

# RELI 2310A Islam - Summer 2020

**Instructor:** Dr. Mourad Laabdi  
**Email:** mourad.laabdi@carleton.ca  
**Office Hours:** By appointment via Zoom

## Course Description

---

This course is an introduction to Islam as religion, culture, and diverse lived experiences. Students will first examine the foundational sources of Islam (Quran and Hadith), and the role of Muhammad as historical figure and Prophet. Then, they will explore Muslims' important intellectual, cultural, and spiritual systems and achievements, including theology, law, philosophy, mysticism, and arts. In the last part of the course, students will inquire into key expressions of Muslims' encounter with modernity paying close attention to orientalism, European colonialism and Islamic revivalism, militant *jihad*, and select scholarly debates with respect to issues concerning women, democracy, and human rights.

This is an asynchronous course which means that classes will be recorded and posted on cuLearn. There will be no live, scheduled lectures online. Office hours will be held virtually via zoom by appointment.

## Course Evaluation

---

Weekly Quizzes .....	20%	(5 x 4%)
Midterm Exam.....	20%	July 26.
Book Report .....	20%	August 14.
Final Exam .....	40%	August 23.

## Course Readings

---

1. Shahab Ahmed, *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017). E-book available through Carleton library.
2. Other required readings will be made available on cuLearn.

### Optional Textbook:

Alexander Knysh, *Islam in Historical Perspective* (New York and London: Routledge, 2017), 2nd ed. E-copy can be purchased through Amazon. Students are encouraged but not required to acquire this book.

### Recommended readings:

Kecia Ali and Oliver Leaman, *Islam: The Key Concepts* (London: Routledge, 2008). Recommended for learning about the most important concepts in Islamic studies.

*The Study Quran: A New Translation and Commentary*, ed. Seyyed H. Nasr (New York: HarperOne, 2017).  
Recommended for an accessible English translation of and comparative commentary on the Quran.

## Learning Outcomes

---

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Gather, review, interpret, present and critically evaluate several arguments, assumptions and concepts related to Islam and its study.
- Engage relevant approaches to the study of Islam and apply them critically to primary sources including texts and film.
- Explain the place of Islam as a major religious and political player of the modern period.
- Enjoy informed discussion of the historical role of Islam and its contribution to human culture at multiple levels (spirituality, arts, technology, etc.).
- Express information, arguments and analyses accurately and with clarity in writing.

## Note on Course Load and Readings

---

This is an intensive summer course which compacts in just seven weeks the material and content which is normally covered over twelve or thirteen weeks. This requires doubling your effort to meet the learning outcomes and objectives outlined above and gain the necessary basic knowledge of the subject matter of this course.

As a student in this course, you are expected to read on your own and absorb all assigned readings, watch the lectures posted on cuLearn, and cover any other material assigned by the instructor. This will help you do well on your quizzes and exams.

Materials labeled “optional” or “further readings” are not required, however they are recommended for anyone who wants to deepen their knowledge of the subject of Islam and its study.

When you read, do not read simply for content, but try to identify the goal of the authors, who they are responding to, how they develop their thesis and arguments, what evidence they provide to sustain it, and if their narrative agrees or conflicts with what you know about the topic, etc. Reading is your first step toward doing well in this course.

## Important Dates and Deadlines

---

July 2:	Course begins
July 5:	Quiz 1 Due
July 17:	Last day to withdraw from the course with a full fee adjustment
July 12:	Quiz 2 Due
July 19:	Quiz 3 Due
July 26:	Midterm Exam
August 2:	Quiz 4 Due
August 9:	Quiz 5 Due
August 14:	Book Report Due
August 23:	Final Exam

## Course Requirements

---

### 1. Quizzes (20%)

Students will write 5 weekly quizzes. Each quiz is worth 4% of your grade, covers all assigned readings per week, lectures posted on cuLearn, and any other assigned material, including external videos. Quizzes will be written **within a 48-hour window at the end of each week**. For more details, see “Reading Reflections Guidelines” on cuLearn and see “Lecture Schedule” below for exempt weeks.

