

The Golden Age of the Arabs

7th-11th Centuries CE

The Arab world is the focus of many of today's headlines. Wars, conflicts, terrorism dominate the stories about Arab countries. As a result, many Americans are unaware of the rich history of the Arab people and their amazing contributions to world culture.

In this seminar we will trace the rise of the Arab empire from Mohamed'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. We will examine its amazing military and political expansion after the death of Mohamed, but the emphasis will be on the Arab's cultural accomplishments in literature, science, visual arts, etc.

The format will be similar to many 5CLIR seminars. Each participant will be responsible for one hour, including a ½ hour presentation on a topic related to the topic-either from a list supplied by the moderator or one agreed to by the moderator. The remaining time will be devoted to discussion. Everyone will receive a list of links to online articles to be read as background for the seminar. It is hoped that each person in the seminar will contribute to a robust discussion each week



The Alhambra -- Granada, Spain

Some Examples of seminar presentations:

- The Cordoba Dynasty
- The Abbasid Dynasty
- Umayyad Dynasty
- Arab jurisprudence
- Medieval Baghdad
- The City of Cordoba
- The Economy of the Arab Empires
- Exploration and Trade
- Saladin and the Crusaders
- Relations with Christians and Jews in Medieval Spain
- Contributions to Math and Physical Sciences
- Contributions to Medicine and Life Sciences
- Agriculture
- Poetry
- Literature
- Visual arts – Art, Architecture
- Music
- Role of Women
- Use of Greek Culture
- Interaction with Western Culture