

THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE ARABS

Culture and science from the 7th to 11th centuries in the Arab Empire

Course #:	22S-GAA
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jim Harvey
Date and Time:	Mon, 2:00 - 4:00 PM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	17
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this seminar is to gain an appreciation of the legacy left by the Arab Empire that stretched from Spain through the Mediterranean to India in the early Middle Ages.

DESCRIPTION:

The Arab world is the focus of many of today's headlines. Wars, conflicts, and terrorism dominate stories about Arab countries. As a result the rich history of the Arab people and their significant contributions to world culture is obscured. For example, many in the West are ignorant of the fact that Arab science and culture were far ahead of Europe's for several centuries.

In this seminar we will trace the rise of the Arab empire from Mohammed's day to its glory days, when it stretched from India to Spain and when Baghdad and Cordoba were the intellectual centers of the world. Though we will examine its rapid military and political expansion after the death of Mohammed, the focus will be on Arab accomplishments in literature, science, visual arts, etc.

NOTE: This is essentially a repeat of the seminar offered in 2015

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant is expected to prepare and deliver a presentation of a half-hour or so and lead a discussion about it, and to participate in discussion of other presentations.

RESOURCES:

The moderator will supply a list of links to internet articles or videos on topics relevant to the seminar's objective. Each participant will read the articles and, hopefully use the insights gained from them in the discussion periods of the seminar.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Jim has moderated quite a number of seminars concerned with other cultures. He was born in India and taught in Pakistan for five years, which has given him a life-long interest in understanding the way other societies operate.