

HISTORIES OF SLAVERY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Fall 2012

Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-9:15 am

Classroom: Herter 113

Instructor: Johan Mathew

Office: 711 Herter Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00-6:00 pm

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Course Description

This course explores the concept and practice of slavery in the Muslim World from the time of the Prophet Mohammed up to the 20th century. We will begin by examining how the Qur'an and Islamic jurisprudence altered pre-Islamic forms of slavery. The course will proceed chronologically, exploring the evolution of slavery through the early Islamic empires, the slave dynasties in Egypt and Delhi, the "gunpowder" empires of the Early Modern era, and the abolition of slavery in the 19th and 20th centuries. Some of the themes that we will discuss are manumission, rebellion, notions of property and labor in Islam, the role of slaves as concubines, soldiers and rulers, and the slave trades in the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic, the Black Sea and the Sahara. The course will engage with the incredible diversity in the Muslim World and will be pushed to think about whether we can sustain a singular concept of Islamic slavery.

Course Objectives:

- 1) You will be able to identify the major Muslim societies in world history and how slavery was structured in these societies.
- 2) You will particularly be able to analyze the role of race, gender, family, and religion in Muslim forms of slavery.
- 3) You will gain a more complex understanding of Islam and slavery in all its diversity.
- 4) Through the writing assignment you will refine and develop your ability to analyze complex topics and develop nuanced arguments.

Required Texts

William Gervase Clarence-Smith, *Islam and the Abolition of Slavery* (London: Hurst & Company, 2006).

John O. Hunwick and Eve Troutt Powell, *The African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam* (Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2002).

Behnaz A. Mirzai, Ismael Musah Montana and Paul E. Lovejoy eds., *Slavery, Islam and Diaspora* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2009).

All other readings will be available on Moodle

Recommended Texts

Joao Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Bahia* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993)

Eve Troutt Powell, *A Different Shade of Colonialism: Egypt, Great Britain and the Mastery of the Sudan* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003)

Ehud Toledano, *As if Silent and Absent: Bonds Of Enslavement in the Islamic Middle East* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007)

Terence Walz and Kenneth Cuno, *Race and Slavery in The Middle East: Histories of Trans-Saharan Africans in Nineteenth-Century Egypt, Sudan, and the Ottoman Mediterranean* (Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2010)

Policies and Expectations

Attendance: You are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, having read the readings for the week and prepared to discuss them. If you have a legitimate reason that forces you to miss class you need to inform me as soon as you are aware of it. You will still be expected to cover the material and meet with me to cover any material from the lecture you missed. Unexcused absences will be penalized. If you are late to class or ill-prepared, this will be reflected in your class participation grade.

Electronic Devices: All cell phones must be turned off or on silent (not vibrate) during class. Laptops and tablets will be permitted in class but only for use as a learning tool. Use of Facebook, Email or other non-class related applications during class time will also be penalized.

Disabilities: The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to making reasonable, effective and appropriate accommodations to meet the needs of students with disabilities and help create a barrier-free campus. If you are in need of accommodation for a documented disability, register with Disability Services to have an accommodation letter sent to your faculty. It is your responsibility to initiate these services and to communicate with faculty ahead of time to manage accommodations in a timely manner. For more information, consult the Disability Services website at <http://www.umass.edu/disability/>.

Academic Honesty Policy:

Since the integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research, academic honesty is required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. Appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Instructors should take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct. Any person who has reason to believe that a student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor as soon as possible. Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. The procedures outlined below are intended to provide an efficient and orderly process by which action may be taken if it appears that academic dishonesty has occurred and by which students may appeal such actions.

Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent. For more information about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please see the Dean of Students' website: http://umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/

Evaluation

Class Participation: Discussions are an essential part of the course, students are expected to come to class everyday having completed the week's readings and to thoughtfully engage with the readings and the opinions of their classmates during class time. To this end students will upload two discussion questions to the week's Moodle Forum by 5:00 pm on Monday, before the first class of the week. These should not be factual questions, but rather questions which find interesting connections and comparisons between readings, interrogate the basic assumptions of the readings, identify the fundamental issues at stake, and/or critique the arguments made by authors. In addition there will be in-class assignments including debates, map assignments, and presentations which will be included in the evaluation of class participation.

Final Paper: Students will be provided with a set of questions of which they will choose one. Students wishing to develop their own essay question may do so in consultation with the instructor. In the 9th week of class students will submit a paper proposal including a thesis statement, a bullet-point outline and a 1 page introduction. The proposal will be due on November 1st. The final paper should be 10-12 pages (double-spaced, 12 pt font with 1 inch margins), and it should use information from lectures, discussions and the reading materials from the course. Further information regarding expectations and grading for this paper will be provided in class. Papers and paper proposals should be uploaded promptly at the beginning of class (8:00am). Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade each day they are late (so from A to A- or B- to C+). Extensions will only be permitted for valid emergencies and must be requested before the assignment is due

Mid-Term Exam: Will consist of a map quiz and identifications. Make-up exams will not be provided except in the case of a verified medical emergency.

Final Presentation: Students will present an analysis of a topic that cuts across different times and regions of Muslim Slavery. Presentations will be 15 minutes long and presented in the last few weeks of class along with discussion.

