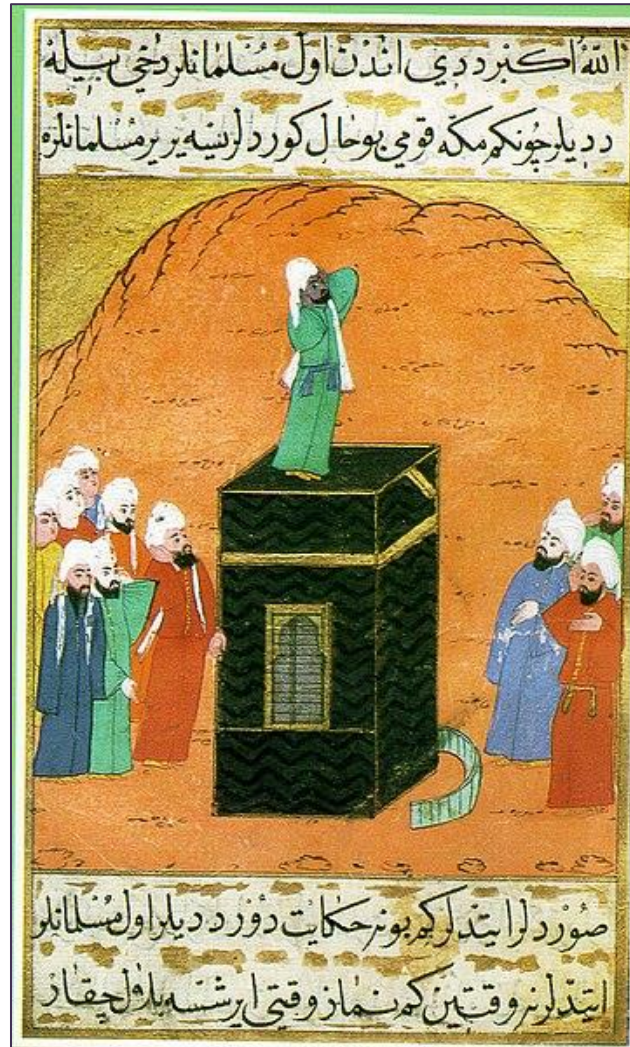


History 520: Slavery in the Islamic World



(Bilal ibn Ribah, a former slave from Ethiopia and a Companion of the Prophet Muhammad, issuing the call to prayer atop the Kaaba)

Spring Semester 2021

Blended course

Time: Thursday, 5:30-8:10 via Zoom

3 Credit Hours

Dr. Sanja Kadrić (I go by Sanja or Dr./Prof. Kadrić)

E-mail address: sanja.kadric@tamuc.edu

Office hours: Thursdays 12:30-5:30 via Zoom (link on D2L)

Islam, an Abrahamic faith, emerged in the sixth century on the Arabian Peninsula. It emerged in a region and among peoples who had practiced slavery before its advent and would continue to practice slavery after its spread. Though slavery was practiced in Islamic societies and throughout Islamic history, it existed in a global slaving context and connected the Islamic world to other parts of the globe. Islamic world slavery came to have its own facets, subsets, and particularities, but it also had similarities to other slaving societies. This course is an introduction to the various forms of slavery and their histories in the Islamic world. We will work to connect these histories with world history at large. You will have the opportunity to conduct historical research on a slaving case study rooted in Islamic World History but connected to your field of study and/or interests.

Student Learning Outcome: By the end of this course, you should be able to demonstrate proficiency in historical bibliographic research by locating sources appropriate to researching a given historical topic.

COVID-19:

Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce COVID19 Information, <https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

TECHNOLOGY, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION:

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these problems. Please let me know if you encounter these problems and we will do our best to work around or to resolve them. However, if I do not know of the issue, I cannot help or excuse you. **If you are worried about access to a personal computer or a good internet connection in relation to this course, please talk to me as soon as possible so we can figure out a solution.** *I am more than willing to work with you, but I need to know to do so.*

READINGS:

- We will read and discuss one book per week. You will need to obtain the books listed on the reading schedule. I would recommend purchasing them online, getting them from your local library, or searching for them at the university library.
- I also use D2L to post other class materials, announcements, and assignment instructions, so please check it regularly. If you foresee issues with doing so (lack of technology and/or regular internet access), please let me know immediately so that we can discuss alternative arrangements.
 - I reserve the right to make changes to the class schedule and readings. If I do so, I will notify you ahead of time.
 - Please check to make sure that you can access the readings on D2L *the day before* (preferably, even earlier) any scheduled class. If an article or a link is malfunctioning, get in touch with me immediately. Unless you contact me about an issue accessing a reading in a timely manner, I will not grant an excuse nor an extension on work.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

- ❖ **Reading** – Whether you are a discussant or a participant, you are responsible for doing all the readings assigned. I would recommend taking thorough notes as you read, because these will help you in our discussion and onwards.
 - Please bring the assigned readings to class in whatever format you prefer, because we will refer to them throughout our discussion.
- ❖ **Participation** – Our seminar revolves around robust weekly discussions. Whether you are a discussant or a participant, I expect you to engage in discussion actively.
 - **If you are a discussant**, you will do the readings for the week and write a position paper on them. You will also prepare a short presentation on and a guided discussion of the readings for the seminar.
 - Your presentation should include the professional background of the author, a summary of the book and its contents, and discussion questions.

