Instructor: Scott S. Reese  
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Email: scott.reese@nau.edu (this is the only way to contact me this semester)  
Class Time: M 12:30-3:00  
Room: Seminar room, South Beaver School  
Office Hours: M 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

The Islamic Indian Ocean—An examination of Transregionalism

The Indian Ocean is often referred to as a “Muslim Lake,” because of the perceived cultural, social and economic dominance of Islamic peoples over much of the last 1400 years. In part, this course examines this and other tropes in an effort to explore the role of Islam in the social evolution of the modern Indian Ocean. At the same time it will introduce students to the notion of transregional history breaking down our traditional understanding of continentally based history looking instead at the sea as connective tissue that binds rather than divides people over great distances in culturally and socially significant ways.

Required Texts:

Metcalf, Thomas, *Imperial Connections, India and the Indian Ocean Arena* (Berkley, 2007)

Ghosh, Amitav, *In An Antique Land: History in the Guise of a Traveler’s Tale*

Chaudhuri, K.N. *Trade and Civilization in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750*

Tagliacozzo, Eric *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States Along a Southeast Asian Frontier*, 1865-1915 (Yale Historical Publications Series) [Paperback]

The above books are Required Readings for all students in the course and are available at the NAU Bookstore. However, often you can find these titles on Amazon.com for significantly less.
The majority of readings, however, can be found on the course’s VISTA shell under the electronic readings section. These include articles and book chapters most of which are already published. A number of readings for this course are either book chapters or articles that have not yet been published but which colleagues have graciously given our class permission to use. These will be marked in both the syllabus and VISTA. Given the such works are not yet protected by copyright please take care not to circulate these works outside of class.

Class Format

HIS 460 will be conducted as a largely seminar style class. Seminar format means that discussion rather than formal lectures will constitute the major part of the course. At most, the instructor will lecture during only of each weekly class meeting (this will, in fact, be the exception rather than the rule and we will strive to have discussion of the readings dominate each week.) In general, the remainder of class time will be devoted to discussions surrounding issues raised by the readings for a given week. To do well, you must keep up with the readings and prepare in advance to discuss and reflect on issues contained in them. To help you prepare for these discussions, the instructor will occasionally provide “focus questions” for you to concentrate on while completing the readings.

The week of March 28th, class will be led by Professor Nile Green of UCLA. Professor Green will also be giving a public lecture on Tuesday evening March 29th. All students will be required to attend this event.

Assessment of Outcomes and Course Requirements—First, the good news-- there are no exams in this course!! Instead, a variety of other tools will be used to help you achieve the objectives of the course:

1. **Four (4) 800-1000 word review essays (of weekly readings)**-- During the course of the semester each student is required to submit four (4) critical evaluations of the week’s readings. These should be 800-1000 words in length, double-spaced (1 inch margins, font no larger than 12 point). Essays should not merely recapitulate the arguments of the author/s, but should approach the readings with a critical eye and seek to identify both the strengths and weaknesses of a given author’s point of view. Papers on a given set of readings are due in class on the day they are discussed. Papers for readings other than those being discussed during a given week will not be accepted.

   **Two of these must be submitted within the first FIVE weeks of readings. Failure to do so will mean a grade of zero for either of the first 2 reviews.**

2. **One (1) Critical Book Review**-- Each participant is required to write one (1) 1000-1200 word review of a book relating to their larger research project. As part of a scholarly endeavor, books from popular presses (generally written by
polemicists rather than scholars) are NOT acceptable. Only books published by reputable scholarly or academic presses will be acceptable. Books also should have been written in the last 10-15 years, older works (though acceptable for use in your larger project) will NOT be acceptable for this assignment. All books for review must be first cleared with the instructor.

Reviews for books not okayed by the instructor will not be accepted.

As with the review essays, these should not simply survey the arguments of the author, but should be approached with a critical eye and seek to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the argument. Towards this end, each review must also cite 2-3 reviews of the book published in academic journals providing some idea of how a particular work has been received by the scholarly community. A more detailed criteria sheet will follow.

3. Historiographic Essay: All students will be required to write a 12-15 page historiographic essay on a subject related to the topic of the course. Each essay should be aimed at delineating the major arguments and schools of thought regarding a particular issue as well as a detailed overview of the current literature on a given topic. As this is an assignment designed to acquaint you with the scholarly literature on a given topic the use of web sources will not be permitted. Essays will be due at the last class meeting. Criteria sheets will follow.

4. Discussion Leader: Each week one or two seminar participants (depending on class size) will be responsible for initiating that week’s discussion. Discussion leaders are neither expected nor asked to provide a synopsis of the readings. Rather, the role of the discussion leader/s is to provide their own “take” on the readings and posit thoughtful questions in order to stimulate the exchange of ideas.

