

**COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELIGION PROGRAM: RELI 2310A
ISLAM**

Instructor:	Dr. Matthew A. MacDonald	E-mail:	Matthew_MacDonald@carleton.ca
Office:	2A35 Paterson Hall	Office hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 15:00 – 17:30, or by appointment
Office Phone:	613-520-2600 ext. 2103	Location:	Southam Hall, room 318
Lectures:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 18:05 – 20:55		

Instructor reserves the right to modify this course outline up to and including the first scheduled class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course promises students a comprehensive introduction to Islam and what it means to be Muslim. Combining phenomenological and historical approaches to the study of Islam, we will focus on the historical, theological, philosophical, and political development of Islam from the revelation of the Qur'an to the present.

Students will learn about Arabia prior to the advent of Islam and the historical context in which the tradition of Islam first developed; the Qur'an and its exegesis; the Prophet Muhammad and Prophetic traditions; and mysticism, law, art, music, and science in Islam. The course will attempt to strike a balance between understanding Islam in historical context and helping students gain a deep appreciation for what Islam means to Muslims. The course will also emphasize contemporary and relatively recent developments in Islam, including common non-Muslim and Western perceptions of Islam and Muslims; the encounter between Islam and the modern world; and the relationship between Islam and politics.

This course should be of great interest to all students who are interested in learning about Islam, including those who have no knowledge of Islam as well as those who wish to deepen their knowledge. The course will consist of lectures that will allow time for open discussion as well as occasional audiovisual presentations and movies. **The general approach to studying Islam in this course is non-confessional, critical, scholarly, and intended to be respectful. At no time should students feel pressured, or be pressured, to change their personal beliefs about religion.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- describe the historical development of the tradition of Islam
- explain some issues associated with the problem of defining Islam and saying what it means to be Muslim
- identify and explain the five pillars of Islam, as well as some other important Muslim beliefs and practices, and explain their significance for Muslims
- discuss the nature of the Qur'an and its significance for Muslims
- discuss who the Prophet Muhammad was, both as a historical figure and from a Muslim perspective
- explain and discuss some of the major issues that faced the early Muslim community
- discuss some aspects of mysticism in Islam
- explain and discuss the significance of differences between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims
- explain and discuss the role of law in Islam and the modern controversy over the meaning and application of *sharia* (Islamic law)
- explain and discuss some of the challenges associated with the encounter between Islam and the modern world

REQUIRED TEXTS

Available at the Carleton University Bookstore

Daniel W. Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam*, 2nd Edition (West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009). Approximately \$50.

Sachiko Murata and William Chittick, *The Vision of Islam* (St. Paul: Paragon House, 1994). Approximately \$20. Later re-prints and the 2006 revised edition, published by I. B. Tauris, are also acceptable.

COURSE EVALUATION

Report on Media Representations of Islam and Muslims: 15% DUE 22 MAY 2012

The media frequently discuss Islam and Muslims in a variety of contexts, whether positively or negatively. Write a 1000-word reflection and critique on a particular television broadcast or a newspaper, magazine, or significant and serious blog article whose focus is Islam or Muslims in some specific way. Discuss the original broadcast or article in detail and explain how it represents Islam and Muslims. Does it offer an accurate portrayal of Islam and Muslims in your view? If so, how does it contribute to understanding about Islam and Muslims and how could it be improved, if at all? If not, what is inaccurate or otherwise problematic about it? How would the overall argument advanced in it change if these inaccuracies or problems were corrected? More detailed instructions will be given in class.

Mosque Visitation Assignment (in groups of two): 15% DUE 5 JUNE 2012

In groups of two (with the possibility of one group of three), students will visit a mosque for Friday prayers and write a 1000-word report on their experience. More detailed instructions will be given in class.

In-Class Test: 30% 7 JUNE 2012

10 multiple-choice questions, 5 short-answer/definition questions, and three short essay questions from a choice of four (600–800 words for each short essay response). More detailed instructions will be given in class.

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP TEST. *Instead, the grade distribution for students who miss the in-class test for properly documented medical or other reasons acceptable on compassionate grounds (such as the death of loved one or a seriously ill child or family member) will be altered as follows: Report on Media Representations of Islam and Muslims (25%), Mosque Visitation Assignment (25%), Final Research Paper (50%). **Students who miss the in-class test without proper medical documentation will receive 0% for the test.***

Final Research Paper: 40% DUE 19 JUNE 2012

2200 to 2800 words. Instructions will be given in class.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

A PENALTY OF 10% WILL APPLY FOR EACH DAY ANY ASSIGNMENT IS LATE WITHOUT AN EXTENSION AUTHORIZED BY THE INSTRUCTOR PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE AND FOR VALID MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.

