Overview of Chunk 7: Islam 101 - Origins

We explore conditions in pre-Islamic Arabia and the geopolitical and other situations that existed up to the 6-7th centuries of the common era that led to the breakdown of traditional Arab society and the origin of Islam.

Study Questions

1. What was the geopolitical situation in the 7th century of pre-Islamic Arabia and how did it impact of the Traditional society?

2. Briefly describe what is meant by an animistic “religion”?

3. What factors, other than geopolitical, led to the rise of Islam?
4. Define the following terms: Bedouins, Oasis, Ghazi and tribe.

5. What was the relationship between Arabia Felix, Frankincense and myrrh?

6. What is the relationship between Islam, Muslims, and Muhammad?

7. What region of the world has the largest population of Muslims and what country has the world's largest Muslim population?

8. What is meant by the term, the Seal of the Prophets and how does this relate to Muhammad?
Overview of Chunk 8: Islam 102 - The Religion

To develop an understanding of Islam, its teachings, the importance of the Five Pillars of the Faith, the Ummah or the organization of Islamic society, the basis of the Sharia or Islamic Law, the Qur'an, Hadiths and Sunna. A few words on the place of women and various and sundry things such as the attributes of God and how Islam differs from mainly Christianity.

Study Questions

1. What is the importance and significance of the Night of Power?

2. What is the importance and significance of the Hegira?

3. What is the basis of the Ummah and how does the Sharia, Qur'an, Hadiths and Sunna relate to it?
4. What are the Five Pillars of Islam and What is their importance?

5. Who are and what is the relationship between Abraham, Hagar and Ishmael?

6. What is the importance of the Sura and Ayats?

7. What is Hijab?
8. In what ways do Islam and Christianity differ?

9. What is the basis of the Islamic calendar and how does it differ from the Western calendar?

10. Define the following terms:
   a) Mosque:
   b) Minaret:
   c) Iman:
   d) Qibla:
   e) The Hajj:
   f) The Ka'ba:
   g) Islam:
Overview: Chunk 9: Islam 103 - Challenges

Islam is not a homogenized religion, there are some major differences between sects. After the "reign" of the Rashidun Caliphs Islam split into two major sects, Sunni and Shia. The struggle, another family affair, revolved around the struggle over the caliphate. A short discussion of what Muslims agree upon and what they disagree about and some of its consequences. The importance of the Twelvers, Alwais and Druze

Study Questions

1. Define the following:
   a) Caliph:
   b) Rashidun:
   c) Companions:
   d) Ma'wal:
   e) Madhi:
   f) Ashura:

2. Over what do the Shia and Sunni agree and over what do they disagree?
3. What caused Islam to divided into Sunni and Shia?

4. What role did Ali, Mu'awiya, Yazid and Hussein play in the breakup?