

HIS 227
Islamic Civilization & Muslim Societies

Satisfies: GLO, SBS

Thematic Categories: "Arts, Ideas & Culture," "Empires, Violence & Global Connections,"
"Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities"

Tu/Th, 12:30 – 1:25 PM

Professor Eric Beverley

Popular perceptions and representations of Islam and Muslims are often founded on ignorance and outright prejudice. Fundamental to these understandings are narrow and politicized notions of history, frequently accepted uncritically. This course seeks first to introduce analytical approaches crucial to developing nuanced understandings of historical and contemporary depictions of Islam and Muslims. The course then provides a broad outline of the history of Islamic civilization from Iberia and North Africa to South and Southeast Asia, and from the Mediterranean to Sub-Saharan Africa, and a basic understanding of key religious and secular institutions that characterize Muslim societies. The course is broadly chronological, and examines key topics in detail, including the life of the Prophet, conversion and the global spread of Islam, colonialism and imperialism, radical militant and progressive Islamist politics, media representations, and Muslims in the West. The course is not comprehensive but seeks to provide a basic understanding of the history of Islam and the Muslim world from Muhammad to the present, and a solid empirical and methodological foundation for further inquiry. Assessment is based on in-class performance, multiple analytical essay assignments, and a map quiz, all in English.