

FALL 2006

**SPECIAL TOPIC:
PEACE AND VIOLENCE IN ISLAM
(REL 295)**

**TIME: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 12:50-2:00 PM
LINC CATEGORY: U2 (MORAL ISSUES)
INSTRUCTOR: SHALAHUDIN KAFRAWI
CLASSROOM: PPHAC 103**

CONTENT:

The course will discuss how Islam perceives peace and violence. Having laid out the significance of peace in Islam and enlisted examples of violent acts in the Muslim world, the course will explore the scriptural grounding for and against violence. Special attention will be given to terrorism, war, jihad, and violence against women and against the other.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, students are expected to achieve the following objectives:

1. to discuss the significance of peace in Islamic morality;
2. to discuss the sources and measures of Islamic ethics;
3. to refer to scriptural passages that some Muslims use to justify their violent acts;
4. to elaborate on the arguments for and against the use of violence for peace;
5. to elaborate on the distinction between Islam as an ideal notion and Islam as practiced by Muslims;

GRADING FORMAT:

1. Participation (20%); Active participation includes asking questions, making comments and giving answers to problems or questions posed to students.
2. Two short papers (2-4 pages each; 20%); the assignments will be posted on the Blackboard and the papers should be sent to Blackboard's assignment page.
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 (20%);
6. Complete Attendance (5% extra).

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 peace and violence in 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:

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:35 AM-12:35 PM;
Wednesday, 10:35 AM-12:35 PM;
or by appointment.

TEXTBOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE:

Abu-Nimer, Mohammed. *Nonviolence and Peace Building in Islam: Theory and Practice*. Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida, 2003.
El Fadl, Khaled Abou. *The Great Theft: Wrestling Islam from the Extremists*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.
Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer. *Is Religion Killing Us? Violence in the Bible and the Qur'an*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 2003

Kelsay, John and James Turner Johnson. *Just War and Jihad: Historical and Theoretical Perspectives on War and Peace in Western and Islamic Traditions*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1991.
 McTernan, Oliver. *Violence in God's Name: Religion in an Age of Conflict*. New York: Orbis Books, 2003.

SCHEDULE

No.	Date	Topic and Reading	Due date
1	8/29	Introduction [Syllabus]	
2	8/31	Basic Tenets of Islam: An Overview [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 3-34].	
3	9/5	Peace in Islam (1): Theoretical Framework (1) [Abu-Nimer, <i>Non-Violence and Peace Building in Islam</i> , 1-47].	
4	9/7	Peace in Islam (2): Theoretical Framework (2) [Abu-Nimer, <i>Non-Violence and Peace Building in Islam</i> , 48-84].	
5	9/12	Peace in Islam (3): Application (1) [Abu-Nimer, <i>Non-Violence and Peace Building in Islam</i> , 85-127].	
6	9/14	Peace in Islam (4): Application (2) [Abu-Nimer, <i>Non-Violence and Peace Building in Islam</i> , 128-186].	
7	9/19	Violence (1): In the Name of Religion [Nelson-Pallmeyer, <i>Is Religion Killing Us?</i> , 1-25].	
8	9/21	Violence (2): The Bible [Nelson-Pallmeyer, <i>Is Religion Killing Us?</i> , 27-71].	Short Paper 1
9	9/26	Violence (3): The Qur'an [Nelson-Pallmeyer, <i>Is Religion Killing Us?</i> , 73-127].	Research Proposal
10	9/28	Violence (4): Reflection [Nelson-Pallmeyer, <i>Is Religion Killing Us?</i> , 129-149].	Mid-Term Exam
11	10/3	Video Presentation	
12	10/5	Just War and Jihad (1) [Reading: Kelsay and Johnson, <i>Just War and Jihad</i> , 3-69].	
	10/10	Fall Recess 10/7-10/10	
13	10/12	Just War and Jihad (2) [Reading: Kelsay and Johnson, <i>Just War and Jihad</i> , 91-117].	
14	10/17	Just War and Jihad (3) [Reading: Kelsay and Johnson, <i>Just War and Jihad</i> , 141-160].	
15	10/19	Just War and Jihad (4) [Reading: Kelsay and Johnson, <i>Just War and Jihad</i> , 195-226].	
16	10/24	Video Presentation	Draft of Research Paper
17	10/26	In God's Name (1) [Reading: McTernan, <i>Violence in God's Name</i> , 1-19].	
18	10/31	In God's Name (2) [Reading: McTernan, <i>Violence in God's Name</i> , 20-44].	

19	11/2	In God's Name (3) [Reading: McTernan, <i>Violence in God's Name</i> , 45-76].	Short Paper 2
20	11/7	In God's Name (4) [Reading: McTernan, <i>Violence in God's Name</i> , 77-122].	
21	11/9	In God's Name (5) [Reading: McTernan, <i>Violence in God's Name</i> , 123-164].	
22	11/14	Against Violence for Peace (1) [Reading: El Fadl, <i>The Great Theft</i> , 1-44].	
23	11/16	Against Violence for Peace (2) [Reading: El Fadl, <i>The Great Theft</i> , 45-110].	
24	11/21	Against Violence for Peace (3) [Reading: El Fadl, <i>The Great Theft</i> , 113-141].	
	11/23	Thanksgiving Recess	
25	11/28	Against Violence for Peace (4) [Reading: El Fadl, <i>The Great Theft</i> , 142-179].	Term Paper
26	11/30	Against Violence for Peace (5) [Reading: El Fadl, <i>The Great Theft</i> , 180-219].	
27	12/5	Against Violence for Peace (6) [Reading: El Fadl, <i>The Great Theft</i> , 220-274].	
28	12/7	Concluding Remarks [Reading: El Fadl, <i>The Great Theft</i> , 275-290].	
	12/13	Final Exams 12/13-12/19	