- **If you are a participant**, you will do all the readings for the week. You will also prepare one discussion question for the seminar and come to class ready to discuss.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Book Presentation (25% of your final grade)

Position Paper (25% of your final grade)

- ❖ You will write a brief (2- to 3-page) position paper on the week's reading, reacting to its strengths and weaknesses and how it helps you understand the history of slavery in a global and/or Islamic world context.
- ❖ You must submit your position paper to the dropbox on D2L before class.

Zoom Discussions (25% of your final grade)

- ❖ You must be present and engaged in class. I expect you to come in with the readings completed and a discussion question prepared. I will grade your participation in each Zoom session.

Final Paper (25% of your final grade)

- ❖ At the end of the semester, you will submit a 15- to 20-page research paper on a topic related to slavery in Islamic World History. You may address one of the issues raised in the course or a different issue. Your paper must show graduate-level work with primary source materials. I will devote one class period this semester to introducing you to accessible primary sources on slavery in the Islamic world. You are welcome to use sources beyond what I present. You are encouraged to focus on a topic that will enrich your field of study. Specific instructions for this assignment will be discussed in class.
 - Over the last few weeks of class, you will present your preliminary work and receive constructive feedback. Your oral presentation will count towards your final paper grade.
- ❖ **Due date: Saturday, April 24 by 11:59PM** - Your final paper must be submitted to D2L by this date.

SCALE:

All grades will be computed on the following standard scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or below

UNIVERSITY & COURSE POLICIES:

If you anticipate missing any portion of class, please notify me *at least one day* before the scheduled class period. It is in your best interest to let me know as soon as possible so we can work out an arrangement if one is possible.

If an emergency occurs, notify me *within a day of the emergency* (or as soon as possible, depending on the situation) to provide documentation and discuss the potential of make-up work. Make-up opportunities may be awarded at my discretion. The same goes for extensions for any assignments associated with this class. Assignments that are received late without just cause or without a previously approved excuse will not be accepted.

E-mails: One of your jobs as a student is professionalizing yourself in preparation for whatever employment you may seek after your university years. An important element of professionalism is communication, and one of the primary modes of communication in a class is e-mail. I want you to consider class-related e-mails to me and fellow students as an exercise in professionalism. Please use formal English in your e-mails, and do not forget to sign your message with your full name. Before you shoot off an e-mail, ask yourself, "Would I send this e-mail to my boss?" If not, take some time to think on why and revise. I will respond to your e-mails in a timely manner, no later than 24 hours after receiving them.

Student conduct: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail here: <http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC attendance policy: For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#). <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Grades and grade complaints: I will return all graded assignments to you no later than a week after they are submitted, but likely earlier. One day after receiving any grade, you can make an appointment with me and discuss your grade. I do not guarantee that I will change your grade, but I would be happy to hear your case.

Academic Integrity: Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Disability Services: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact me and:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Non-discrimination Policy: Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statements: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Week 1

January 14

Introduction to the course, book selections

Week 2

January 21

Book: Goldenberg, David M. *The Curse of Ham : Race and Slavery in Early Judaism,*

Christianity, and Islam. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.
https://tamuc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM_COM/7i396/alma991006481904306041

Discussant:

Week 3

January 28

Book: Gordon, Matthew. *The Breaking of a Thousand Swords: A History of the Turkish Military of Samarra, A.H. 200-275/815-889*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001.

Discussant:

Week 4

February 4

Research workshop, no assigned readings, or assignments

Week 5

February 11

Book: Toledano, Ehud R. *Slavery and Abolition in the Ottoman Middle East*. Seattle, Washington: University of Washington Press, 1998. <http://tinyurl.com/smgggue>

Discussant:

Week 6

February 18

Book: Graf, Tobias P. *The Sultan's Renegades: Christian-European Converts to Islam and the Making of the Ottoman Elite, 1575-1610*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Discussants:

Week 7

February 25

Book: Peirce, Leslie P. *The Imperial Harem: Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Discussant:

Week 8

March 4

Book: Zilfi, Madeline C. *Women and Slavery in the Late Ottoman Empire: The Design of Difference*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Discussants:

Week 9

March 11

Book: Toledano, Ehud R. *As if Silent and Absent: Bonds of Enslavement in the Islamic Middle East*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.

Discussant:

Week 10

March 18

Book: Brookes, Douglas Scott. *The Concubine, the Princess, and the Teacher: Voice from the Ottoman Harem*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2008. (split in 2)

Discussants:

Week 11

March 25

Book: Trout Powell, Eve M. *Tell This in my Memory: Stories of Enslavement from Egypt, Sudan, and the Ottoman Empire*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2012.

Discussants:

Week 12

April 1

Book: Clarence-Smith, William Gervase. *Islam and the Abolition of Slavery*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Discussant:

Week 13

April 8

Final Paper Presentations!

Week 14

April 15

Final Paper Presentations!

Week 15

April 22

Final Paper Presentations!

Week 16 – Finals Week

April 27

Regular Zoom office hours from 12:30-5:30

FINAL PAPER DUE: Saturday, April 24 by 11:59PM