



## COURSE DATA

### DATA SUBJECT

**Code:** 34044  
**Name:** History of the medieval Islamic world  
**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Academic year:** 2025-26

### STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1005 - Degree in History	Facultat de Geografia i Història	4	Second quarter

### SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1005 - Degree in History	History of the medieval islamic world	ELECTIVES

### COORDINATION

TORRO ABAD JOSEP

## SUMMARY

### ABSTRACT

The course approaches the study of one of the most important civilizations in history, including the origins of Islam and its early development during the Middle Ages. This process has had an important impact on European history and, especially, in the Iberian Peninsula.

The course will follow a chronological order, from the beginnings of Islam in the 7<sup>th</sup> century (I of the Hegira) to the early decades of the 16<sup>th</sup> century (10<sup>th</sup> H.), period which essentially corresponds with the medieval period in the West. However, each chapter will also include sections on social organisation and political structure.

## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.



## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Other requirements

It is advisable for the student to be familiar with the process of formation, expansion and consolidation of Europe during the Middle Ages, particularly the Iberian Peninsula and the Crown of Aragón.

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

-

Be able to learn autonomously.

Be able to make abstractions, to analyse and to synthesise.

Show commitment to the principle of equal opportunities for men and women.

Value and respect diversity and multiculturalism.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1.

Pre-Islamic Arabia. Tribal societies and relations of alliance and conflict. Bedouin-sedentary.

Islam: the message and the tribes. Muhammad.

First religious and territorial expansion. The Orthodox Caliphate (Perfect). First conflicts.

Economic and social consequences of the expansion.

### 2.

Political evolution and expansion. The Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates. political evolution.

Organization of conquests and political-administrative power.

Economies and societies in transformation. Growth and social diversification. Groups and conflicts. Economic trends: rural world and cities.

The new Arab-Islamic culture. Take-off of classical Muslim culture.

Conquerors and conquered: new Islamic societies: evolution and conflicts.

The conquest of the Iberian Peninsula and the birth of Al-Andalus.

Political evolution, VIII-X centuries: Muslim conquest and establishment. The government of the Umayyads: from the Emirate to the Caliphate of Córdoba. The territories.

Economic changes: agricultural structures, land ownership and work, fields and cities, manufacturing and trade. Taxation and tax system.

New Islamic society: Arab dominance, converts to Islam, protected minorities: Christians and Jews. The



**3.**

The conquest of the Iberian Peninsula and the birth of Al-Andalus.

Political evolution, VIII-X centuries: Muslim conquest and establishment. The government of the Umayyads: from the Emirate to the Caliphate of Córdoba. The territories. population: rural world and cities.

Political, administrative, and fiscal structures. Central and provincial administration.

Arabization and development of the Andalusian Islamic culture. Muslims and Christians in the Peninsula.

**4.**

Political evolution and territories: XI-XIII centuries. Turks, Franks, and Mongols.

A fragmented Islamic world. The weight of Egypt and the Near East. Western Islam and Al-Andalus, Eastern Islam: Persia and India. Far East. The Crusades. the Mongols.

Economic powers, military compensation, and land. Agrarian economic structures. The vitality of cities. The brilliance of trade and the new taxes.

Social changes and conflicts. Convulsive societies, in changes and evolution.

The maturity of classical Islamic culture. Contacts with the West and the East.

**5.**

The Islamic world between 1280 and 1550: the western late medieval period.

A new territorial distribution: The Ottoman Empire. Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Arabia,

The Ottoman Turks.

The end of Al-Andalus. The fate of the Maghreb and Tunisia.

Safavid Persian. India. Expansion in the Far East and Africa.

Economic restructuring and evolution of Islamic societies in the 14th and 15th centuries.

A cultural vitality in constant evolution. Stagnation?

**WORKLOAD**

**PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Other activities	15,00
Classroom practices	15,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60,00</b>

**NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	90,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00



Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

### TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures.

Preparation of lectures: reading of recommended bibliography.

Practical assignments: reading of recommended bibliography.

Complementary activities: four one-hour sessions for text commentary. Date and classroom to be defined.

## EVALUATION

### MARK

Exam: 80 % of the final mark

Practical assignments: 10 % of the final mark.

Complementary activities: 10 % of the final mark.

Excepting Erasmus students, grammar and spelling problems will score negatively on the qualification of all written tests and academic works. Their accumulation may lead to a failing grade in the course.

## REFERENCES

- - BRESC, H.-GUICHARD, P.-MANTRAN, R. (2001): Europa y el Islam en la Edad Media, Barcelona, Crítica.
- - MAÍLLO, F. (1999): Vocabulario de historia árabe e islámica, Madrid, Akal.
- - MANZANO, E. (1992): Historia de las sociedades musulmanas en la Edad Media, Madrid, Síntesis.



- - SOURDEL, D. y J. (1981): La civilización del Islam clásico, Barcelona, Juventud.
- - WATT, M. (2001): Historia de la España islámica, Madrid, Alianza.
- - BRAMON, D. (2002): Una introducción al Islam: religión, historia y cultura, Barcelona, Crítica.
- - GUICHARD, P. (2001): Al-Andalus frente a la conquista cristiana. Los musulmanes de Valencia (siglos XI-XIII), Madrid, Biblioteca Nueva, Universitat de València.
- - HOURANÍ, A (2003): La Historia de los Árabes, Barcelona, Vergara
- - SAID, E. W. (2003): Orientalismo, Barcelona.
- - VERNET, J. (1999): Lo que Europa debe al Islam de España, Barcelona, El Acantilado