

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Department of Religion
01-840-326-01: Islam
Fall 2012

Instructor: Amir N. Zamani, Ph.D.

Office Hours: M, 10:00-11:00 (and Thursdays 10:00-11:00 by appointment only)

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the principal beliefs, rituals, texts, and history of Islam. Among the topics to be explored are: Rise of Islam, structure of the Koran, development of Islamic legal system, the roles of women in Islam; emergence and consolidation of major sects within the “Islamic community;” Islamic mysticism (Sufism,) and Islam in America.

Required Textbooks and Teaching Materials:

I- Cook, Michael, Muhammad (Oxford University Press, ISBN: 0-19-287605-8)

II Cook, Michael, The Koran: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, ISBN: 0-19-285344-9)

III-*The Koran Interpreted* (translated by Arberry, A.J. Oxford University Press)

IV- The course packet for 1-840-326-02 (on Reserve)

Recommended Text:

X. Malcolm, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (Grove Press)

Course Design and Procedures:

This course is designed to meet the following SAS Core Curriculum goals:

- h. Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- i. Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.
- j. Identify and critically assess ethical issues in social science and history.
- k. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.
- l. Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.
- o. Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website:

<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

You are encouraged to participate actively in the class and make use of Office Hours.

Examinations are not cumulative and will be based on the material covered in the textbooks,

course packet, and lectures. In terms of format, the exams will consist of essay questions only. In general no make up tests are granted unless you have a valid (and documented) reason for missing the test.

Final Grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Class attendance and participation: 10%

Two Hourly Examinations (35% and 25%)

Final Examination: 30%

Reading List

Sessions

Topics

9/6,10, 13

of the Islamic State

Introduction to the course; rise of Islam, and establishment

Read: Cook (Koran): "A note on Arabic" and
Cook (Muhammad) Chs.7, 1-4, 6

Packet: ["The Constitution of Medina"; "The Founding of the Caliphate"; "The Organization of the Empire",
"What is Meant by al-Jahiliyya"] **R** Handout I

**9/17,20,24,27; 10/1,4,8,11
10/15,18**

The Koran: Compilation, Structure, and major themes

Introduction:

Read Cook (Koran) Chs. 1,2,4, 5-9

Qur'an: Ch.96, Cook (Koran), Chs.11-13

Koran Chs 2 (entire)

Packet: "The basic beliefs and worship practices of Islam"**R**

Major Themes of the Qur'an:

A: *Monotheism in the Koran:* Ch:23, 29, 39, 34, 43, 72

B: *Muhammad in the Koran:*

Packet: "Muhammad's Understanding of Himself: the Qur'anic

Data"**R**

C: *Creation Stories:*

The Koran, 41:5-12, 2:27-38, 7:10-25, 15:26-50 ,
20:115-125

D: *Eschatology:*

Read: *The Koran, Ch:* 78:6-end, 76:1-24; 56:1-56; 43:70-77;

44:40-end

Compilation of the Koran:

Packet: "Material for the History of the Text of the Koran";

"Progress in the Study of the Koranic Text"

"Abu Ubaida on the Verses Missing from the Koran" **R**

Naskh (Abrogation) in the Koran

Read: The Koran: 87:6, 18:26, 10:16, 69:44-47, 16:100-105,

22:51-53, 17:75

First Hourly Test: 10/22 (35 Points)

10/25,29

Secondary Sources of Guidance in Islam: Hadith

Packet: ["Hadith and Sunna", "Hadith"] **R**

10/29; 11/1

Sectarian Movements in Islam

The Kharijites, the Mu'tazilites and Shi'ism:

Handout II,

Packet: "Shi' i Interpretation of the Qur'an", "On Shi' i
Hadith", "Ijtihad and Marja' iyyat", " On the Knowledge of
the Imam" ; "Taqiyyah" "Mut'ah or Temporary Marriage"

11/5

The Translation Movement of the 8-10th. Centuries :

Packet:" The Graeco-Arabic Translation Movement as a Social and
Historical Phenomenon" **R**

11/8

Theology and Law:

Read: Muhammad, Ch. 5

Packet: "The Structure of the Law"

Second Hourly Test 11/12(25 Points)

11/15,19,20,26

Women in Islam

Read:

The Koran: 2:222-242,4:1-59 &127-134; 24:1-26; 33:1-55

Packet: "Elaboration of the Founding Discourses", "Status of
Women in the Qur'an", "The New Veilingas an
Accommodating Protest" **R**

11/26,29; 12/3

Sufism

Packet: "The Ascetics", "The Mystics", The Structure of Sufi
Theory and Practice **R**

12/6, 10

Islam in the Western World

Read: Malcolm X. Chs. 10-14

Packet: "A century of Islam in America", "Letters from
Abroad", "The Sun of Islam Will Rise in the West" **R**