

ISLA 604
Arabic Manuscript Tradition
Monday 11:35 – 1:25, Morrice Hall 313

F. Jamil Ragep
Fall 2019
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Office Hours: M 14:00 – 16:00 in MH 024

There will be two components of this seminar. First, we will explore Islamic codicology, especially its relevance for the study of Islamic manuscripts. Second, the seminar will provide students with guidance on how to edit Islamic manuscripts. Each student will have the opportunity to edit a manuscript of her/his own choosing, preferably within the broad field of Islamic intellectual history. Knowledge of an Arabic-script language at the upper intermediate level or above is assumed and required.

Assignments:

- 1) [10% of grade] Coming to class each week, keeping up with the readings, and being prepared to discuss them.
- 2) [20% of grade] Each student will lead one or more discussions of books or articles during class.
- 3) [40% of grade] Codicological and Paleographical Assignments.
- 4) [30% of grade] Each student will prepare a critical edition of at least 5 pages of a text, using at least 2 manuscripts that s/he will describe.

Goals of the Class: By the end of the course, you should have a basic understanding of Islamic codicology, have developed skills in reading and understanding Islamic manuscripts, and be able to prepare an edition of an Arabic-script text using manuscript witnesses.

Readings will either be available in myCourses or in the Islamic Studies Library.

SCHEDULE

Note: we meet every Monday during the term. In addition, we meet on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Sept. 9: Introduction to Islamic Codicology [Library [ISL] Tour: Ms. Anaïs Salamon]
Resources for Islamic manuscripts
(Resources include: Brockelman, DENA, FANKHA, Roper, Rosen/Ihsanoglu, Sezgin.)

Sept. 16: What is a Manuscript?

Assignment: François Déroche et al., *Islamic codicology: an introduction to the study of manuscripts in Arabic script*. (London, 2005), pp. 11-24.
Paleography exercise on Feyzullah 1359

Sept. 23: The Physical Codex [Ms. Anaïs Salamon]

The Writing Surface: Déroche, pp. 25-63
Writing Instruments and Preparations (ink): Déroche, pp. 103-157
Binding: Déroche, pp. 253-310

Sept. 30: The Physical Codex (continued)

Codex Form (quires): Déroche, pp. 65-101
Page Layout (textblock and folios): Déroche, pp. 159-184
Making the Manuscript: Déroche, pp. 185-204

Oct. 7: Paleography and Ornamentation

Scripts: Déroche, pp. 205-224;
Ornamentation: Déroche, pp. 225-251

Script exercise

<http://www.arabiccalligraphy.com/#!/scripts>

<http://www.schoyencollection.com/palaeography-collection-introduction/arabic-script>

<http://calligraphyqalam.com/people/ibn-muqla.html>

<http://calligraphyqalam.com/people/yaqut-al-mustasimi.html>

<http://calligraphyqalam.com/people/seyh-hamdullah.html>

October 14: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Oct. 21: Histories of Manuscripts

History of a Manuscript: Déroche, pp. 311-344
Collections/Libraries: Déroche, pp. 345-360

F. Jamil Ragep and E. S. Kennedy, "A Description of Zāhiriyya (Damascus) MS 4871: A Philosophical and Scientific Collection," *The Journal for the History of Arabic Science* 5 (1981): 85-108.

Oct. 28: The Meaning of a Text: Text vs. Witness

Readings: TBD

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Textual_criticism

Nov. 4: Implicits, Explicits, Colophons, Dates, Abbreviations

Exercises on colophons and dates

Nov. 11: The Editing Process

Choosing Witnesses for an Edition (Autographs and Revisions)

Readings:

S.P. Ragep, [*Jaghmīnī's Mulakhkhas: An Islamic Introduction to Ptolemaic Astronomy*](#) (New York: Springer-Verlag, 2016), pp. 5-26, 69-81.

F. J. Ragep, *Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī's Memoir on Astronomy (al-Tadhkira fī 'ilm al-hay'a)*, 2 vols. (New York: Springer-Verlag, 1993), pp. 65-88.

http://digitool.Library.McGill.CA:80/R/-?func=dbin-jump-full&object_id=108822&silole_library=GEN01)

Nov. 18: The Editing Process (continued)

Tools for Editing (Software, Fonts, and Macros)

Nov. 25: Critical and Other Apparatuses

Dec. 2: Visit to Rare Books

Dec. 3: Student reports

Each student will describe one of the manuscripts in Rare Books.

Additional Course Information

Course Information

1. Office Hrs: M 14:00 – 16:00 and by appointment. [Morrice Hall 024]
2. Generally, readings should be completed by the beginning of the week in which they are assigned.
3. Late submission of assignments will be permitted without penalty only in cases of serious illness or emergency (such as a death in the family); approval for late submissions must be obtained in advance in all but highly exceptional cases.
4. Otherwise, late submissions of assignments will be accepted but will be penalized a half letter-grade (or 5 points on a 100 scale) for every day they are late, up to a maximum of 50% penalty. This includes the critical edition.
5. McGill is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with the professor as early in the semester as possible. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 398-6009 (online at <http://www.mcgill.ca/osd>) before you do this.
6. In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté.
7. McGill University recognizes and respects the diversity of its members, including diversity of religious faiths and observances. For McGill's policy for the Accommodation of Religious Holy Days, please see <https://www.mcgill.ca/importantdates/holy-days-0/policy-holy-days>
8. Permission from the instructor is needed for taping of Lectures.
9. Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow-up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.
10. McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).
11. In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.