

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

Professor A. Geissinger

Office: 2A41 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 am,  
or by appointment

Office Phone: (613) 520-2600, ext. 3108

**Course Lectures**: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:35-9:55 am (446 Tory Building)

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### **Course Description**

This course is a survey of the history and development of the Islamic religious tradition. It traces Islam from its historical roots down to the present, with an emphasis on the formative and classical periods. The aim is to introduce students to key concepts, beliefs, and practices of Islam within a historical framework and taking into account the diversity of Muslim interpretations past and present, as well as to locate intra-Muslim debates about Islam within particular historical contexts.

**NOTE:** The purpose of this course is not confessional—it will not attempt to persuade you to adopt or reject a particular religious viewpoint. This course presupposes that students accept that Islam will be studied using critical methods which are employed in the academic discipline of Religious Studies.

### **Course Evaluation**

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

- In-class written analyses—20%
- Written response to a classical text—10%
- Midterm exam I—20%
- Midterm exam II—20%
- Final exam—30%

**NOTE:** Both the readings and the lectures are essential components of this course. The readings cannot substitute for the lectures—or vice versa. It is expected that all students will come to class regularly, having already done the readings.

### **Required Course Readings**

- Daniel Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. This book is available through Haven Books (43 Seneca Street, Ottawa, [www.havenbooks.ca](http://www.havenbooks.ca)).
- All other course readings are available through cuLearn. Please bring copies of them (digital or print) to class with you on the days that they are assigned.

## COURSE POLICIES

### **In-class Written Analyses and Attendance**

The written analyses are based on audiovisual materials examined in class. They will be held in class at random. Among their purposes is to grade class preparation (meaning, doing the readings before class), as well as attendance. Therefore, there is no way to make up for any in-class written analyses that you might miss. This course is designed with the assumption that students will prepare the readings before coming to class, and will attend class regularly.

### **Exams**

Exams are based on both the course readings and the materials discussed in class. Please note that there will be no make-up examination for either of the midterm exams. If you must miss one of the midterms, you must choose whether to add its value to your other midterm or to your final exam mark. In order to qualify for either of these options, you must (1) provide adequate documentation which shows why you missed the midterm, and (2) fill out a form (available in my office) asking to have the normal grade distribution changed.

In order to pass this course, you must write at least one of the midterm exams. You must also write—and pass—the final exam. These stipulations stand regardless of the quality of your work during the term.

### **The Written Response Paper**

A response paper (3-4 pages) on a classical Muslim text will be assigned. There will be a choice among several possible texts. More detailed instructions for this assignment will be provided in class. It is due on the last class (Dec. 8).

The purpose of this response paper is to develop your skills in analyzing primary sources. Therefore, this assignment is to be completed individually, and without consulting any sources other than those specified in the instructions. There is no one magic “right answer” that can be found by googling; it is the process that matters here.

### **Academic Integrity**

“Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is destructive to the values of the university, and risks harming the university’s reputation as a place of learning and innovation. Furthermore, it is unfair and discouraging to those students who pursue their studies honestly.” It is expected that all students are familiar with Carleton’s academic integrity policy. For details, see <http://carleton.ca/studentsaffairs/academic-integrity/>

### **Lateness Policy**

The response paper is due in hard copy, at the beginning of class, on the date specified in the syllabus, and will not be accepted for marking after three days beyond this date has elapsed. Late papers will be penalized by the deduction of 1 mark per day or partial day (including weekends), unless an extension has been arranged before the due date. Retroactive extensions will be granted only according to the rules of the university—personal and family emergencies (documentation must be provided). Extensions will not be granted because of exam or essay conflicts, jobs, busy schedules, etc.

Late papers can be submitted through the Religion drop box (a large locked wooden box on the wall outside 2A39 Paterson Hall). Do not put them under my (or anyone else's) door; the cleaning staff may pick them up and throw them out.

