Policy: The course follows a lecture-discussion format. Regular and informed participation is an integral part of the course. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss assigned reading(s). All relevant University and Faculty policies and regulations as they appear in the Student Handbook and the AUB website apply.

Mobile Phones: Mobile phones should be OFF OR SILENT and may not be answered. Violators will receive one warning. Each violation thereafter will result in five (5) points being removed from the final grade of the student.