# History of Islamic Countries

## Prof. Paolo Luigi Branca

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with basic knowledge on the development of the history of Islamic countries from their origins to the present day.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify the stages of development of the history of the Islamic area, as well as the periods with the characteristics which distinguish them both within the Muslim world and in its relations with other populations.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

Case studies; the era of origins, the first caliphate, the Omayyade dynasty, the Abbaside dynasty, the period of Decadence, the Ottoman era up to the First World War, cultural rebirth (nahda), the colonial period and post-colonial period will help students understand the main events and ongoing problems within the context in question.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Ancient Arabia up to the first ‘well-led’ caliphates.

2. Islamic expansion and the Omayyade and Abbaside caliphates.

3. The Mongol invasion and the end of the ‘classic’ caliphate.

4. The period of Decadence.

5. The Muslim world up to the First World War

6. The era of modern national states

7. The nationalism crisis and the Islamist drift.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

Notes taken during lectures and websites consulted together.

Compulsory reading:

https://www.fondazioneaegboroli.it/images/pdf/destini-incrociati.pdf

Optional reading:

A. Hourani, *Storia dei popoli arabi,* Mondadori, Milan, 1991.

Lapidus, *Storia delle società islamiche,* Einaudi, 3 voll., Turin, 1993-1995.

G. Vercellin, *Istituzioni del mondo musulmano,* Einaudi, Turin, 1996.

B. Scarcia Amoretti, *Il mondo musulmano,* Carocci, Rome, 1998.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and discussions with students.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be an oral examinaton during which students will have to prove their ability to place historical phenomena and cultural dynamics in their respective contexts, beginning with a topic of their choice and subsequently connecting it to at least two other topics.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

1. Books on the reading list may be purchased from the university bookshops; they are also available at other bookshops. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)