ASSIGNMENTS MORE THAN FOUR (4) DAYS OVERDUE (WEEKENDS SHALL COUNT AS A SINGLE DAY) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A GRADE OF 0%.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNMENTS WITHIN AT MOST FOUR (4) DAYS OF THE DUE DATE (WITHOUT MEDICAL OR OTHER ACCEPTABLE EXCEPTION) WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE. THUS, EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT CONFIDENT IN THE QUALITY OF YOUR WORK, IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO SUBMIT YOUR ASSIGNMENT AND RISK FAILING IT THAN NOT SUBMITTING IT AND AUTOMATICALLY FAILING THE ENTIRE COURSE.

COURSE OUTLINE

Tuesday, 7 May 2012: *Different Approaches to Islam*

Please read: Brown, "Chapter 1: Islam in Global Perspective," pp. 3–18
Murata and Chittick, "Preface," pp. ix–xiii
Murata and Chittick, "Introduction," pp. xiv–xxxix

Thursday, 10 May 2012: *The Historical Context and the Birth of a Prophet*

Please read: Brown, "Chapter 2: Arabia," pp. 19–32
Brown, "Chapter 3: The Pre-Islamic Near East," pp. 33–48
Brown, "Chapter 4: The Life of Muhammad," pp. 49–68

Tuesday, 15 May 2012: *The Qur'an and the Birth of a Tradition*

Please read: Brown, "Chapter 5: The Qur'an," pp. 69–87
Brown, "Chapter 6: The Tradition Literature," pp. 88–102
Murata and Chittick, "Part I: Islam," pp. 3–7
Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 1: The Five Pillars," pp. 8–27
Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 2: The Historical Embodiment of Islam," pp. 28–34

Today, we will also watch the documentary *Inside Mecca*.

Thursday, 17 May 2012: *The First Shahadah*

Please read: Murata and Chittick, "Part II: Iman," pp. 37–44
Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 3: Tawhid," pp. 45–131

Tuesday, 22 May 2012: *The Second Shahadah*

DUE TODAY: Report on Media Representations of Islam and Muslims

Please read: Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 4: Prophecy," pp. 132–192
Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 5: The Return," pp. 193–235

Thursday, 24 May 2012: *From Imam to Ihsan*

Please read: Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 6: The Intellectual Schools," pp. 236–264
Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 7: The Koranic Roots of *Ihsan*," pp. 267–294
Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 8: The Historical Manifestations of *Ihsan*," pp. 267–294

Tuesday, 29 May 2012: *The Expansion of Islam*

Please read: Brown, "Chapter 7: The Conquests," pp. 105–112
Brown, "Chapter 8: Religion and Empire," pp. 113–128
Brown, "Chapter 9: The Caliphate," pp. 129–146

Thursday, 31 May 2012: *Islam and Modernity*

Please read: Brown, "Chapter 14: Revival and Reform," pp. 234–248
Brown, "Chapter 15: Islam and the West," pp. 249–258

Tuesday, 5 June 2012: *Islam in the West*

DUE TODAY: Mosque Visitation Assignment

Today, we will watch the documentary *New Muslim Cool* and have an open discussion of it. This will be followed by a review for the upcoming in-class test.

Thursday, 7 June 2012: *IN-CLASS TEST TODAY*

Tuesday, 12 June 2012: *Islam Today*

Please read: Brown, "Chapter 16: The Turbulent Twentieth Century," pp. 259–281
Brown, "Chapter 17: Islam in the Twenty-First Century," pp. 282–298

Thursday, 14 June 2012: *Islam in History*

Please read: Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 9: History as Interpretation," pp. 321–328
Murata and Chittick, "Chapter 10: History as Interpretation," pp. 329–335

Tuesday, 19 June 2012: *Reflections on the Study of Islam and Suggestions for Future Study*

DUE TODAY: Final Research Paper

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 **EARLY SUMMER** courses is **JUNE 19, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from **FULL SUMMER and LATE SUMMER** courses is **AUGUST 15, 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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

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