

SPRING 2008

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**ISLAM IN AMERICA  
(REL 134)**

**TIME: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 12:50-2:00 PM**

**LINC CATEGORY: M3 (ULTIMATE QUESTIONS)**

**INSTRUCTOR: SHALAHUDIN KAFRAWI**

**CLASSROOM: COMENIUS 304**

**CONTENT:**

The course deals with the characters of Islam in the United States of America. It focuses on the question of whether Islam is compatible with American worldview. The course compares Islamic values with American ideals, such as the struggle for equality, peace, justice, democracy, human rights, and multiculturalism.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

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

1. to talk about common misconceptions about Islam in the United States of America;
2. to elaborate on the characteristics of American Islam;
3. to recognize Islamic and American ideals;
4. to discuss the challenges Muslims face in America;
5. to point the challenges American Muslims face in their search for their Islamic identity;
6. to compare what Muslims practice in the Middle Eastern countries with that in the U.S.

**GRADING FORMAT:**

1. Participation (20 points). Active participation includes asking questions, making comments and giving answers to problems or questions posed to students. Complete attendance will not guarantee a good participation grade. Students who have complete attendance without active participation will result in no more than 6 points.
2. Two book reports (3-6 pages each; 10 points each totaling 20 points).
3. Research paper (50 points). It will be broken down into:
  - a. Proposal (3-4 pages: 5 points);
  - b. Arguments (3-5 pages: 10 points);
  - c. Counter-arguments (2-4 pages: 10 points);
  - d. Analysis (3-5 pages: 10 points);
  - e. Concluding remarks and bibliography (2-4 pages; 5 points);
  - f. Final research paper (12-22 pages: 10 points).
4. Final exam (10 points).

**EXTRA CREDITS:**

Students who have complete attendance will receive an extra credit of 5 points. Students who attend lectures or engage in outside-class activities related to the topics of this course will receive up to 5 extra points.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings for this course. Those with complete attendance will receive 5 extra points. Students have the liberty to miss four classes without any penalty. Those who miss more than the allowed four absences will be downgraded by a point for each additional missed class. Those who miss a class with written justifiable reason(s) may be waived from absence if they write a significant report of about 3-4 pages on the reading(s) of the missed class(es).

**Final Grade**

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

Points	Final Grade	4-point conversion
94-100	A	4
90-93	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
84-86	B	3
80-83	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
74-76	C	2
70-73	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
64-66	D	1
60-63	D-	0.7
0-59	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: 2004-2005*, pp. 52-8.

**PAPER SUBMISSIONS:**

All writing assignments will be posted on the Blackboard. The papers—including (1) book reports, (2) research proposal, (3) partial pieces of research paper, (4) final research paper, and (5) other applicable assignments—should be electronically submitted through Blackboard on or before the indicated due 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 paper. Final research papers cannot be rewritten. The rewritten papers are due within a week after the papers are electronically distributed. 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.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Office: Zinzendorf 201  
 Phone: (610) 861-1628  
 E-mail: skafrawi@moravian.edu  
 Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM;  
 Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 PM;  
 or by appointment.

**READINGS AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE:**

Barrett, Paul M. *American Islam: The Struggle for the Soul of a Religion*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.  
 Curtis, Edward A. Ed. *Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008.  
 Feldman, Noah. *After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.  
 Hussain, Amir. *Oil and Water: Two Faiths: One God*. Kelowna, BC : CopperHouse, 2006.  
 Ramadan, Tariq. *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.  
 Turner, Richard Brent. *Islam in the African-American Experience*. Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana University Press, 1997.

**READINGS AVAILABLE AT THE REEVES LIBRARY RESERVES:**

Murata, Sachico and William Chittick. *The Vision of Islam*. St. Paul: Paragon House, 1994. Pp. xiv-xxxix.  
 Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. *The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity*. New York: HarperCollins, 2004. Pp. 203-36.