### 2. Midterm Exam (20 %)

The mid-term will be written **within a 24-hour window on July 26 through cuLearn**. Exam format will be multiple choice and/or short answers. Questions will be based only on the lectures posted on cuLearn and assigned readings. Material from optional readings will not be part of the midterm. See the “Midterm Guide” on cuLearn for details.

### 3. Book Report (20%)

Everything you need to know about the Book Report can be found in the “Book Report Guidelines” posted on cuLearn. In a nutshell, students will read the first chapter of Shahab Ahmed’s book, *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic*, then reflect on it. This chapter will be uploaded to cuLearn.

In this chapter, Ahmed engages with six situations that complicate the notion of “Islam” and “being Islamic.” From these six situations, you will choose only one situation to reflect upon. Students will have the option of using one or two scholarly sources that address the same question to help you develop an informed discussion. If they do so, they will receive a bonus of up to 10 points added to their essay mark. Reports are **due on cuLearn by August 14**.

### 4. Final Exam (40%)

The final exam has the same format of the midterm. Students must prepare all materials that have been covered in class from the first to the last week, except for the optional readings. See “Final Exam Guide” on cuLearn for details.

## Course Website and Submission Matters

---

### 1. Course Website:

The course website on [cuLearn](#) is your main resource. There, you will find key updates, announcements and all necessary information about the course, including the syllabus, instructor’s contact information, and more. All announcements will be sent to your Carleton account ending with [carleton.ca](#). Please, consult this account regularly to stay informed of important updates.

### 2. Book Report File Format and Submission:

Book Reports must be submitted as **Microsoft Word only** (.doc or .docx). If you are a Mac user, please convert your documented (which most likely has PAGES extension) into WORD. PDF files will be graded but will not receive in-text feedback.

Reports must be uploaded on their designated folder on cuLearn. Log in to cuLearn, open the “Book Report” tab, and upload it. It is your responsibility to submit your assignments on time. Please take extra time to do this as no exception will be made for students who run into last minute technical problems, such as internet service ruptures, cuLearn temporarily out of work, or your laptop breaking down, which are common excuses.

### 3. System of Source Citation:

The citation style used in this course is Chicago Notes and Bibliography. You are required to use it in all written assignment that ask for citations. You can access it directly at:

[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html)

## Note on Missing Tests and Late Penalty

---

Given the intensive format of this course and that you will be granted a 48-hour window for submitting the quiz and a 24-hour window for submitting the midterm and final exams, **late submissions will not be accepted**. All assignments are expected to be submitted by their due dates.

Exceptions will be made only for students who provide a legitimate reason AND can document it. A legitimate reason may include illness, injury, or a compassionate reason, such as the death of a relative, etc. This rule applies to all assignments, including the quizzes, midterm, book report, and final exam.

**Quizzes are due by 7:00 PM on their due dates.** They cannot be taken past this time since cuLearn will automatically disable the submission option. Missing a quiz without a legitimate reason will result in a grade of zero.

**The Book Reports are due by 11:55 PM on their due date.** Assignments submitted late without a legitimate reason will be deducted 10% of their mark per day including weekends. Extension requests must be joined with justificatory documents and must be communicated to the instructor *well before the due date, not after.*

**The Midterm Exam is due by 7:00 PM on its due date.** They cannot be taken past this time since cuLearn will automatically disable the submission option. Missing the midterm without a legitimate reason will result in a grade of zero.

**The Final Exam is due by 7:00 PM on its due date.** If for some reason cannot take the Final Exam, you will need to speak with the registrar's office.

## Protocols and Etiquettes

---

### 1. Emailing the Instructor:

Always use your Carleton account and insert the course code followed by a precise title in the subject box (RELI2310: Question about Reflection 2). Emails sent via other operators (gmail, Hotmail, etc.) risk being spammed and not read. I respond to emails within 1-2 business days, but it may take longer under special circumstances. Please, save your questions only for things that you cannot find *easily* in the syllabus and/or cuLearn.

