

FALL 2006

Special Topic:

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

(REL 195)

Room: Comenius 213

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:20-11:30 AM

Category: M3 (Ultimate Questions)

Instructor: Shalahudin Kafrawi

Contents:

The course is a survey of the ideals and practices of Islam across its history. It includes ritual, theological, philosophical, mystical, ethical and political dimensions of Islam. Special attention is given to Islam's primary message and its implementation in the life of Muslims, and to Islam's depiction of Muslims and people of other beliefs.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

1. describe the significance of the Qur'an and prophetic tradition in Islam;
2. understand Islam's primary mission and its universal principles;
3. explain the interaction of Islamic teaching with its cultural surroundings;
4. map major disciplines of Islamic intellectual tradition;
5. distinguish universal principles of Islam from their particular applications;
6. explain Islamic portrayal of other religions and their peoples;
7. explain major historical periods of Muslim *ummah*;
8. present some challenges Islam faces in the modern world.

Grading Format:

1. Participation (15%);
2. 2 short papers (2-4 pages each; 20%);
3. Mid-term exam (10%);
4. Research paper (8-15 pages; 30%): research proposal (5%) and first draft (5%) of the paper are required prior to final submission (20%);
5. Final exam (25%);
6. A 5% will be added to the total for those who have a complete attendance;

Academic Honesty:

Students are required to honor academic integrity. The course imposes the application of Moravian College's Academic Honesty Policy. The policy is to be found at Moravian College's *Student Handbook: 2004-2005*, pp. 52-8.

Attendance Policy:

Students are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings for this course. An extra credit of 5% will be awarded to those who have a complete attendance. Students have the liberty to miss four classes without penalty. Those who miss more than four classes will be downgraded by 5% of the total grade for each missed meeting after the four absences, unless they provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing. The 5% credit may be awarded to students who miss one of the four classes if the students provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing and write a report on the reading(s) for that specific meeting(s).

Paper Submissions:

All papers—including (1) short papers, (2) research proposal, (3) draft of research paper, (4) final research paper, and (5) other reports/assignments where applicable—should be electronically submitted through the Blackboard on the indicated dates. If for some reason there is a problem with electronic submission, the printed copy of the paper should be submitted to the instructor's office on the same day. Late submissions will be downgraded for that specific assignment by one point per day.

Students are encouraged to rewrite all papers except final research papers. The final research papers cannot be rewritten. The rewritten papers are due within a week after the papers are electronically posted. Since the grades of the rewritten papers can be better or worse than the originally submitted papers, the best grades will be counted toward the final.

Participations in Discussions and Lectures:

Students are highly encouraged to engage in any form of discussions and lectures on subjects related to Islam. Students may consult the instructor on the possible forums. A five point of extra credit may be awarded to those who participate in such programs. When applicable, the students need to report their participation to the instructor.

Contact Information:

Office: Zinzendorf 201
Phone: (610) 861-1628
E-mail: skafrawi@moravian.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:35 AM-12:35 PM;
Wednesday, 10:35 AM-12:35 PM;
or by appointment.

Required Textbooks Available at Moravian Bookstore:

- Aslan, Reza. *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*. New York: Random House, 2005.
- Daftary, Farhad. Ed. *Intellectual Tradition in Islam*. London and New York: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2001.
- Hinze, Bradford E. and Omar, Irfan A., ed. *Heirs of Abraham: The Future of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian Relations*. New York: Orbis Books, 2005.
- Murata, Sachiko and Chittick, William C. *The Vision of Islam*. St. Paul, Minnesota: Paragon House, 1994.
- Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. *The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity*. New York, HarperSanFrancisco, 2002.

Required Materials Available at Reeves' Reserve:

Video. *Islam: The Empire of Faith*.

Video. *Islam: A Close Look*.

No.	Date	Topic and Reading	Due date
1	08/29/06	Introduction [Syllabus]	
2	08/31/06	What is Islam? An Overview [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 3-27].	
3	09/05/06	Historical Account (1): Pre-Islamic Arabia [Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 3-22].	
4	09/07/06	Historical Account (2): Muhammad in Mecca [Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 23-74].	
5	09/12/06	Historical Account (3): Muhammad in Medina [Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 75-139].	
6	09/14/06	Historical Account (4): Developmenmt of Islamic Disciplines [Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 140-170].	
7	09/19/06	Historical Account (5): Shi'ah Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 171-193].	
8	09/21/06	Historical Account (6): Tasawwuf [Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 194-219].	Short Paper 1
9	09/26/06	Historical Account (7): Muslims' response to Colonialism [Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 220-266].	
10	09/28/06	Video Presentation	Research Proposal
11	10/03/06	Doctrines (1): Tawhid [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 45-131].	Mid-Term Exam
12	10/05/06	Doctrines (2): Prophecy [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 132-192].	
	10/10/06	Fall Recess 10/7-10/10	
13	10/12/06	Doctrines (3): Return [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 193-264].	
14	10/17/06	Doctrines (4): Ihsan [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 267-317].	
15	10/19/06	Universal Values of Islam (1): One God, Many Prophets [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 1-54].	
16	10/24/06	Universal Values of Islam (2): Community [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 157-199].	
17	10/26/06	Universal Values of Islam (3): Compassion and Love, Peace and Beauty [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 203-236].	Short Paper 2
18	10/31/06	Universal Values of Islam (4): Justice [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 237-272].	
19	11/02/06	Universal Values of Islam (5): Human Reights and Responsibilities [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 273-306].	
20	11/07/06	Video Presentation	Draft of Research Paper

21	11/09/06	Intellectual Dimensions of Islam (1) [Reading: Farhad Daftary, <i>Intellectual Traditions in Islams</i> , 1-30].	
22	11/14/06	Intellectual Dimensions of Islam (2) [Reading: Farhad Daftary, <i>Intellectual Traditions in Islams</i> , 31-86].	
23	11/16/06	Intellectual Dimensions of Islam (3) [Reading: Farhad Daftary, <i>Intellectual Traditions in Islams</i> , 87-129].	
24	11/21/06	Intellectual Dimensions of Islam (4) [Reading: Farhad Daftary, <i>Intellectual Traditions in Islams</i> , 130-178].	
	11/23/06	Thanksgiving Recess	
25	11/28/06	Islam and Abrahamic Traditions (1) [Reading: Hinze and Omar, <i>Heirs of Abraham</i> , 1-54].	Term Paper
26	11/30/06	Islam and Abrahamic Traditions (2) [Reading: Hinze and Omar, <i>Heirs of Abraham</i> , 55-124].	
27	12/05/06	Islam and Abrahamic Traditions (3) [Reading: Hinze and Omar, <i>Heirs of Abraham</i> , 125-141].	
28	12/07/06	Concluding Remarks	
	12/13/06	Final Exams 12/13-12/19	