The course "The Transformation and the Reconstruction of the Middle East - Islamic Conversion - (Semester A, Shi'ah - 2)"

Day and Time: Tuesday, 14:00 - 12:30 (Room 2103)

Course Description:
Two important trends in the shaping of the Islamic Middle East are mixed and establishment. The course will follow these two processes, which are interrelated, with an emphasis on theoretical approaches to the conversion of religion and language change. In addition, we will examine the process of conversion beyond the Middle East and into modern times, including in Europe.

Prerequisites:
- Attendance - at least 80% (11 out of 14 classes).
- Reading of the articles in the syllabus every week and readiness to discuss.
- Submission of a weekly exercise - summary of the articles mentioned (each one, about 350 words).
- The exercise will be submitted in a hard copy at the beginning of the course.
- Final exercise - further information will be given.

Grading:
- 60% from the weekly exercises
- 30% from the final exercise
- 10% from attendance

Tentative Schedule:
- Class 1 - Introduction to the Course
- Class 2 - Conversion in the Islamic World
- Class 3 - The Role of Religion in the Middle East
- Class 4 - Language Change in the Islamic World
- Class 5 - The Impact of Foreign Languages
- Class 6 - The Influence of Western Languages
- Class 7 - The Role of the State in Language Policy
- Class 8 - The Impact of the Islamic World

Course Text:
- Textbook: "The Transformation and the Reconstruction of the Middle East - Islamic Conversion - (Semester A, Shi'ah - 2)"
- Readings: Selected articles from the syllabus
- Exercises: Weekly exercises submitted in a hard copy at the beginning of the course.

Course Instructor:
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Office Hours: Tuesday 16:30 - 15:30 (Room 5134)


Spiro Vryonis, “Religious Change and Continuity in the Balkans and Anatolia from the 14th through the 16th Century,” in S. Vryonis (ed.), *Islam and Cultural Change in the Middle Ages* (Wiesbaden, 1975), 127-140. [DS 38.14 V8 1973]


John R. Bowen, “Muslims in the West,” in Robert W. Hefner (ed.), *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, vol. 6 (Cambridge, 2010), 218-237. 18819980


Dennett, Daniel C. *Conversion and the Poll-Tax in Early Islam*. Cambridge, MA, 1950. [HJ233 D45]


