

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELIGION PROGRAM: RELI 2310A WINTER 2010
Islam**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:35-9:55 am (Winter 2010)

Professor A. Geissinger
2A57 Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Mondays 11:00-1:00 pm, or by appointment

Email: Aisha_Geissinger@carleton.ca
Office Phone: (613) 520-2600, ext. 3108

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:

Mid-term exam—15 % each

Map quiz—10%

Reading quizzes (in class)—30%

Webservation—15%

Final exam—30%

Required Course Readings

- William Shepard, *Introducing Islam* (London and New York: Routledge, 2009).
- *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*, trans. Michael Sells (White Cloud Press, 2007).
- *Al-Ghazali's Path to Sufism: His Deliverance from Error (al-Munqidh min al-Dalal) and Five Key Texts*, trans. R.J. McCarthy (Fons Vitae, 2000), 2nd ed.
- All other readings are available through WebCT.

Class and Reading Schedule

I. Islam's historical development

Week 1: Jan. 4, 6

Lecture topics: Introduction to the course; the world before Islam

Reading: Shepard, ch. 2

Week 2: Jan. 11, 13

Lecture topics: Pre-Islamic Arabia; Muhammad's career

Readings: Shepard, ch. 3; Selections from the Sira (WebCT)

Week 3: Jan. 18, 20

Lecture topics: After Muhammad—Conflict and consolidation; expansion and empires

Reading: Shepard, ch. 4

II. Key aspects of Islam

Week 4: Jan. 25, 27 * **Jan 25—Map quiz**

Lecture topics: The Quran; the Meccan suras

Reading: Sells, pp. 1-149

Week 5: Feb. 1, 3

Lecture topics: The Quran; the Medinan suras

Readings: Shepard, ch. 5; Suras 3, 5, 13, 22 and 62 (WebCT)

Week 6: Feb 8, 10 * **Feb. 8—mid-term exam**

Lecture topics: Muhammad as an exemplar; the Hadith and the Sunna

Readings: Shepard, ch. 6; *Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadith* (WebCT)

Week 7: Feb 15-19—winter break

Week 8: Feb. 22, 24

Lecture topics: Muslim beliefs and rituals

Readings: Hadith #2 in *Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadith* (the "Hadith of Gabriel"); Sells, pp. 150-151; Shepard, ch. 7

Week 9: March 1, 3

Lecture topics: Sectarian divisions; the development of the scholarly tradition

Readings: Sells, pp. 152-155; Shepard, chs. 8 and 9

Week 9: March 8, 10

Lecture topics: Islamic law (Sharia) and the formation of the law schools

Readings: Shepard, ch. 10; *Al-Muwatta' of Imam Malik*, chapters 5 (Jumu'a), 25 (Game), 36 (Judgments), and 37 (Wills and Testaments) (WebCT)

Week 10: March 15, 17

Lecture topics: theology and philosophy; Sufism

Readings: Shepard, chs. 11, 12 and 13

III. (Some) Muslim experiences of Islam

Week 11: March 22, 24 * **March 24—Webservation due**

Lecture topics: searches for salvation; Muslim pietism

Readings: Al-Ghazali, pp. 15-80; "Forty Hadith Qudsi" (WebCT)

Week 12: March 29, 31

Lecture topics: contemporary Muslim debates; globalization

Readings: Shepard, chs. 15, 17 and 20

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
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 November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR 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 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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 are 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 I receive 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: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library