

# Comparing Turco-Islamic Imperial Styles in West and South Asia, c.1500- c.1800

*Spring 2014*

**Course Number: SAST 512.403/HIST 630.403/NELC 588**

**Time: W 2-5pm; Location: Williams 826**

*Instructor: Faisal Chaudhry*

*Office Hours: T 1-2:30, Th 2-3:30; Williams 809*

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This course is for students interested in the establishment and consolidation of the major regional empires of early modern Islamic Eurasia, the Ottomans, the Safavids and the Mughals. After examining the key historical antecedents to the rise of these so-called 'gunpowder' empires from c.1500 to c.1800 and briefly surveying them individually, we turn to an explicitly comparative perspective by looking at cross-cutting themes like the *ghazi* warrior ethic, military institutions and slavery, merchant capital, the city and luxury consumption, Islam and the public sphere and the role of women and gender.

This course is intended for students interested in the establishment and consolidation of the major regional empires of early modern Islamic Eurasia, the Ottomans, the Safavids and the Mughals. In Part I we examine the key historical antecedents to the rise of these so-called 'gunpowder' empires from c.1500 to c.1800. These include the expansion of Islam starting in the 7<sup>th</sup> century CE and the development of the caliphate as a model of imperial governance, the impact of the conquest of Eurasia by the peoples of the Turco-Mongol steppe during the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE, and the fragmentation of the Mongol empire and its Timurid offshoot. Part II of the course surveys the major gunpowder empires individually, beginning with the Ottomans, followed by the Safavids and then the Mughals. Finally, in Part III we turn to an explicitly comparative perspective by looking at cross-cutting themes. In this part of the course topics include the importance of the *ghazi* or frontier warrior ethic, the role of military institutions and slavery/patronage systems in early state building; the maturation of imperial power through new ideals of kingship and administrative centralization; the structure of production, exchange and surplus appropriation; the significance of merchant capital and long-distance trade; urbanism and courtly culture; the role of Islam in the formation of a 'public sphere;' and the role of women and gender in polity and economy.

## **COURSE STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS**

As a reading intensive course, preparation and attendance is a must. As a seminar students interests and engagement will play a major role in directing the discussion that unfolds in the classroom. In addition to participation and preparation (which will account for 50% of the overall grade) students will be evaluated on the basis of the major written work component of the course, which

consists of a minimum 30 page paper on a topic of their choosing (which will account for the remaining 50% of the grade). The paper is meant to give students the opportunity to undertake an extended writing assignment that will prove most useful to their own development in the end. Therefore, you can approach the paper as an endeavor in synthetic historiographical work or in substantive social, economic, political, religious or cultural history based on primary sources. While the paper itself will be due during reading period (on May 10), I will also ask that you submit a preliminary 2-3 page paper proposal at the start of class 10 and an annotated bibliography of the sources/works you are interested in using at the start of class 13.

### COURSE READINGS

Electronic copies of the articles, chapters, and other readings (other than from required texts) will be available a week before each class session on the course web site. The books we will use for the class are available for purchase at the Penn Bookstore. At least one copy should also be available on reserve at Van Pelt or Annenberg. The books are as follows:

Bulliet, Richard. *Islam: The View From the Edge*. Columbia, 1995.

Gommans, Jos. *Mughal Warfare: Indian Frontiers and High Roads to Empire, 1500-1700*. 2004. Routledge 2004.

Hamadeh, Shirine. *The City's Pleasures: Istanbul in the Eighteenth Century*. Washington 2007.

Lal, Ruby. *Domesticity and Power in the Early Mughal World*. Cambridge 2005.

Manz, Beatrice Forbes. *The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane*. Cambridge 1999.

Matthee, Rudolph P. *The Politics of Trade in Safavid Iran: Silk for Silver, 1600-1730*. Cambridge 1999.

Azfar, A. Moin. *The Millennial Sovereign: Sacred Kingship and Sainthood in Islam*. Columbia 2012.

Mitchell, Colin P. *The Practice of Politics in Safavid Iran: Power, Religion and Rhetoric*. IB Taurus 2011.

Streusand, Douglas. *Islamic Gunpowder Empires: Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals*. Westview Press 2010.

Tezcan, Baki. *The Second Ottoman Empire: Political and Social Transformation in the Early Modern World*. Cambridge 2010.

## SCHEDULE OF COURSE SESSIONS BY TOPIC

### **Part I: Precursors**

#### 1. 1/22: The Legacy of Islam and its Early Imperial Expansion

Bulliet, *Islam: The View from the Edge*, 1-185.

Richard Eaton, "Islamic History as Global History," in Michael Adas, ed., *Islamic & European Expansion: The Forging of a Global Order* (1993), 1-36.

André Wink, *Al-Hind: The Making of the Indo-Islamic World*, Vol. 1 (Brill 1991), 1-25.

#### 2. 1/29: The Legacy of the Turco-Mongol Conquest of Eurasia

J.J. Saunders, *The History of the Mongol Conquests* (1971).

Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*, pp. 153-85 ("The Mongols and the Northeast Passage.")

Ira Lapidus, "Tribes and State Formation in Islamic History," in Philip Khoury and Joseph Kostiner, eds., *Tribes and State Formation in the Middle East* (U. Cal, 1990), pp. 25-47.

