Syllabus:

Maritime History of the Muslim World between the 7th and the 16th Century

4 points

Prof. Hassan Khalilieh

A century after the Prophet Muhammad’s death in 632, Muslims dominated the largest maritime space in human history until the Age of Discovery and Exploration. With the advent of Islam in the Mediterranean arena in the first half of the seventh century the Romano-Byzantine Empire lost its hegemony over the Mediterranean Sea which had lasted for a millennium. The semi-enclosed Red Sea and the Persian Gulf became an integral part of the Islamic Middle Eastern geographical landscape. Until the Portuguese penetration into the Indian Ocean in the early sixteenth century, Muslim merchants exclusively controlled the maritime trade and transport. The course aims to examine the circumstances that led to the rise and expansion of Islam in the maritime arena and the role Muslim central authorities and merchants played in shaping global political and economic relations.