

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Patrick Meegan

Humanities Discipline: World History

Date: April 22, 2016

World Religion: Islam

Teaching Module Title: The origins and early years of Islam

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to the basic religious scriptures and the time frame of their origin.
2. Examine the cultural and religious environment that led to the spread of Islam.
3. Familiarize students with the basic historical events related to Islamic scripture.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Duiker and Spielvogel, Chapter 7

Bowker, John, Chapter on Islam, pp 176-195

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What was the cultural background of the first Muslims?
2. What was the political situation at the dawn of Islam? Who ruled where Muhammad lived?
3. What great powers existed in the region during the time of Muhammad?
4. What is the *Qur'an*?
5. What is *Hadith*?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Come to class with written responses to these questions. We will discuss the answers together and have a brief lecture in preparation for a quiz, which I will give the students after this class session.

Important points to stress in classroom discussion:

What cultural factors might have become obstacles to the early spread of Islam? How were these obstacles overcome?

How did Damascus become the capital city of the Caliphate? Why was the capital later moved to Baghdad?

By what means did Islam spread from its early Arab roots to a universal faith?

What are the **Five Pillars of Islam**?

What was the initial cause of the separation of Muslims into **Sunni** and **Shia** sects?

What is **Sufism**?