**SCHEDULE:**

No.	Date	Topic and Text	Due Date
1.	15/01/2008	Introduction: [Reading: Syllabus]	
		Overview: Dimensions of Islam [Readings: Murata and Chittick, <i>The Vision of Islam</i> , xiv-xxxix]	
2.	17/01/2008	American Islam (1) [Reading: Barrett, <i>American Islam</i> , 15-99]	
3.	22/01/2008	American Islam (2) [Reading: Barrett, <i>American Islam</i> , 100-78]	
4.	24/01/2008	American Islam (3)	Proposal

		[Reading: Barrett, <i>American Islam</i> , 179-266]	
5.	29/01/2008	American Islam (4) [Reading: Barrett, <i>American Islam</i> , 265-83]	
6.	31/01/2008	Introducing Muslims and Islam [Reading: Hussain, <i>Oil and Water</i> , 19-112]	
7.	05/02/2008	Meeting the Universals 1 [Reading: Ramadan, <i>Western Muslims and the Future of Islam</i> , 9-61]	
8.	07/02/2008	Meeting the Universals 2 [Reading: Ramadan, <i>Western Muslims and the Future of Islam</i> , 62-112]	Arguments
9.	12/02/2008	Islam's Universal Values 1: Compassion and Love, Peace and Beauty [Reading: Nasr, <i>The Heart of Islam</i> , 203-36]	
10.	14/02/2008	Islam's Universal Values 2: Liberation [Reading: Curtis, <i>Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the US</i> , 179-263]	
11.	19/02/2008	Islam and Democracy (1): [Reading: Feldman, <i>After Jihad</i> , 3-37]	
12.	21/02/2008	Islam and Democracy (2): [Reading: Feldman, <i>After Jihad</i> , 38-78]	Counter-Arguments
13.	26/02/2008	Islam and Democracy (3): [Reading: Feldman, <i>After Jihad</i> , 81-130]	
14.	28/02/2008	Islam and Democracy (4): [Reading: Feldman, <i>After Jihad</i> , 131-88]	
	04/03/2008	Spring recess	
	06/03/2008	Spring recess	
15.	11/03/2008	Islam and Democracy (5): [Reading: Feldman, <i>After Jihad</i> , 189-234]	Book Report 1
16.	13/03/2008	American Muslims before World War I [Reading: Curtis, <i>Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the US</i> , 1-39]	
17.	18/03/2008	American Muslims between World War I and 1965 [Reading: Curtis, <i>Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the US</i> , 40-104]	
18.	20/03/2008	American Muslims after 1965 [Reading: Curtis, <i>Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the US</i> , 105-78]	Analysis
19.	25/03/2008	American Muslims after 9/11 [Reading: Curtis, <i>Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the US</i> , 264-335]	

20.	27/03/2008	American Muslim Spirituality [Reading: Curtis, <i>Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the US</i> , 336-412]	
21.	01/04/2008	African-American Muslims (1): The Beginning [Reading: Turner, <i>Islam in the African-American Experience</i> , 11-67]	
22.	03/04/2008	African-American Muslims (2): The Moorish Science Temple and Ahmadiyyah [Reading: Turner, <i>Islam in the African-American Experience</i> , 71-146]	Concluding remarks
23.	08/04/2008	African-American Muslims (4): The Nation of Islam [Reading: Turner, <i>Islam in the African-American Experience</i> , 147-73]	
24.	10/04/2008	African-American Muslims (5): Malcom X [Reading: Turner, <i>Islam in the African-American Experience</i> , 174-237]	Book Report 2
25.	15/04/2008	Challenges and Dialogue [Reading: Hussain, <i>Oil and Water</i> , 115-216]	
26.	17/04/2008	Islam Engaged (1) [Reading: Ramadan, <i>Western Muslims and the Future of Islam</i> , 113-43]	Final research paper
27.	22/04/2008	Islam Engaged (2) [Reading: Ramadan, <i>Western Muslims and the Future of Islam</i> , 144-99]	
28.	24/04/2008	Islam Engaged (3) [Reading: Ramadan, <i>Western Muslims and the Future of Islam</i> , 200-27]	
		Concluding Remarks	