

Instructor: Elias G. Saba
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Office: HSSC N2152
Office Hours: T 8:30am-9:50am;
F 1:00pm–2:30pm
or by appointment

His/Rel 265-01: The Crusades in the Middle East

Course Description

What did it feel like to get crusaded? In this course, we will examine the roughly two-century period from the First Crusade in 1095 to the final expulsion of Latin Crusaders from the Middle East in 1291. Our explorations will center on the perspectives of the invaded, rather than the invaders. How did the Muslims, Jews, and Eastern Christians of the medieval Middle East respond to the presence of Frankish invaders from Europe?

Course Requirements and Objectives

This is a seminar course. It is imperative that each student carefully reads all of the assigned readings on time and comes to class ready to participate in class discussion. Class preparedness and participation is a major factor in the final grade and unexcused absences will count against this final grade. You may not pass this class if you miss more than 35% of the sessions. The course is based around an initial midterm exam and a final exam. Additionally, there will be four short writing assignments (2 pp.), a book review (5 pp.), and a required (ungraded) map quiz.

The clandestine objective of this class is to make you a better analytical writer. Specifically, it is my hope that you will markedly improve your ability to analyze a document and express your analysis on paper. To this end, all of the assignments build on each other—to give you an opportunity to improve. In addition, however, you also have the opportunity to revise and resubmit up to two (2) assignments for regrading. Any revised submission must include all prior drafts.

Half of the class will be required to meet with Terran for either Assignment #2 or Assignment #3. These groups will be made at the beginning of the second week of the semester.

Assignment #5: (5pp)

Write a paper on Usama ibn Munqidh's *Book of Contemplation*, which you will read in its entirety for this class. What are some of the obsessions or anxieties or concerns that sha

T 10:00-11:50AM R 10:00-10:50AM

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the final grade and unexcused absences will count against this final grade. Missing more than 30% of the classes with unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

1/26: Class 2 [No Class, Travel!]

1/31: Class 3

Paul Cobb, "Getting Crusaded: History and the Targets of the Medieval Holy War,"
lecture at the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Minneapolis, April 28, 2016.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwDSwucCPJw>
Tyerman, *Crusades: A Very Short Introduction*, 1–41.

2/2: Class 4

Tyerman, *Crusades: A Very Short Introduction*, 42–108.
MAP QUIZ DUE

2/7: Class 5

Tyerman, *Crusades: A Very Short Introduction*, 109–44.
Assignment #1

The Crusaders and the Crusaded

2/9: Class 6: Synthesis

Cobb, *Race for Paradise*, pp. 3-53.

2/14: Class 7: Synthesis

Cobb, *Race for Paradise*, pp. 53-103.

2/16: Class 8 Voices

Allen & Amt: 34-42 (Urban II).
Allen & Amt: 42-48 (People's Crusade).
Allen & Amt: 56-57 (Bohemond, Gesta).
Allen & Amt: 58-61 (Stephen of Blois).
Allen & Amt: 61-63 (Antioch/Franks).
Allen & Amt: 288-91 (El Cid).
Lindsay & Mourad: 59-61 (Ibn al-Athir).
Lindsay & Mourad: 62–65 (Ibn al-Dalansi)
Lindsay & Mourad: 66-70 (Ibn al-Athir).
ASSIGNMENT #2

2/21: Class 9: Synthesis

Cobb, *Race for Paradise*, 104-179.

2/23: Class 10 Voices

Allen & Amt: 85-89 (Latin States)
Allen & Amt: 292-96 (Lisbon/Franks).
Allen & Amt: 100-104 (John of Wurzburg).

Allen & Amt: 107-111 (Usama)
Allen & Amt: 111-116 (Benjamin of Tudela)
Allen & Amt: 125-128 (Bernard preaches^{2^d} Crusade)
Allen & Amt: 135-140 (2^d Crusade/Franks)
Allen & Amt: 142-44 (Analyses of 2nd Crusade)
Lindsay & Mourad: 76–77 (al-Atharibi)
Lindsay & Mourad: 80–84 (Ibn al-Qalanisi)
Lindsay & Mourad: 85–89 (Ibn al-Athir)
Lindsay & Mourad: 191–93 (al-Qalqashandi)

2/28: Class 11 Synthesis

Cobb, *Race for Paradise* 179–218.

3/2: Class 12 Working Differently!!