5. Participation: The idea of the seminar is based on the notion of a free and open (and spirited!) exchange of ideas through discussion. Hence, arriving to class prepared and ready to engage the material through active participation is a crucial part of the course. Simply SHOWING UP to class is insufficient. Those who come to class unprepared or fail to take an active part in discussion on a regular basis [i.e. have something to add to the discussion every week] will be docked accordingly. Missing more than one class will also have a severe impact on your participation grade.

Note 1: Late policy—All assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class on the date they are due. Lateness will result in the deduction of one letter grade per day late (this will include weekend days.)
Note 2: Extensions and incompletes will be granted only in accordance with University policy.

Notes 3: As in any course plagiarism is completely unacceptable. Any form of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for the course.

Course Evaluation:
Your course grades will be based on the following distribution:

Reviews of the readings—40%
Book Review—20%
Historiographic Essay—25%
Participation (including turn as discussion leader) --15%

A standard grading scale will be in use
90%+= A; 80-89% =B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; below 60%=F

Weekly Topics (Bear in mind this is a guide. Readings and assignments may be subject to modification):

Week 1 01/24 Intro—what is oceanic history

Week 2 01/31 Indian Ocean Frameworks—

Readings:
Bose—“Space and Time on the Indian Ocean Rim: Theory and History” (on VISTA)
Pearson, The Indian Ocean, chs. 1-3 (on VISTA)
Hofmeyr, “Black Atlantic Meets Indian Ocean,” (on VISTA)

Week 3 02/7 A Muslim Lake? The Indian Ocean in the Middle Ages

Readings:
Chaudhuri K.N. Trade and Civilization in the Indian Ocean (entire)

Week 4 02/14 Medieval Muslim lives transmission of learning and culture—Ibn Battuta
Readings:
Dale, “Medieval Karala” (on VISTA)
Dunn, The Adventures of Ibn Battuta, chs. 6,9,10 (on VISTA)
El-Moudden, “The Ambivalence of Rihla,” (on VISTA)
Gellens, “The Search for Knowledge in Medieval Muslim Societies,” (on VISTA)
Week 5 02/21-- Life of Medieval commerce—

Readings:
Ghosh, *In an Antique Land* (entire)
Margariti, “Mercantile Networks, Port Cities, and ‘Pirate’ States” (on VISTA)

Week 6 02/28 European Imperial Frameworks

Readings:
Metcalf—*Imperial Connections* (entire)

Week 7 03/7 Muslim Diasporas under Imperial rule

Readings:
Ewald, “Crossers of the Sea” (on VISTA)
Gilbar, “Muslim *Tujjar*” (on VISTA)
Ho, “Names Beyond Nations,” (on VISTA)

Book Reviews Due

MARCH 14 SPRING BREAK!!

Week 8 03/21 The Hajj

Readings:
Dunn, *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta*, ch. 4 (on VISTA)
Laffan, “New Turn to Mecca” (on VISTA)
Tagliacozzo, Intro and “The Skeptics Eye: Snouck Hurgronje and the Politics of Pilgrimage from the Indies” (on VISTA)

Week 9 03/28 Popular Islam and Empire (Nile Green)

Readings:
Green, *Bombay Islam*, Introduction (on VISTA)
Green, “Dilemmas of the Pious Biographer” (on VISTA)
Green, “Saints, Rebels and Book Sellers,” (on VISTA)

Public Lecture by Professor Green, 03/29 exact time and place TBA

Week 10 04/04 Just Making a Living—Smuggling in Southeast Asia

Readings:
Tagliacozzo *Secret Trades, Porous Borders* (entire)

Week 11 04/11 Reformist discourse and Empire
Readings:
Laffan, “A Sufi Century in Southeast Asia,” (on VISTA, this paper has not yet been published, please exercise care.)
Freitag, “Hadhramaut: A religious center for the Indian Ocean,”
Ho, “Empire Through Diasporic Eyes” (on VISTA)

Week 12 04/18 Prayer, ritual and spirituality
Readings:

Prayer across the Indian Ocean Intro, chs. 4 and 7 (Parkin and Lambek)

Week 13 04/25 NO CLASS work on papers

Week 14 05/02 Counter-discourses (spirit possession, healing and belief)
Readings:
McIntosh, “Reluctant Muslims” (on VISTA)
Lambek, “Knowledge and Practice in Mayotte,” (on VISTA)
Lambek, “The Ludic Side of Islam and Its Possible Fate in Mayotte,” (on VISTA)

Week 15 05/09 Wrap up discussion
Term papers due at beginning of class.