



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Arab Conquest of Iran and Central Asia - 38218

Last update 09-10-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Islamic & Middle East Stud.

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Michael Shenkar

Coordinator Email: michael.shenkar@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Prof Shenkar Michael

Course/Module description:

The course offers a survey of the Arab conquest of Iran and Central Asia in the 7-8 centuries CE. We shall get acquainted with the cultures that existed in Iran and Central Asia before Islam, and shall discuss the transformation of the Iranian world following the Arab conquest.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To be acquainted with the story of the Arab conquest of the Iranian world and with cultures that existed in it. Ability to deal with primary sources for the period.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The Lecturer's exposition of the subject followed by a discussion.

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction. The conquests begin.
2. On the way to collapse? The Sasanian Empire in the 7th century.
3. From Qādisiyyah to Merv: The Fall of the Sasanian Empire.
4. In the land of the Kabul-Shah: The struggle for Afghanistan.
5. The last Sasanians in China.
6. The world beyond the river: Sogdiana and the Turks.
7. The first raids.
8. Qutayba ibn Muslim and the conquest of Transoxiana (705-715).
9. Mt. Mugh archive and the last days of Panjikent.

10. *The end of the Sogdian civilisation.*

11. *The great changes: Iran and Central Asia in the early Islamic period.*

Required Reading:

Kennedy, H. (2008), *The Great Arab Conquests: How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In*, Philadelphia.

Hoyland, R. (2015), *In God's Path: The Arab Conquests and the Creation of an Islamic Empire*, Oxford.

Yarshater, E. (ed.), *The History of al-Ṭabarī*, 40 vols, SUNY Press.

Livshits, V.A. (2015), *Sogdian Epigraphy of Central Asia and Semirech'e*, London.

Encyclopædia Iranica Online Edition available at: <http://www.iranicaonline.org>

Additional Reading Material:

See syllabus on Moodle.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 70 %

Assignments 20 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: