

**HIS 301.01**  
**Religion, Society and Politics in the Premodern Islamic World, 600-1700**

Monday/Wednesday 11:00am - 12:20pm

Satisfies: ESI

Professor Mohamad Ballan

The medieval and early modern Islamic world was an integral component of a dynamic and interconnected universe characterized by mobility, transformation and exchange. It was among the most politically sophisticated, culturally diverse, and prosperous human societies on earth well into the eighteenth century and had a profound impact on the histories of Europe, Africa and Asia between 600 and 1700. The course will introduce you to the major historical developments, processes and institutions of the medieval and early modern Islamic world, which encompassed much of the broader Middle East, including the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean worlds. It will also explore the connections and relationships between the Islamic world and other regions (including Europe, Central Asia, India and Africa). Religion, politics, cosmopolitanism, intellectual culture, slavery, military conquest and rebellion all played a profoundly significant role in shaping the history of the Islamic world during this period, and each will be examined and situated in a broader historical perspective. While the course emphasizes a particular theme and period of history, it primarily seeks to develop students' wider critical skills. Through close readings of primary sources, students will be encouraged to think about wider questions related to the discipline of history. Students will have the opportunity to hone their reading, writing, and research skills in the analysis and interpretation of historical evidence through in-class discussion, library exercises, and writing assignments.