

Government of Russian Federation  
National Research University – Higher School of Economics  
Faculty of World Economy and International Politics  
School of Asian Studies  
Syllabus of the course  
"Islamic Factor in the Development of Eastern Civilizations"  
for MAGOLEGO

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This syllabus cannot be used by other university departments and other higher education institutions without the explicit permission of the Author.

## 1 Scope

The syllabus is intended for the department teaching this course, its teaching assistants, and students of the MAGOLEGO pool of programmes.

This syllabus meets the standards required by:

- Standards of National Research University Higher School of Economics for Master's Degree students of the first and second year.
- Curriculum of the master's degree program "Socio-Political Development and Challenges of Modern East Asia" as of 2019 and similar.

## 2 Learning Objectives

The main objective of the course:

To provide student with a comprehensive knowledge of the history of Islam and its influence on the socio-economic and political development of Eastern countries.

### *Intended outcomes:*

- To attain a critical understanding of the founding ideas of traditional Islamic historiography, both classical and contemporary.
- To obtain an objective understanding of diverse approaches to studies of Islamic heritage in traditional Islamic thought and mainstream Western academia.
- To enable critique and evaluation of the central set of ideas, both Muslim and non-Muslim, on Islam's relation with the development of Eastern civilizations.
- To develop a comparative understanding of the political and cultural contexts in which Islam has emerged as a majority and minority in different cultures and the challenges in politics and society to which Islam has responded and/or exacerbated.

## 3 Role of the discipline within the structure of Master program

This is an additional course in conjunction with Ethnical and Confessional Collisions.

This course is not based on other disciplines.

The following knowledge and competences are needed to study the discipline:

- Comprehensive knowledge of the history of Eastern hemisphere
- Ability to write short opinionated papers and essays
- Working knowledge of English
- General understanding the main tenets of Islam and its role in shaping modern societies in the East and beyond.

## 4 Course Plan

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours		Self studies
			Lectures	Seminars	
1.	Birth of Islam and Creation of Caliphate. Umayyad and Abbasside Dynasties and spreading of Faith	13	4	1	8
2.	Seven "Zones of Islam". Characteristics and peculiarities.	13	2	1	10

3.	Cultural, educational and religious implications of Islamic impact on the ethnic majorities. Cross-influence of local and “imported” beliefs. Shaping of “localized” religious trends, acquired traditions in common interactions, literature, architecture and business conduct	18	6	2	10
4.	Countries with Islamic majority. Socio-political and economic characteristics. Role play and models.	16	4	2	10
5.	Localized Muslim communities: influencing host countries. Problems, solutions and future prospects.	16	4	2	10
6.	Notion of Umma. Pan-Islamism and political activity of Islamic movements (IM)	19	5	2	12
7	Course conclusion and workshop	19	5	2	12

Course Content:

*1. Birth of Islam and Creation of Caliphate. Umayyad and Abbasside Dynasties and spreading of Faith. (4 lecture hours + 1 hour free discussion)*

The story of Mohammad’s revelations. First years in Mecca. The Hijrah. The Medina Charter and foundations of Islamic Governance. Umayyad Caliphate and the Great Conquests. The Abbasside Revolution. Science and Arts of the Caliphate. Belle Lettre and spread of Islam as a result of media breakthrough and the myth of the “Golden Age”. Cosmopolitanism and Idiosyncrasies of the Caliphate succession. Spectacular rise and tragic fall of the biggest empire.

*Sample Reading:*

Armstrong, K. *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*, London: Phoenix, 2001.

Ramadan, T. *The Messenger: The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad*, London: Penguin, 2008.

Watt, W.M *Muhammad: Prophet and Statesman*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1974.

Crone P., Cook M. *Hagarism, The Making of the Islamic World*, Cambridge University Press, 1977

Video material:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX3UHNhQ1Zk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1PxJomypQE>

Lectures 1-2 Islamic Factor (In-Class Presentation).

*2. Seven "Zones of Islam", Characteristics and peculiarities. (2 lecture hours + 1 hour free discussion)*

The role that Islamic history plays in modern Muslim societies and the quest for the answers to three important questions: What happened, How do we know this and Why do these answers matter? How do Muslims and Westerners define the borders and limits of the history of Islam? Is it the history of Religion or the history of Civilization? What role natural and human factors played through the known history of Islam?