#### 3. 2/5: The Post-Mongol Legacy and the legacy of Timur

Manz, *The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane*, selections.

Rudi Paul Lindner, "What was a Nomadic Tribe?" in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 24, no. 2 (1982), 689-711.

### **Part II: Frameworks for Comparing Empires**

#### 4. 2/12: Early Modern Empires?

Streusand, *Islamic Gunpowder Empires*, ch. 3 (on "The Ottomans")

Tezcan, *The Second Ottoman Empire*, selections.

Jack Goldstone "The problem of the Early Modern World" *Journal of the Economic and social history of the orient* 41, No. 3 1998 239-85.

#### 5. 2/19: Patrimonial-Bureaucratic Empires?

Streusand, *Islamic Gunpowder Empires*, ch. 4 (on "The Safavids")

Mitchell, *Practice of Politics in Safavid Iran*, selections.

Stephen Blake, "The Patrimonial Bureaucratic Empires of the Mughals," *Journal of Asian Studies*, 39: 1 (1979), 77-94.

#### 6. 2/26: Gunpowder Empires?

Streusand, *Islamic Gunpowder Empires*, ch. 5 (on "The Mughals")

Gommans, *Mughal Warfare: Indian Frontiers and High Roads to Empire, 1500-1700* (2004), selections.

William McNeill, *The Age of Gunpowder Empires 1450-1800* (1989), reprinted in Adas, *Islamic & European Expansion* (1993), 103-40.

### **Part III: Themes, Overlapping and Contrasting**

#### 7. 3/5: Sovereignty as Imperium: Predation, Province, and the Extent of Administrative Centralization (1)

Cemal Kafadar, *Between Two Worlds: The Construction of the Ottoman State* (Berkeley 1995), pp. 29-59.

Ronald Jennings, "Some Thoughts on the Ghazi-Thesis," *Wiener Zeitschrift für des Morgenlandes*, 76 (1986): 151-61.

V. L. Menage, "Some Notes on the 'Devshirme,'" *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, vol. 29, no. 1 (1966), 64-78.

Dina Khoury, *State and Provincial Society in the Ottoman Empire: Mosul, 1500-1834* (Cambridge 2002), selections.

#### 3/12: SPRING BREAK-No Class

#### 8. 3/19: Sovereignty as Negotiation: the Intermediated Court, Locality, and the Extent of Administrative Centralization (2)

Sussan Babaie, et. al, *Slaves of the Shah*, selections.

Fahat Hasan, *State and Locality in Mughal India: Power Relations in Western India, c. 1572-1730* (Cambridge 2004), selections.

9. 3/26: Economic Systematicity: Labor, Production, and Agrarian Hierarchies

Huri İslamoğlu-Inan, *State & Peasant in the Ottoman Empire: Agrarian Power Relations & Regional Economic Development in Ottoman Anatolia in the Seventeenth-Century* (Brill 1994).

Tapan Raychaudhuri, "The Agrarian System of Mughal India: A Review Essay," in Muzaffar Alam and Sanjay Subrahmanyam, eds., *The Mughal State, 1526-1750*.

\*\*\*\*\*2-3 page Paper Proposal Due at Start of Class 10\*\*\*\*\*

10. 4/2: Economic Systematicity: Entrepreneurialism, Exchange and Merchant Capital

Matthee, *The Politics of Trade in Safavid Iran*, selections.

Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age* (1998), 1-8, 52-69, 75-91, 126-30

11. 4/9: The City: Prestige Culture, the Built Environment, and Sociological Differentiation

Max Weber, *The City* (1966 [1921]), 65-120.

Stephen P. Blake, *Shahjahanabad: The Sovereign City in Mughal India 1639-1739*, selections.

Shirine Hamadeh. *The City's Pleasures: Istanbul in the Eighteenth Century*. Washington 2007, selections.

12. 4/16: Religion in the Constitution of a Public Sphere (1)?: Ritual and Performativity

Babak Rahimi, *Theater State and the Formation of Early Modern Public Sphere in Iran: Studies on Safavid Muharram Rituals, 1590-1641*, pp. 31-82.Law

[Benjamin Braude and Bernard Lewis, *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire: The Functioning of a Plural Society*, selections.]

**\*\*\*\*\*Annotated Bibliography for Paper Due at Start of Class 13\*\*\*\*\***

13. 4/23: Religion in the Constitution of a Public Sphere(2)?: Charisma and Law

Moin, *The Millennial Sovereign*, selections.

Gabriel Baer, "The Waqf as a Prop for the Social System (Sixteenth to Twentieth Centuries)," *Islamic Law and Society*, 4: 3 (1997), 264-97.

Wael Hallaq, *Sharī'a: Theory, Practice, Transformations* (Cambridge 2009), pp. 197-221 ( ch. 5-"The Circle of Justice").

14. 4/30: Gender and the Role of Women

Lal, *Domesticity and Power in Early Mughal India*, selections.

Madeline Zilfi, *Women and Slavery in the Late Ottoman Empire*, 45-95.

Fariba Zarinebaf-Shahra, "Economic activities of Safavid women in the shrine-city of Ardabil," *Iranian Studies*, vol. 31, no. 2 (1998), 247-61.

**\*\*\*\*\*Final Paper Due by 5pm on May 10, 2014\*\*\*\*\***