

Mérial Belli

21H.601 Islam, the Middle East, and the West (Fall 2006)

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“It is the process of selective borrowing and creative recycling, which goes on even today, that makes delving into early images and attitudes useful for understanding how Islam and the Middle East would come to be understood and portrayed even in the modern era.” (Lockman, Zachary. “In the Beginning.” In *Contending Visions of the Middle East*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 8-9. ISBN: 0521629373.)

Questions:

1. Explain the origins of the notions of East and West, and the persistence of this polarity.
2. Did the Greeks see themselves as Europeans?
3. How did the development of European Christianity and then Islam affect these notions?
4. Discuss Europe's Arab-Muslim heritage.