

COURSE DETAIL

INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF THE MEDIEVAL MIDDLE EAST: BYZANTIUM AND ISLAM (5TH-11TH CENTURIES)

Country

France

Host Institution

University of Bordeaux

Program(s)

University of Bordeaux

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Near East Studies History

UCEAP Course Number

122

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF THE MEDIEVAL MIDDLE EAST:
BYZANTIUM AND ISLAM (5TH-11TH CENTURIES)

UCEAP Transcript Title

HIST MEDIEVAL MID E

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course introduces the other side of the Middle Ages, which is still too often overlooked in university curricula. Yet between the 6th and 11th centuries, the Near East—dominated by two rival empires, Byzantium and Islam—constituted the center of the Old World, while the Latin West was merely a periphery. The course studies the evolution of this region beginning in the 6th century, marked by the separation between the Byzantine East and the Latin West following the failure of Justinian's reconquest, and by the emergence of the Islamic Empire in the 7th century, born of the Arab conquests. It concludes with the turn of the 11th century, when the Near East was completely reshaped by the arrival of the Turks, who, emerging from the steppes of Central Asia and recently converted to Islam, seized power in the Islamic world at the expense of the Arabs and began the conquest of Byzantine Anatolia. The end of the 11th century also marks, with the start of the Crusades, the moment of a problematic reunion between East and West, following five centuries of gradual estrangement and differentiation. Far from limiting itself to political and military aspects, the course addresses social, cultural, and religious dimensions, which are essential to our understanding of the past. In contrast to essentialist approaches, it pays particular attention to political factors in analyzing the religious crises that punctuated the history of this region.

Language(s) of Instruction

French

Host Institution Course Number

4LBHE12

Host Institution Course Title

HISTOIRE MÉDIÉVALE 4: INTRODUCTION À L'HISTOIRE DU PROCHE-ORIENT MÉDIÉVAL: BYZANCE ET L'ISLAM (VIÉ-XIÉ SIÈCLE)

Host Institution Course Details

[https://formations.u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr/fr/catalogue-des-
formations/licence-...](https://formations.u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr/fr/catalogue-des-
formations/licence-...)

Host Institution Campus

Université Bordeaux Montaigne

Host Institution Faculty

Humanités

Host Institution Degree

Licence 2

Host Institution Department

Histoire

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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