

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Course: RELI 3402B (12649)

The Qur'an Interpreted  
 Winter Jan-Apr 2009  
 Class: W & F 11:30-1:00  
 Location: SA 505

### Instructor: Dr. Leonard Librande

Office: Paterson 2A43  
 Phone: (613) 520-2102  
 E-mail: Use WebCT Email for RELI 3402B  
 Office Hours: W & F 1:00-2:00 pm

### Course Description

An introduction to the Qur'an which Muslims hold to be the very Word of God, in terms of issues that relate to its history, its contents, and various analyses made of it.

### Required Text

Ingrid Mattson, *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life*, Blackwell Publishing, 2008.

### On Reserve

W.M. Watt, *Bell's Introduction to the Qur'an*, Edinburgh University Press, 1970

Mahmoud M. Ayoub, *The Qur'an and its Interpreters*, Vol. 1 + Vol. 2, SUNY, 1984

### Course Requirements

The final grade of this course will be calculated as follows:

Three page Exegesis Assignment (Feb 13)	(30%)
1½ hour In-Class Exam (Feb 27)	(30%)
One page Prospectus for Term Paper (Mar 4)	(5%)
- Includes name of EQ article chosen and short note on importance	
Five page Term Paper (Due Apr 1)	(35%)

### Course Goals

The goals of this course relate to the disciplined study of a religion, especially in terms of what is entitled *Religionswissenschaft* or the scientific study of religion.

- To survey the features and elements of the Qur'an
- To seek an understanding of the Qur'anic world view
- To gain an acquaintance with the state of recent scholarship on the Qur'an

## Schedule Of Instruction Wednesday and Fridays:

<b>Winter TERM 2009 Schedule</b>
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Jan 7	Jan 9	Feb 4	Feb 6	Mar 4	Mar 6	Apr 1	Apr 3
Jan 14	Jan 16	Feb 11	Feb 13	Mar 11	Mar 13		
Jan 21	Jan 23	Reading Wk		Mar 18	Mar 20		
Jan 28	Jan 30	Feb 25	Feb 27	Mar 25	Mar 27		

### The Exegesis Assignment (Due Feb 13)

This assignment makes use of Mahmoud M. Ayoub's two volume *The Qur'an and Its Interpreters* which is on reserve in the MacOdrum Library. The first volume presents Sura 2 *al-Baqara* (The Cow). The second volume present Sura 3 *Āl 'Imrān* (The family of 'Imrān). Ayoub has broken these two suras into sets of verses that fit together more or less and has appended to them comments by Muslim exegetes.

(1) A list of sets of verses I have chosen from Ayoub and (2) the pages where in Ayoub's works the comments are that exegetes have made on the verses will be found on WebCT in the file entitled "The Exegesis Assignment - RELI 3402B". You are to choose one set of verses listed on this list. Some sets of verses will end up being worked on by more than one of you.

You should read the verses and try to understand what is meant. You might also read the verses that lead up to the set you have chosen as well as those following the set, in the event that this provides further context. Then you should read Ayoub's description of exegetes' comments on the verses. You will see that Ayoub reports on a number of exegetes, usually each coming at the verses from a variety of approaches, including the more literal, the historical, the allegorical, and even the mystical.

This assignment is only three pages long, so you must be sparing with words and careful in your choices of what you want to do. At the head of the assignment on a first page, please publish the set of verses you are working with. Then start the three page assignment on the second page. Any footnotes should be placed as endnotes on a fourth page.

The purpose here is to compose your own commentary on the set of verses based on the one or other of the commentaries Ayoub presents. You may even include information you might discover from sources like the *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*.

## The Term Paper (Due Apr 1)

This is a research assignment. It entails a 5–page (no more and no less) paper which will **reflect on some aspect of the Qur’ān** as treated in an article in the new *Encyclopaedia of the Qur’an* (cited by the abbreviation EQ), edited by Jane Dammen McAuliffe. This work (published in 2001) is five volumes long and includes a sixth volume which is an index to the first five. The MacOdrum Library has a paper copy of this encyclopaedia and the *Encyclopaedia* can be accessed electronically.

The purpose here is to afford you the opportunity to focus on a topic related to the Qur’ān and reflect on its importance or role or meaning. So first of all you must choose an article from the EQ. Once you choose an article, you need to read it closely. Look especially to any references to other articles in the EQ and read them too. As you understand the content of the article you have chosen better, you can also use the index volume to find related materials.

So for example, you might choose the article on “Abraham” in the EQ. You will note that the article has many links to other articles in the EQ and most of these should also be read as they pertain to the “Abraham” article. You should also check to see what our textbook has to say about Abraham. Use the textbook’s index which will more than ten references in the textbook made by the author. By this time you should have more than enough information, from the believer’s view point and from the viewpoint of a scholar of the Quran, to start on your 5–page paper.

The second step is to gather your ideas and begin writing your paper.

1. Begin with an introduction to the EQ article you chose,
2. then an explication of some of the content of the EQ article, perhaps its significance to the textbook author’s understanding of the Qur’an, or an estimate of the role of Abraham generally for Muslims, and
3. finally a conclusion that sums up what your paper has achieved.

Add footnotes or endnotes as appropriate to document. Provide at the paper’s end a bibliography of the sources (books and/or articles) you used. The length of the paper is to be no more than 1250 words (5 double spaced pages). **The paper’s length is to be computed without including either the footnotes or the bibliography.**

You are not to use any web sources other than the EQ itself. Otherwise you must rely on books and articles available in the library or through interlibrary loan. Given the brevity of this paper, it should not normally include any quotations. Quotations if required ought to be included in footnotes or endnotes. As for the style of the bibliography and notes, use one style consistently.

The paper is due at the April 1<sup>st</sup> class. Papers handed in after that date will lose an additional 1.0 point for each day they are late. After April 9<sup>th</sup> papers will not be accepted. If you have verifiable problems in meeting these deadlines, speak to me. Don’t let things slip to the last minute!

## GRADING SCHEME

In general a grade in the D range indicates that the writer has not understood the topic chosen, has done too little or no research to support the description of the topic, and has failed to offer any development of the topic from paragraph to paragraph. This paper may repeat thoughts again and again and may be filled with mechanical faults.

A grade in the C range can be achieved by a clear description of the topic chosen, but there is no development of the topic and it remains vague and uninteresting. This paper has insufficient supporting evidence and relies too much on personal opinion without defending the opinion.

A grade in the B range can be awarded when the writer demonstrates the topic's relevance to related and similar topics. This paper is well organized, has enough supporting evidence and is organized around one main idea. The writing in this paper is mechanically correct with few exceptions.

A grade in the A range will be given when the writer locates the topic for the reader within broader spheres of study. This is a paper that is lively and interesting; it has style and all its parts fit the topic.

## REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

### COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

### GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B+ = 77-79 (9)	C+ = 67-69 (6)
A = 85-89 (11)	B = 73-76 (8)	C = 63-66 (5)
A - = 80-84 (10)	B - = 70-72 (7)	C - = 60-62 (4)
D+ = 57-59 (3)	D = 53-56 (2)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	“Failed, no Deferral” – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 7, 2008. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 6, 2009.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

#### 1. For Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a co-ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre (ext. 6608) to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first in-class or CUTV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements. Deadlines for submitting forms for formally scheduled exam accommodation: November 7 for December examinations and March 6, 2009 for April examinations.

#### 2. For Religious Obligations

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance. (613-520-5622)

#### 3. For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services (613-520-5622) to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar’s Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar’s Office will be considered.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar’s Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 <sup>th</sup> floor Library