

**01-840-326-01: Islam**  
**Spring 2013**

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 1-840-326-01 (on Reserve)

***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 ( 30% and 30%)**

**Final Examination: 30%**

### Reading List

#### *Sessions*

**1/24,28, 31**

#### **Islamic State**

#### *Topics*

#### **Introduction to the course; rise of Islam, and establishment of the**

Read: Cook (Muhammad) Chs.7,

Packet: "What is Meant by al-Jahiliyya" ] **R**

Cook (Muhammad)1-4, 6

Cook (Koran): "A note on Arabic" and

Packet: ["The Constitution of Medina"; "The Founding of the

Caliphate"; "The Organization of the Empire" **2/4,7,11,14,18,21,25,28**

#### **The Koran:**

#### **Structure, and major themes**

#### **Introduction:**

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

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

*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

#### **Major Themes of the Qur'an:**

A: *Monotheism in the Koran*: Ch:112,23, 29, 39, 34, 43, 72

B: *Cosmology*

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

20:115-125

C: *Prophets*,

Read: The Koran, Ch. 21,

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

Data"**R**

D: *Eschatology and the Ideal Society*

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

44:40-end, Ch. 2 (entire)

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

### **First Hourly Test: 3/4 (30Points)**

3/7,11

#### **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**

3/14

#### **Secondary Sources of Guidance in Islam: Hadith**

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

3/25,28; 4/1

**Sectarian Movements in Islam**

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

Handout ,

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"

4/1,4

**Theology and Law:**

Read: Muhammad, Ch. 5

Packet: "The Structure of the Law"

4/4,8

**The Translation Movement of the 8-10<sup>th</sup>. Centuries :**

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

***Second Hourly Test (30 Points) 4/11***

4/15,18,22

**Sufism**

Packet: "The Ascetics", "The Mystics", The Structure of Sufi

Theory and Practice **R**

4/25,29;5/2

**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**

5/2,6

**Islam in the Western World**

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