

Carleton University
RELI 2310-A: Islam
Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:35-9:55 am (Fall 2011)

Professor A. Geissinger
2A41 Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Thursdays 9-11 am, or by appointment

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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 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 to provide them with more general frameworks for understanding Muslim history.

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 Objectives

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

- give a general outline of the history of Islam which includes major personalities, developments and themes, and shows awareness of their various social contexts
- describe key Muslim beliefs and practices, taking into account the diversity of Muslim interpretations past and present
- locate inter-Muslim debates about Islam within particular historical contexts

Course Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

- Qur'an assignment—10%
- Mid-term exam—25%
- Visitation assignment—10%
- In-class "one-minute essays" and pop quizzes—20%
- Final exam—35%

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.

The in-class "one-minute" essays and pop quizzes are based on the readings and lecture materials, and they mark both regular class attendance and reading preparation. Therefore, no make-up tests or other substitutions for them will be permitted.

Required Course Readings

- Alexander Knysh, *Islam in Historical Perspective* (Prentice-Hall, 2011)
- *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*, trans. Michael Sells (White Cloud Press, 2007).
- The links to all other readings are available through WebCT.

Course Policies

Exams

The mid-term and final exams will be made up of short-answer (i.e. define and explain the significance of...) and essay questions.

Please note that there will be no make-up examination for the mid-term. If you must miss the mid-term, you must choose whether to add the 25% value of this exam to your final exam, or to your written assignments mark (which is 20% in total). 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 pass the final exam. This stipulation stands regardless of the quality of your work during the rest of the term.

Written Assignments

More detailed instructions for these assignments will be provided in class.

- Ensure that you know what **plagiarism** is, and how to avoid it. For details, see: <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>
If you are in any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, ask.
- **Assignments are due** in hard copy, at the beginning of class, on the dates specified in the syllabus. Late papers will be penalized by the deduction of 2% 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 to me in my office, or put in the drop box at the Religion and Classics Department (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.
- Be sure to **keep a hard copy** of your paper, and do a computer/disk back-up as well. Please submit the original for marking, not a photo-copy.
- **If you have never written a paper like this** before, you are strongly urged to contact the Student Academic Success Centre:
<http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/writing-resources/>

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.

Class and Reading Schedule

Week 1

Sept. 12: Introduction to the course

Sept. 14: The world before Islam; pre-Islamic Arabia

Reading: Knysh, Chapter One

Week 2

Sept. 19: Muhammad in Mecca

Readings: Knysh, pp. 18-23; Sells, 5-11, 96-97, 48-95, 106-25, 128-29, 136-37.

Sept. 21: The *hijra*; Muhammad in Medina

Readings: Knysh, pp. 24-34; The Qur'an, Suras 5, 13, 22 and 62 (WebCT)

Week 3

Sept. 26: After Muhammad

Readings: Knysh, Chapter Three; Bulliet, "Conversion Stories in Early Islam" (WebCT)

Sept. 28: The *fitna* wars; the establishment of the Umayyad dynasty

Reading: Knysh, Chapter 4; "Walking Tour of the Haram al-Sharif" (WebCT)

Week 4

Oct. 3: The Qur'an

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 5; The Qur'an, sura 2 (WebCT)

Oct. 5: Hadith and *Sunna*

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 6; *Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadith* (WebCT)

Week 5

Oct. 12: Basic beliefs and practices

*** Qur'an assignment due today (in class)**

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 17; Hadith #2 in *Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadith* (WebCT)

Week 6

Oct. 17

*** Mid-term exam** (in class)

Oct. 19: The Party of 'Ali; debating leadership and community

Readings: Knysh, Chapters 7 and 8

Week 7

Oct. 24: Introducing Islamic law

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 9; *Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadith*, numbers: 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 20, 27, 30, 33; *Al-Muwatta' of Imam Malik*, chapters 5 (Jumu'a), 25 (Game) (WebCT)

Oct. 26: Introducing Muslim theology

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 10

Week 8:

Oct. 31: The Zaydis and the Ithna Ash'ari Shi'is

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 11; Schubel, "Karbala as sacred space among North American Shi'a" (WebCT)

Nov. 2: The Isma'ilis

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 12

Week 9

Nov. 7: Ascetic movements; pietism

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 13; *Forty Hadith Qudsi* (WebCT)

Nov. 9: Sufism

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 14

Week 9

Nov. 14: Knowledge transmission; the *ulama*'

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 16

Nov. 16: "Islam" and "the West" through a historical lens

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 20; "Walking tour of the Alhambra" (WebCT)

Week 10

Nov. 21: Mosques and places of worship

Readings: Knysh, Chapter 18

Nov. 23: Visitation

Week 11

Nov. 28: Renewal and reform movements; Islamism * **Visitation assignment due** (in class)

Readings: Knysh, Chapters 22 and 23; follow links posted on WebCT

Nov. 30: Liberalism; jihadism

Readings: Knysh, Chapters 24 and 25

Week 12

Dec. 5: Future directions?

Reading: Blomfield, "Hijab, Hip-hop, and Haram" (WebCT)

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. 5, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2012**.

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/

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.11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: 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 assignments 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 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library