

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **RELI 2320 A - Islam In the Modern World (Winter 2020)**

**Dr. Mourad Laabdi**

This course focuses on the multifaceted, dynamic and complex presence of Islam in the modern world. It covers diverse aspects of the development of Islam as faith, practice and political doctrine over the past two centuries giving more attention to Islam and Muslims in the West. The course examines two particular expressions of Islam's encounter with modernity. The first is Islam's resurgence in politics. Students will explore the origins and ramifications of various Islamic revivalist movements, as well as key current issues such as the Arab Spring, return of authoritarianism and the Islamic State (formerly called ISIS). The second is the ongoing struggle for reforming Islam and interpreting tradition. Students will investigate competing Muslim voices from an array of backgrounds —religious, legal, social, political, intellectual, spiritual, etc. Throughout the course, we will draw on primary and secondary sources as well as various forms of popular culture, especially film.