

**The College of the Humanities**  
**Religion Program: RELI 2310A Fall Term**  
**Islam**

**Instructor:** Professor Mohammed Rustom

**TA:** TBA

**Office hours:** By appointment

*Note: Please send course-related emails to [mohammed.rustom@carleton.ca](mailto:mohammed.rustom@carleton.ca). I will endeavour to reply to inquiries within twenty-four hours of receipt. Emails should be professional and free of solecisms.*

**Course Description**

This course will begin with an inquiry into the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and the revelation of the Quran. We will then go on to examine the most significant expressions of the classical and post-classical Islamic tradition: scriptural exegesis, Prophetic traditions, law, eschatology, theology, philosophy, mysticism, art, and science. Due attention will also be given to developments in contemporary Islam.

**Learning Objectives**

*By the completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- ❖ Properly cite references in a paper
- ❖ Engage with primary texts in translation and analyze secondary texts
- ❖ Distinguish descriptive, explanatory, and prescriptive modes of discourse
- ❖ Understand the development of Islamic civilization, thought, and culture

**Required Texts**

Nasr et al. (eds.), *The Study Quran* (bookstore)

Schimmel, *Islam: An Introduction* (course site)

Khalil, *Jihad, Radicalism, and the New Atheism* (course site)

**Requirements**

/25 Assignment 1

/35 Assignment 2

/40 Assignment 3

**Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

**Sept. 12**      **Islam in Three Dimensions**

Readings

Schimmel, pp. 1–28

Nasr, "General Introduction"

- Sept. 19      The Quran and Hadith: An Overview**  
Readings  
Q 1 and 112 (with commentaries)  
Schimmel, pp. 29–58
- Sept. 26      Guest Lecture by Lina Jammal**
- Oct. 3        Quranic Structure, Content, Style**  
Readings  
Q 67 and 69–72 (67 with commentary)
- Oct. 10      Muslim Eschatology**  
Readings  
Q 78–114 (78, 99, 101 with commentaries)
- Oct. 17      Islamic Law**  
Readings  
Q 5 (with commentary)  
Schimmel, pp. 59–72
- Oct. 24      Fall Break; No Class**
- Oct. 31      Shi'ism**  
Readings  
Q 33 (with commentary)  
Schimmel, pp. 91–100
- Nov. 7        Islamic Theology**  
Readings  
Q 13 and 17  
Schimmel, pp. 73–86
- Nov. 14      Islamic Philosophy**  
Readings  
Q 2:255 and 24:35 (with commentaries)  
Schimmel, pp. 86–89
- Nov. 21      Sufism**  
Readings  
Q 12 and 18:60–82 (with commentaries)

Schimmel, pp. 101–126

**Nov. 28      Contemporary Islam**

Readings

Schimmel, pp. 127–144

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXE7mQWnKOO>

**Dec. 5      Course Wrap-up**

## **Assignment 1**

### **Instructions**

Carefully read Mohammad Hassan Khalil's *Jihad, Radicalism, and the New Atheism*. The first part of the paper must thoroughly summarize the book's content (but not chapter-by-chapter). The second part must offer an analysis of the author's underlying argument.

### **Value**

The paper is out of 25, and is worth 25% of the total course mark.

### **Due Date**

Papers are due via email submission on **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

### **Late Assignments**

Papers submitted late due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation.

### **Form**

1. Your paper should be **six** full pages in length, double spaced, and written in Times New Roman font (size 12).

2. Diction is to be formal, and each piece is to be written in Canadian English. Grammar, syntax, spelling, and style must be impeccable. You may write in the first person.
3. At the top right of the first page of your paper, include the course code, your full name, and the assignment's due date. This should be in Times New Roman font (size 12).
4. When citing materials, please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

## Assignment 2

### Instructions

Address **one** of the following topics (see course website for the mandatory text relevant to your selection):

1. Sufism is often referred to as the heart of Islam. What arguments could be advanced in support of such a claim?
2. Explain how and why the person of the Prophet Muhammad is so central to Islamic thought and practice.

### Value

The paper is out of 35, and is worth 35% of the total course mark.

### Due Date

Papers are due via email submission on **November 7<sup>th</sup>**.

### Late Assignments

Papers submitted late due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation.

### Form

1. Your paper should be **seven** full pages in length, double spaced, and written in Times New Roman font (size 12).
2. Diction is to be formal, and each piece is to be written in Canadian English. Grammar, syntax, spelling, and style must be impeccable. You may write in the first person.

3. At the top right of the first page of your paper, include the course code, your full name, and the assignment's due date. This should be in Times New Roman font (size 12).
4. When citing materials, please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

### Assignment 3

#### Instructions

Drawing on the class lectures and required readings, address **both** of the following topics. Use appropriate examples to illustrate your points.

1. How do Islam's three dimensions relate to Muslim practice, belief, and spirituality?
2. Discuss the depiction of Islam and Muslims in the contemporary world with specific reference to the video *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet*.

#### Value

Each question is out of 20 and is worth 20% of the total course mark. Thus, your entire paper is out of 40 and is worth 40% of the total course mark.

#### Due Date

Papers will be due via email submission on **December 5<sup>th</sup>**.

#### Late Assignments

Papers submitted late due to medical or other compassionate reasons must be accompanied by relevant documentation.

#### Form

1. **Each** of your answers should be **four** full pages in length, double spaced, and written in Times New Roman font (size 12). So the total number of pages for this assignment is **eight** pages.
2. Diction is to be formal, and each piece is to be written in Canadian English. Grammar, syntax, spelling, and style must be impeccable. You may write in the first person.
3. At the top right of the first page of your paper, include the course code, your full name, and the assignment's due date. This should be in Times New Roman font (size 12).
4. When citing materials, please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

