

MIDTERM Review

IMPORTANT NOTE: The review is an exercise in *weaving everything* you have learned and *all the texts* that have been studied thus far. The quality of the lecture will depend upon how well you synthesize and organize the information you share.

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You are invited to give a lecture to a whole freshmen high school class on the three premodern Muslim empires, the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal. Drawing on everything we have read and discussed (texts and class commentaries including additional texts that were brought in by the instructor), write the lecture that you'd deliver to high school students who have no background in the subject.

PART I: Introduction of the lecture should strive to raise interest of these students (and answer why it's worth learning about these empires) and should also encompass basic facts (e.g., timeline, geography, ethnic and religious demographics, stats of populations, etc.).

PART II: The main part of the lecture should then attend to the themes of

- Origins of the three empires, background of the ruling classes and how they came to rule;
- Worldview, i.e., religious, occult, mythological, and theological;
- Religious and intellectual landscape, religious ideas and authority;
- View of knowledge, educational institutions, curriculum and pedagogical methods;
- Economic life and institutions;
- Art (esp. poetry), architecture (including urban planning and gardens), and their philosophy of art;
- Their methods of rule, and view of power/political philosophy;
- Other social and cultural aspects, e.g., social classes, women and slaves, and relationship among religious communities etc.

PART III: The last part of the lecture will provide some sort of visual (e.g., a table/a chart/some other diagram etc.) of the similarities and differences among the three empires. What conclusion(s) one is supposed to draw from observing this comparison?

CONCLUSION: The lecture should conclude with *three big takeaways* that you deem important for students to learn. These takeaways should easily flow from the lecture thus far.

Inevitably, the lecture needs to be accessible, demonstrate points through concrete examples and interesting illustrations, well-written, and should be clear and fluid in terms of structure and coherence. **The strength of the lecture will rely heavily on your ability and dedicated hard work to carefully weave and present everything we have learned.**

GUIDELINES:

- Strictly 5-pages long, font should be Times New Roman and 1-inch space on all sides; Do mention the word count on the last page;

- No more than five short quotations can be cited (one per page); everything else will be in your own words. If you are paraphrasing a quote you must cite the text and page number;
- You are welcome to use headings to differentiate sections or for highlighting themes;
- It is an open book review; AVOID plagiarism
- Sign the honor code;
- The review will be due by **Tuesday October 6 (11:59pm)** through Moodle. [Moodle link for submission will be created soon].