### 2. Teaching Assistant:

If a TA is assigned in this course, their contact information will be included in the syllabus and the course website. A TA is a skillful individual devoted to help you with your learning. Take advantage of their skills and interact with them respectfully. Email the TA only about things that they will involved with, especially marking essays and exams. For questions about attendance, reflections, exams, lectures and cuLearn, email me your queries directly or request a virtual meeting. I will be happy to set up a zoom meeting

### 3. Class Forum Behavior:

The Class Forum on cuLearn is a space where every student should feel safe and included. Formative dialogue is highly encouraged, and open-mindedness is expected. Respect for each other's differences and different views will be always sustained. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

## Lectures Schedule

Lecture	Themes and Topics	Covered Readings	Assignments
July 2-5	1. Introduction to the course 2. Orientalism	1. The Syllabus 2. Edward Said, <i>Orientalism</i> (assigned excerpt on cuLearn)	Quiz 1 <b>(Due on July 5)</b>
July 6-12	1. The Beginnings of Islam 2. Quran and Sunna	1. Ali, "Wife of Muhammad," (on cuLearn) 2. Matson, "How to Read the Quran" (on cuLearn)  <u>Further Reading (optional):</u> 1. Knysh, Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6	Quiz 2 <b>(Due on July 12)</b>
July 13-19	1. Division in the Muslim community 2. God's Law: Shari'a	1. Ibn Khaldun, " <i>Muqaddima</i> ," (on cuLearn) 2. "Book Report Guidelines" (on cuLearn)  <u>Further Reading:</u> Knysh, Chapters 7, 9, 11.	Quiz 3 <b>(Due on July 19)</b>
July 20-26	1. Islamic Theology and Philosophy 2. Mysticism and Spirituality	<u>Optional Reading:</u> Knysh, Chapters 10, 14, 15.	Midterm Exam <b>(Due on July 26)</b>
July 27 – Aug. 2	1. Contributions to Arts and Science 2. Writing Workshop	"Book Report Guidelines" (posted on cuLearn)  <u>Optional Reading:</u> Knysh, Chapter 17.	Quiz 4 <b>(Due on Aug. 2)</b>
Aug. 3-9	1. Women in/and Islam 2. Encountering Modernity	1. Shepard, Chapter 21 (cuLearn)  <u>Further Reading:</u> 2. Knysh, Chapters 18, 21, 22.	Quiz 5 <b>(Due on Aug. 9)</b>
Aug. 10-16	1. Islam Reinterpreted 2. Final Overview	<u>Further Reading:</u> Knysh, Chapters 23, 24.	Book Report <b>(Due on Aug. 14)</b>
Aug. 23	<b>Final Exam</b>		

\* This syllabus maybe subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor. A change cannot affect any of the main components that contribute to the students' grade but can affect secondary components such as a reading or film due to for example accessibility issues. Students will always be consulted and notified of such changes well in advance.

\* Students must complete all components to obtain credit in this class. No assignment will be reweighed.



## University Regulations for All College of the 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.

### Academic Integrity at Carleton

---

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

### Academic Accommodation Policy

---

#### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the instructor 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Religious obligation:** write to the instructor 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

## **Grading System at Carleton University**

---

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System](#)

## **Course Sharing Websites and Copyright**

---

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and 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 course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

## Statement on Class Conduct

---

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

## Deferred Term Work

---

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

## Deferred Final Exams

---

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made. [More information.](#)

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online to the Registrar's Office no later than **three working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to the [Registrar's Office](#).

## Withdrawal From Courses

---

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#).

## Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

---

**Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!**

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. [More information](#)

## Department Contact Information

---

**College of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for RELI and SAST Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

**Registrar's Office** 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

## Student Resources on Campus

---

[CUKnowHow Website](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)