*Sample Reading:*

Silverstein Adam J., *Islamic History. A very short introduction*, Oxford University Press, NY, 2010

Hanieh A., *Lineages of Revolt*, Highmarket Books, NY, 2013

Fuller, G.E., *A World Without Islam*, New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2010.

Lapidus, I., *A History of Islamic Societies*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Video material:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXF7RkgANNo>

Lecture 3 (In-Class Presentation)

*3. Cultural, educational and religious implications of Islamic impact on the ethnic majorities. Cross-influence of local and "imported" beliefs. Shaping of "localized" religious trends, acquired traditions in common interactions, literature, architecture and business conduct. (6 lecture hours + 2 hours free discussion).*

Novelty and traditionalism in Islamic message, the role played by Sufi missionaries in adaptation of Islamic codes to the local cultural and social traditions. Influence of conquered on the conquerors. Islam vs Zoroastrianism; Persian influence and "Turkiq Islam"; Slave kings of India and Deobandi movement.

*Sample Reading:*

Du Pasquier, R., *Unveiling Islam*, Cambridge: Islamic Texts Society, 1992.

Esposito, J., *Islam: The Straight Path*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Murata, S. and W. Chittick, *The Vision of Islam*, New York: Paragon House, 1998.

Video material:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Jq0damMgUU>

Lectures 4-6 (In-class presentation)

*4. Countries with Islamic majority. Socio-political and economic characteristics. Role-play and models. (4 lecture hours + 2 hours free discussion)*

"Native" Islam of Arabian Peninsula vs Indonesian, Malaysian and Hindu-Pakistani concepts. State-building and State-demolition in historical retrospect. Trading societies and sea-faring nations in Islamic culture; Islamic governance concept and the fate of the non-believers. Islamic discourse and modern nation-state: pros and cons of the conundrum.

*Sample Reading:*

Brown Carl L. *Religion and State*, Columbia University Press, 2000.

Pringle R. *Understanding Islam in Indonesia: Politics and Diversity*. University of Hawaii Press, 2010.

Fuller G. *The New Turkish Republic: Turkey as a Pivotal State in the Muslim World*. United States Institute of Peace, 2007.

Video material:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYBAhxd4PB8>

Lectures 7-8 (In-class presentation)

*5. Localized Muslim communities: influencing host countries. Problems, solutions and future prospects. (4 lecture hours + 2 free discussion)*

Assimilation as opposed to the "closed gates" communities and the challenges of interaction between Muslim minorities in the host countries. Problems faced by the host countries on the communal, municipal and state levels. Role played by NGOs, religious institutions and community elders councils and the future of a

dialogue in a potentially inflammable environment.

*Sample Reading:*

Israeli R. *Muslim Minorities in Modern States: The Challenge of Assimilation*. Transaction Publishers, 2008.

Oliver-Dee S. *Muslim Minorities and Citizenship: Authority, Islamic Communities and Shari'a Law*. Tauris Academic Studies, 2012.

Mutalib H. *Singapore Malays: Being Ethnic Minority and Muslim in a Global City-State*. Routledge, 1 edition, 2012.

Video material:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Oyq1wkqPHA>

Lectures 9-10 (In-class presentations)

*6. Notion of Umma. Pan-Islamism and political activity of Islamic movements (IM) (5 lecture hours + 2 hours free discussion)*

The concept of Umma in historical perspective. Pan-Islamism of the first half of the 20th Century and the shaping of the Global Political Islam. Contemporary Islamist movements and their role in setting political agendas in the East.

Mandaville Peter G. *Transnational Muslim Politics: Reimagining the Umma*. Routledge, 1 edition, 2003.

Rosefsky Wickham C. *The Muslim Brotherhood: Evolution of an Islamist Movement*. Princeton University Press; First Edition, 2013.

Brown Nathan J. *When Victory Is Not an Option: Islamist Movements in Arab Politics*. Cornell University Press; 1 edition, 2012.

Video material:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bq8gijwB2r04>

Lectures 11-12 + conclusion (In-class presentation)

Evaluation:

- Accumulated: 30% = attendance and discussion on seminars + 70% essay.
- Final: 40% examination result + 60 % accumulated.
- All evaluations are based on the 1-10 scale.