

FALL 2007

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INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

(REL 125/Z)

Room: Collier Hall of Science 202

Time: Wednesday, 6:30-9:30 PM

LinC 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 (20 points);
2. Two Structured papers (10 points each, totaling 20 points);
3. Research paper (7-15 pages; 30 points): research proposal (5 points); draft (5 points); and final submission (20 points);
4. Mid-term exam (10 points);
5. Final exam (20 points).

Extra Credits

Extra credits may be added to the total grade for the following:

1. Having complete attendance (5 points);
2. Publishing an essay(s) on Islam in campus publications, magazines or newspapers (5 points).

Attendance Policy:

Students are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings for this course. An extra credit of 5 points will be awarded to those who have complete attendance. Students have the liberty to miss two classes without penalty. Those who miss more than two classes will be downgraded by 5

points of the total grade for each missed meeting after the two absences, unless they provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing. The 5 points credit may be awarded to students who miss classes if the students provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing and write a meaningful discussion on the reading(s) for those specific meetings.

Participation:

Students’ participation is highly valued. Active participation includes any input that enables the achievement of the course objectives. It includes—but not limited to—making comments about the reading, asking questions about the reading or the themes under discussion, answering questions posed by the instructor or the class, and suggesting alternative views on the issues in class discussion. Participation in a lecture(s) related to Islam or engagement/observation in Muslim activities such as *iftar* and prayers, whenever applicable, can be counted toward increasing the participation grade. Complete attendance without any form of participation indicated above will give students a participation grade of no more than D.

Paper Submissions:

All papers—including (1) structured papers, (2) research proposal, (3) draft, (4) final research paper, and (5) rewrites and other reports/assignments where applicable—should be electronically submitted through the Blackboard’s Assignment page or its Digital Drop Box on the indicated dates. If for some reason there is a problem with electronic submission on the Blackboard, the assignment should be sent via e-mail attachment or a 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.

Final Grade

Students will accumulate the points—there will be no conversion of points into grades—until the end of the semester. Below is the table of point conversion for the final grade:

Points	Final Grade	4-point conversion
95-100	A	4
90-95	A-	3.7
87-90	B+	3.3
84-87	B	3
80-84	B-	2.7
77-80	C+	2.3
74-77	C	2
70-74	C-	1.7
67-70	D+	1.3
64-67	D	1
60-64	D-	0.7
0-60	F	0

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: 2006-2007*, pp. 26-31.

Contact Information:

Office: Zinzendorf 201
 Phone: (610) 861-1628
 E-mail: skafrawi@moravian.edu
 Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:15-1:15 PM;
 Wednesday, 12:15-2:15 PM;
 And 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.
 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.
 Riddell, Peter G. and Peter Cotterell. *Islam in Context: Past, Present, and Future*. Michigan: Baker Academic, 2003.

Required Materials Available at Reeves' Reserve:

Ayoub, Mahmoud. "Nearest in Amity: Christians in the Qur'an and Contemporary Exegetical Tradition." In Irfan A. Omar, ed. *A Muslim View of Christianity: Essays on Dialogue by Mahmoud Ayoub*. New York, Orbis: 2007, pp. 187-211.
 Video. *Islam: A Closer Look*.
 Video. *Islam: The Empire of Faith*.
 Video. *Peace, Propaganda & The Promised Land*.

No.	Date	Topic and Reading	Due date
1	8/29/2007	What is Islam? An Overview [Syllabus and Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , xiv-xxxix and 3-22.]	
2	9/5/2007	Pre/Early Islam [Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 3-74; and Riddell and Cotterell, <i>Islam in Context</i> , 13-44].	
3	9/12/2007	Spread and Development of Islam [Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 75-170; and Riddell and Cotterell, <i>Islam in Context</i> , 83-129.]	Structured paper 1
		[[Rosh Hasanah]]	
		[[First day of Ramadan on 9/13/2007]]	
4	9/19/2007	Islam in the Modern World 1 and Video Presentation	

		[Reading: Riddell and Cotterell, <i>Islam in Context</i> , 130-46; <i>Islam: The Empire of Faith</i> .]	
5	9/26/2007	Islam in the Modern World 2 [Reading: Riddell and Cotterell, <i>Islam in Context</i> , 149-216.]	Research Proposal
		[[Sukkot]]	
6	10/3/2007	Historical Account (3): Shi'ah, Tasawwuf, and Reform [Reading: Reza Aslan, <i>No god But God</i> , 171-266.]	
		[[Mid Term Report on 10/5/2007]]	
		[[Fall Recess from 10/6/07 at noon to 10/10/07 at 7:30 AM]]	
7	10/10/2007	Islam's Belief System 1; <i>Tawbid</i> [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 37-131].	
	10/13/2007	[[Id al-Fitr]]	
8	10/17/2007	Islam's Belief System 2; Prophecy and Eschatology [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 132-64; and 193-213].	Draft of research paper
9	10/24/2007	Islam's Belief System 3; <i>Islam and Ihsan</i> [Reading: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 267-335].	Structured paper 2
10	10/31/2007	Discussion on the Spectrum of Islam and Video Presentation [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 55-112; and <i>Islam: A Closer Look</i> .]	
11	11/7/2007	Dialectic of the One and the Many [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 1-54; Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , 164-75; and Ayoub, "Nearest in Amity: Christians in the Qur'an and Contemporary Exegetical Tradition," pp. 187-211.]	
12	11/14/2007	Abrahamic Tradition and Video Presentation [Reading: Hinze and Omar, <i>Heirs of Abraham 1-141</i> ; and <i>Peace, Propaganda & The Promised Land</i> .]	
		[[Thanksgiving Recess on 11/20 at 10 PM to 11/26 at 7:30 AM]]	
13	11/28/2007	Islamic Ideals (1): Compassion and Justice [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 201-72].	Research paper
14	12/5/2007	Islamic Ideals (2): Human Rights and Responsibilities [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 273-306]. Concluding Remarks	
		[[Final Exams on 12/12-15 and 12/17-19]]	
		[[Id al-Adha on 12/20/2007]]	