Papers that do not follow the directions given in class (in content, methodology, appearance, length) may be returned ungraded for resubmission. In such a case, late penalties will accrue from the due date, regardless of when the problem was discovered.

### **Email communication**

Please be aware that in order to ensure compliance with the federal privacy act known as FIPPA, Carleton communications policy states that faculty may only communicate with students through their Carleton Connect accounts. Therefore, ensure that any emails you may send me are from your Carleton Connect account. Otherwise, your email will not receive a response.

### **Intellectual property**

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by the professor or by students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and/or course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1

Sept. 3: Introducing the study of Islam in the discipline of Religious Studies

Reading: Brown, Chapter 1

### Week 2

Sept. 8: Pre-Islamic Arabia

Reading: Brown, Chapter 2

Sept. 10: The Near East before Islam

Reading: Brown, Chapter 3

### Week 3

Sept. 15: Muhammad in Mecca

Readings: Brown, pp. 49-58; The Qur'an, Suras 96, 105, 106, 107, 112, and 99 [link on cuLearn]

Sept. 17: The *hijra*; Muhammad in Medina

Readings: Brown, pp. 59-68; The Qur'an, Sura 5 [link on cuLearn]

### Week 4

Sept. 22: The Qur'an

Readings: Brown, Chapter 5; The Qur'an, Suras 1, 113, 114, 88, 89, 56, 20, 40, 57, 58 [link on cuLearn]

Sept. 24: Hadith and *sunna* I

Reading: Brown, Chapter 6.

### Week 5

Sept. 29: Hadith and *sunna* II

Reading: *Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadith* [link on cuLearn]

Oct. 1: \* **First midterm exam** (in class)

### Week 6

Oct. 6: The first four caliphs; the conquests

Readings: Brown, Chapter 7; Bulliet, "Conversion Stories in Early Islam" [link on cuLearn]

Oct. 8: Religion and empire

Reading: Brown, Chapter 8

## **Week 7**

Oct. 13: Caliphs, imams, sects

Reading: Brown, Chapter 9

Oct. 15: Introducing Islamic law

Reading: Brown, pp. 149-59

## **Week 8**

Oct. 20: Islamic law (cont.)

Readings: Brown, pp. 159-71; *Al-Muwatta' of Imam Malik*, chapters 42 (Drinks) and 41 (Hudud) [link on cuLearn]

Oct. 22: Key Muslim rituals

Reading: Hadith #2 of Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadith [link on cuLearn]

## **Week 9**

Oct. 27: Fall Break (no class)

Oct. 29: Fall Break (no class)

## **Week 10**

Nov. 3: Muslim theological debates

Readings: Brown, Chapter 11; Abu Hanifa's "Al-Fiqh al-Akbar" [link on cuLearn]

Nov. 5 \* **Second midterm exam** (in class)

## **Week 11**

Nov. 10: Sufism

Readings: Brown, Chapter 12; Arberry, *Muslim Saints and Mystics*: "Malek ibn Dinar" (pp. 11-18), "Habib al-'Ajami" (pp. 19-28), "Rabe'a al-'Adawiya" (pp. 29-47) [link on cuLearn]

Nov. 12: Turks, Crusaders and Mongols

Reading: Brown, Chapter 13.

## **Week 12**

Nov. 17: Pre-colonial revival and reform movements

Reading: Brown, Chapter 14.

Nov. 19: The impact of colonialism

Reading: Brown, Chapter 15.

**Week 13**

Nov. 24: Political Islam

Reading: Brown, pp. 259-270.

Nov. 26: Major trends in contemporary Muslim religious thought

Reading: Brown, pp. 270-281.

**Week 14**

Dec. 1: Classical texts, contemporary rereadings I

Dec. 3: Classical texts, contemporary rereadings II

**Week 15**

Dec. 8: Islam in the twenty-first century **\*Response paper due** (in class)

Reading: Brown, Chapter 17.

## 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 can include a final grade of “F” for the course

### GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student 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 **DEC. 7, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2016**.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 6, 2015** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2016** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
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/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library