3/7: Class 13 Voices

Allen & Amt: 296-301 (Navas de Tolosa/Franks).
Allen & Amt: 169-177 (Third Crusade/Franks)
Allen & Amt: 220-228 (Fourth Crusade/Franks)
Allen & Amt: 228-234 (Constantinople)
Allen & Amt: 249-254 (Fifth Crusade/Franks)
Allen & Amt: 277-281 (Frederick)
Allen & Amt: 281-285 (Responses to Frederick)
Allen & Amt: 328-332 (Joinville on Louis)
Lindsay & Mourad: 94–96 (al-Buhārī).
Lindsay & Mourad: 97–98 (al-Nabulsi).
ASSIGNMENT #3.

3/9: Class 14

Lindsay & Mourad: 104–106 (Ibn al-Athir).
Lindsay & Mourad: 107–108 (Sibt Ibn al-Jawzi).
Lindsay & Mourad: 109–114 (Sibt Ibn al-Jawzi).
Lindsay & Mourad: 121–127 (Ibn Wasil).
Lindsay & Mourad: 130–131 (al-Funini).
Lindsay & Mourad: 165–73 (Ibn Asakir).
Lindsay & Mourad: 174–183 (Sibt Ibn al-Jawzi).
Lindsay & Mourad: 184–185 (al-Dhahabi).
Lindsay & Mourad: 194–195 (Ibn al-Shaddad)

3/14: Class 15

Cobb, *Race for Paradise* 219–45.

3/16: Class 16

Cobb, *Race for Paradise* 246–70.

4/4: Class 17

Allen & Amt: 337-344 (Mongols and Baybars).

Allen & Amt: 344-351 (Ludolph von Suchem on Acre).

ASSIGNMENT #4(?)

4/6: Class 18

Ashiqpashazade, *History* in Bernard Lewis, *Islam from the Prophet Muhammad to the Capture of Constantinople: Volume I* (New York: Harper & Row, 1974), 144-48.

Khojah Efendi, "The Capture of Constantinople, from the *Ta'vārīkh*, 'The Diadem of Histories,'" trans. E.J. Gibb (Glasgow: T. Murray and Son 1879).

Kritovoulos, *History of Mehmed the Conqueror*, §§117–236. [\[link\]](#)

ASSIGNMENT #4(?)

Impacts: Medieval Judaism and the Crusades

4/11: Class 19

Marc J. Rosenstein, "The Rise of Eastern European Jewry: The Crusades, 1100–1300 CE" in *Turning Points in Jewish History* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press).

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Kedar, Benjamin Z. "Latins and Oriental Christians in the Frankish Levant." In *Sharing the Sacred: Religious Contacts and Conflicts in the Holy Land, 5th-15th Centuries*, ed. Arie Kofsky and Guy G. Stroumsa. (Jerusalem: Yad Izhak Ben Zvi, 1998), 208-22.

Weltecke, Dorothea. "On the Syriac Orthodox in the Principality of Antioch during the Crusader period." In *East and West in the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean*, ed. K. Ciggaar and M. Metcalf (Leuven: Peeters, 2006): 95-124.

4/27: Class 24

MacEvitt, Christopher. "The *Chronicle* of Matthew of Edessa: Apocalypse, the First Crusade, and the Armenian Diaspora." *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 61 (2007): 254-96. [link](#)

Thomson, Robert W. "The Crusaders through Armenian Eyes," *The Crusades from the Perspective of Byzantium and the Muslim World*, ed. A. E. Laiou and Roy P. Mottahedeh (Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks, 2001), 71-82. [link](#)

Impacts: The Islamic Impact

(NB: This would be a good time to start Usama ibn Munqidh, if you have not yet!)

5/2: Class 25

Daniella Talmon-Heller, "Muslim Martyrdom and Quest for Martyrdom in the Crusading Period," *Al O D V — T 14* (2002): 131-139. [link](#)

Suleiman Mourad and James Lindsay, "Rescuing Syria from the Infidels: The Crusades and the Muslim World," *The Crusades* 8 (2007): 37-56. [link](#)

5/4: Class 26

Matthew L. Keegan, "Adab without the Crusades: The Inebriated Solidarity of a Young Officer's Hunting Epistle" *al-ʿUṣṣā* — 28 (2020): 272-296. [link](#)

5/9: Class 27

Usama ibn Munqidh, *Book of Contemplations*, ASSIGNMENT #5.

5/11: Class 28

Catching Up; End of Semester Wrapup