From the Crusades to modern colonialism, the relationship between Muslims and Western Christians has often been recounted as the clash of two opposing civilizations, a history of warfare and of incompatible values. This tutorial takes a different point of departure, namely the recent scholarly recognition that relationships between Muslims and Western Christians were often rooted in the intimacy of frequent interaction. We will delve into the many ways in which Muslim peoples shaped European culture from...
the Middle Ages to the present. We will explore different domains, from one of the first translations of the Qur’an into any language, the Latin version done in Toledo in 1143, to the many goods made by Muslim craftsmen that filled the homes of Renaissance Europe, to the roles of early modern Muslims as captives, slaves, diplomats, travelers, and converts. In the modern period, Muslims continued to inflect European culture both as colonial subjects and as domestic minorities, producing and inspiring art, imaginative literature, and critiques of European power. Our investigation will encompass music, visual art and film in addition to written works. How do we make sense of this intricately interwoven history? And what are its legacies for the present? Sources both primary and secondary will include Lady Montagu, Mozart, al-Tahtawi, Flaubert, Assiya Djebar, and Fatima Mernissi.

Required Books.

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Turkish Embassy Letters*
978-1554810420

Fatima Mernissi, *Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*
978-0201489378

Assia Djebar, *Children of the New World: A Novel of the Algerian War*
978-1558615106

Michel Houellebecq, *Submission*
978-1250097347

Al-Tahtawi, *An Imam In Paris: Al-Tahtawi’s Visit To France 1826-1831*
978-0863564079

Gustave Flaubert, *Flaubert in Egypt*
978-0140435825

*The Study Qur’an*
978-0061125874

978-0192853448
Week of February 5
0: Introductory meeting

Week of February 10
1: Starting points


*The Study Qur’an*, Q1 (al-Fātiḥah); Q12 (Yūsuf); Q112 (al-İkhlaş) + footnotes to each

Week of February 17
2: The Qur’an in Medieval Europe

Peter the Venerable, *Writings Against the Saracens*, “Introduction;” “Letter on His Translation;” “A Summary of the Entire Heresy of the Saracens”


Thomas E. Burman, *Reading the Qur’an in Latin Christendom* (2007), Introduction plus chapters 3 and 4

Week of February 24
3: Medieval Iberia: Beyond Convivencia

Alfonso X, “Primera crónica general de España” and Abu al Baqa’ al-Rundi, “Lament for the Fall of Seville,” in Olivia Remie Constable and Damian Zurro, eds., *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*, pp. 287-290; 290-292
Edict of Expulsion of Muslims from Castile & León and Morisco Appeal to the Ottoman Sultan in *Medieval Iberia*, pp. 535-539; 540-546

David Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence* (1996), introduction and ch. 5

Maria Rosa Menocal, *The Arts of Intimacy* (2008), intro, chs. 3–5

**Week of March 3**

**4: Islamic Culture in the Italian Renaissance**


Rosamond E. Mack, *Bazaar to Piazza: Islamic Trade and Italian Art, 1300–1600* (2002), intro, ch. 1, chs. 3-4, chs. 9-10

Francesca Trivellato, “Renaissance Italy and the Muslim Mediterranean in Recent Historical Work,” *Journal of Modern History* (2010)

**Week of March 10**

**5: Muslim and Christian Women**

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Turkish Embassy Letters* (1756)

Fatima Mernissi, *Dreams of Trespass* (1994)

**Week of March 16**

**6: No Class**

*SPrING BREAk*
Week of April 6
7: The Singing Turk

G. Stephanie (libretto) and W. A. Mozart (music), *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (1782) [available online via Glow course website]


Larry Wolff, *The Singing Turk: Ottoman Power and Operatic Emotions on the European Stage from the Siege of Vienna to the Age of Napoleon* (2016), intro, chs. 5, 6

Week of April 13
8: Painterly Orientalism

Digital exhibit of French Orientalist art from the Clark Institute and the Louvre:

- **Delacroix, The Death of Sardanapalus** (1827)
- **Delacroix, Women of Algiers in their Apartment** (1834)
- **Ingres, The Turkish Bath** (1852-59; 1862)
- **Gérôme, The Slave Market** (1866)
- **Gérôme, Fellah Women Drawing Water** (1873-75)
- **Gérôme, The Snake Charmer** (1879)

Before you begin the readings, please view these paintings via the links and also read the accompanying texts that the museums have chosen to share.


Week of April 20
9: The Age of Empire

Rifa’a al-Tahtawi, *An Imam in Paris* (1826-1831), selections

Gustave Flaubert, *Flaubert in Egypt*, selections

Alex Chase-Levenson, *The Yellow Flag: Quarantine and the British Mediterranean World, 1780-1860* (2020), intro + ch. 6 (PDF to be circulated)

Alexis de Tocqueville, First and Second Letters on Algeria in Jennifer Pitts, ed., *Writings on Empire and Slavery* (2001)


Week of April 27
10: Decolonization

Gillo Pontecorvo, *The Battle of Algiers* (motion picture, 1966) [available online via Kanopy]

Assia Djebar, *Children of the New World* (1962; translated 2005)


Week of May 4
11: French Islam

Mathieu Kassovitz, *La haine* (motion picture, 1995) [available online via Kanopy]


Reviews of Submission by Mark Lilla (New York Review of Books) and Alex Preston (Guardian)

Week of May 11
12: The American Qur’an

Sam Haselby, “Muslims of Early America,” Aeon, 20 May 2019 (link)


Denise Spellberg, Thomas Jefferson’s Qur’an (2013), preface, introduction, chs. 3, 5, pps. 230-239, afterword


Sandow Birk, “Artist Statement” (2012)

Bruce B. Lawrence, The Koran in English: A Biography (2017), 135–172