

FALL 2014

ISLAM

840:226:01 (crosslisted with 685:226:01)

Time and Place: Mondays and Wednesdays 4.30-5.50, Campbell A5, College Age Campus.
Professor: J. Mojaddedi, jamojaddedi@hotmail.com **Office Hours:** Mondays, 6.00-7.30, or other times, by appointment.

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of Islam, covering Sacred History, the rise to dominance of the ulama, the competing visions of Islam, the ways in which Muslims have responded to modernity, and contemporary issues. The approach taken is an academic inquiry into Islam as a religious system, with reflection on its diverse schools and historical development in the light of modern academic scholarship.

SAS Core Curriculum Goals

This Course fulfills the historical analysis (**HST**) and Arts and Humanities [philosophical and theoretical] (**AHo**) subsets of the core curriculum areas of inquiry.

- Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.
- Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.
- Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.

Required Textbook:

Daniel Brown, A New Introduction to Islam, 2nd Edn, Wiley, 2009 (ISBN 9781405158077)

Other Readings The specific readings for individual lectures, other than the required textbooks, are available as pdfs in the Sakai Class Readings List, for you to download, print out, and bind, to serve as your own cost-effective course pack. These texts should be read in preparation before the specified class on the syllabus.

Sakai: Everyone needs to log in to the Sakai site for this course, at <https://sakai.rutgers.edu> If anybody has problems with accessing Sakai they should inform the professor as soon as possible, as it is necessary to use this facility to access readings.

Preparation, attendance and participation: Everybody enrolled is expected to attend classes, having already read the assignment indicated, and to contribute to discussions. Keeping up with readings is essential for performing well in the random pop quizzes (see below) as well as for following discussions in class. Attendance as well as active and informed participation in discussions are also rewarded in the final grade. Attendance of a class can only be established by indicating your presence at the beginning and remaining in the classroom for the full duration, unless prior agreement has been obtained from the professor for late arrival/early departure.

Absence

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 your professors. In cases where students must miss classes for longer than one week, they will always be directed to see a Dean of Students for assistance to help verify the circumstances.

An Excused Absence for a quiz or paper submission day, and for absences of more than two classes, can only be obtained by producing a doctor's note with the office's contact details, or a note from your dean.

Phones and Laptops:

The use of electronic devices, including phones, laptops, tablets etc. is **not permitted** during class hours (4:30-5:50). Exceptions may be made only for laptops for note-taking on an individual basis – it is necessary to discuss the need with the professor **beforehand** and get his approval and conditions. In this course, data is found in the readings, and it is more important to engage in and follow discussions in class than to record data mentioned in them.

Papers: each paper must be typed and submitted in hard copy and also uploaded to Sakai for plagiarism scanning. Each paper must have a cover page and bibliography, which should consist of publications actually used for the paper. Academic sources will be provided, including books at the reserve desk of the library. Recommendations for further reading are always welcomed. Please beware that if you instead opt to rely on web-sites or other printed materials as sources indiscriminately, you run the risk of using inappropriate non-academic sources, and in consequence attaining failing grades. This is your responsibility if you opt to use alternative sources.

Plagiarism will result in an immediate fail for the course. The Rutgers position regarding plagiarism and further relevant details, can be found here:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_2013.pdf

It is always essential to ask if uncertain about any of these issues, before submitting your paper for plagiarism scanning.

Papers short of the minimum length will receive a grade lowered according to the number of words missing. Late papers without an official Excused Absence will be penalized by one percentile (1 out of the final 100 for the course) per 24 hours, or part of a 24 hour period (starting from the time the relevant hand-in class begins). Papers more than 7 days late will not be graded at all. It is the responsibility of the student handing in a paper late to make sure that it reaches the professor and to obtain confirmation of receipt on the day of its submission. Spelling and grammar will be taken into consideration in grading all papers, which should be typed double-spaced on letter size paper. The Writing Center at Rutgers offers help with writing papers.

Scheduled Quizzes: The three quizzes scheduled on the syllabus will be based on both the readings and the class discussions that have taken place before them. Quizzes will contain a range of types of questions, from multiple choice to extended responses, and sample questions will be

made available beforehand. There will be no chance to make up missed quizzes except for those with an official Excused Absence (see above).

Pop Quizzes: There will also be pop quizzes during the course. These will be short quizzes at the end of a random class based on what has been discussed during that class and/or the readings for that class only. One of the pop quizzes will be on the syllabus, so make sure you read it! Only the three highest pop quiz scores will be used.

Final Grade Constituents:

15% (attendance and participation)

15% (3 highest pop quiz scores)

45% (3 scheduled quizzes),

25% (take-home exam paper, 1,700-2,100 words)

Grading System: A=100-90, B+= 89-87, B=86-80, C+=79-77, C=76-70, D=69-65, F=64-

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

9/3 Introduction to Course

9/8 Islamic Pre-History

Brown, chps on Arabia and The Pre-Islamic Near East

9/10 The Qur'an 1

Sells, *Approaching the Qur'an*, pp. 42-43, 90-103

9/15 The Qur'an 2

Brown, chp on The Qur'an

Calder et al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 10-11, 15

9/17 Prophet Muhammad 1

Brown, chp on Muhammad

9/22 Prophet Muhammad 2

Ernst, pp. 73-92

9/24 Hadith

Brown, chp on The Tradition Literature

Calder et al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 36-41

****9/29 QUIZ 1**

Quiz Preparation

10/1 Foundational Islamic History 1

Brown, chps on The Conquests and The Religion of Empire

10/6 Foundational Islamic History 2

Brown, chp on The Caliphate

10/8 Theology

Brown, chp on Islamic Theology and Philosophy, only pp. 172- 183

10/15 Rationalism and Medieval Intellectual Culture

Brown, chp on Islamic Theology and Philosophy, only pp. 183-192

****10/15 NO MEETING**

Watch BBC “Islam and Science” (link in Sakai) and do assignment

10/20 Jurisprudence 1

Brown, chp on Islamic Law

10/22 Jurisprudence 2

Rippin, *Muslims*, pp. 104-16

Calder et. al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 185-91, 202-14

****10/27 QUIZ 2**

Quiz Preparation: Revision of previous class notes and readings

10/29 Twelver Imami Shiism 1

Rippin, *Shiism*, pp. 120-28

Calder et. al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 232-8

11/3 Twelver Imami Shiism 2

Rippin, *Shiism*, 128-35

Calder et. al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 285-92

11/5 Sufism 1

Brown, chp on Sufism

11/10 Sufism 2

Calder et. al., *Classical Islam*, pp. 299-302, 311-316, 334-44, 352-55

11/12 Wahhabis

Rippin, pp. 170-3, 283-5

Commins, pp. 7-39

11/17 The Nation of Islam

Curtis, *Islam in Black America*, pp. 63-96

11/19 Islamism

Brown, chp on The Turbulent 20th Century

****11/24 NO MEETING**

----- THANKSGIVING -----

12/1 Contemporary Muslim Reformers

Brown, chp on Islam in the Twenty-First Century

12/3 Contemporary Muslim Reformers; Muslim Women and Feminism

Ali, "Progressive Muslims and Islamic Jurisprudence," in Safi, *Progressive Muslims*, pp. 163-89

12/8 Islamophobia (TAKE-HOME EXAM PAPER DUE IN CLASS)

Rippin, pp. 316-30

****12/10 Quiz 3**

Quiz Preparation: Revision of previous class notes and readings.

*This syllabus is subject to change for pedagogical and other reasons