Grading Breakdown		Grading Scale		
		Percentage Totals	Grade	Credit Points
Class Participation	20%	93-100%	A	4.0
Mid-Term Exam (10/18)	15%	90-92%	A-	3.7
Paper Proposal (11/8)	5%	87-89%	B+	3.3
Final Paper (12/6)	30%	83-86%	B	3.0
Final Presentation	30%	80-82%	B-	2.7
		77-79%	C+	2.3
		73-76%	C	2.0
		70-72%	C-	1.7
		67-69%	D+	1.3
		63-66%	D	1.0
		60-62%	D-	0.7
		59% or below	F	0
		Incomplete	INC	0

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Islam and the Reforms of pre-Islamic Slavery

Tuesday 9/4 & Thursday 9/6

- W.G. Clarence-Smith, *Islam and the Abolition of Slavery*, Ch. 1-2, pp. 1-48
- Hunwick and Powell, *African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam*, pp. 2-9, 23-32

Week 2 – The Zanj Rebellion

Tuesday 9/11 & Thursday 9/13

- Alexandre Popovic, *The Revolt of African Slaves in Iraq in the 3rd/9th Century*, Ch. 1, pp. 9-29
- al-Tabari, pp. 29-59

Week 3 – Early Islam and Mamluk Egypt

Tuesday 9/18 & Thursday 9/20

- W.G. Clarence-Smith, *Islam and the Abolition of Slavery*, Ch. 5, pp. 85-97
- Bernard Lewis, *Race and Slavery in the Middle East*, Ch. 9, pp. 62-71
- Shaun Marmon, *Eunuchs and Sacred Boundaries in Islamic Society*, Ch. 1, pp. 3-31

Week 4 – The Delhi Sultanate and Mughal India

Tuesday 9/25 & Thursday 9/27

- Peter Jackson, "Turkish Slaves on Islam's Indian Frontier" in *Slavery in South Asian History*, pp. 63-75
- Sunil Kumar, "Service, Status and Military Slavery in the Delhi Sultanate: Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries" in *Slavery in South Asian History*, pp. 83-109
- Richard Eaton, "The Rise and Fall of Military Slavery in the Deccan" in *Slavery in South Asian History*, pp. 115-131
- Irfan Habib, "Slavery in the Delhi Sultanate, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries – Evidence from Sufic Literature" pp. 248-256

Week 5 – The Ottoman Empire

Tuesday 10/2 & Thursday 10/4

- Ehud Toledano, *As if Silent and Absent*, Ch. 1, pp. 9-60, Ch. 5, pp. 204-254
- The Tribute of Children, 1493, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/islam/1493janissaries.asp>

Week 6 – Slavery on the Mediterranean

Tuesday 10/9: No Class, Monday Schedule is followed

Thursday 10/11

- Robert Davis, *Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters*, Ch. 2-3, pp. 27-102
- Khalid Berkaoui, *White Women Captives in North Africa*, Appendices, pp. 256-275

Week 7 – Slavery on the Nile

Tuesday 10/16

Thursday 10/18: **Mid-Term Examination**

- Eve Troutt-Powell, *A Different Shade of Colonialism*, Ch. 4, pp. 135-167
- Ahmad, Sikainga, “Slavery and Social Life in nineteenth Century Turco-Egyptian Khartoum,” in *Race and Slavery in the Middle East*, Ch. 6, pp. 147-168
- Hunwick and Powell, *African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam*, pp. 99-120

Week 8 – Muslim Slavery in West Africa

Tuesday 10/23 & Thursday 10/25

- Mirzai, Montana and Lovejoy eds., *Slavery, Islam and Diaspora*, Ch. 6-8, pp. 91-138
- Sean Stillwell, “The Power of Knowledge” in *Slave Elites in the Middle East and Africa*, pp. 117-156

Week 9 – Saharan Slave Trade

Tuesday 10/30 & Thursday 11/1

- Mirzai, Montana and Lovejoy eds., *Slavery, Islam and Diaspora*, Ch. 10-12, pp. 155-216
- Hunwick and Powell, *African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam*, pp. 67-81

Week 10 – East Africa

Tuesday 11/6

Thursday 11/8: **Paper Proposal Due**

- Frederick Cooper, *Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa*, Ch. 1, pp. 23-46, Ch. 6, pp. 213-252
- History of a small slave buried alive, or filial love (Swema’s narrative of enslavement in east Africa), Trans. Pier M. Larson

Week 11 – The Indian Ocean and South East Asia

Tuesday 11/13 & Thursday 11/15

- Janet Ewald, “Crossers of the Sea: Slaves, Freedmen, and other Migrants in the Northwestern Indian Ocean, c. 1750-1914” pp. 69-91
- James Francis Warren, “The Structure of Slavery in the Sulu Zone” pp. 111-124
- Michael Salman, *The Embarrassment of Slavery*, Ch. 3, pp. 59-70

Week 12 – The Americas

Tuesday 11/20

Thursday 11/22: *No Class, Happy Thanksgiving!*

- Joao Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Bahia*, pp. 93-138
- Maureen Warner-Lewis, “Religious Constancy and Compromise among Nineteenth Century Caribbean-Based African Muslims” in *Slavery, Islam and Diaspora*, Ch. 14, pp. 237-261

Week 13 – Abolition

Tuesday 11/27 & Thursday 11/29

- W.G. Clarence-Smith, *Islam and the Abolition of Slavery*, Ch. 6 pp. 98-129, Ch. 8, pp. 151-176, Ch. 10, pp. 195-218.
- Hunwick and Powell, *African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam*, pp. 181-187

Week 14 – The Arabian Peninsula and Human Trafficking

Tuesday 12/4

*Thursday 12/6: **Final Paper Due***

- Suzanne Miers, “Slave Rebellion and Resistance in the Aden Protectorate in the Mid-Twentieth Century” in *Slavery and Resistance in African and Asia*, pp. 99-107
- Syed Ali, *The Gilded Cage*, pp.
- Anh Longya, “Keeping Migrant Workers in Check” pp. 20-22

This syllabus is subject to change, if any changes are made you will be notified.