

History 313/513 History of Islam

Tuesdays, Thursdays 11:00 AM -12:15 PM CCC 224

Final Exam Period: Wednesday, May 17, 2018, 8:00-10:00 AM CC 224

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Office Hours (Spring 2019): Mondays 12:45-1:45, Tuesdays 9:45-10:45, Thursdays 9:45-10:45
and by appointment

OVERVIEW

This course aims to introduce students to the development of Islamic religious beliefs and the practice of Islam from the time of the Prophet Muhammad (ca. 7th century CE) to the present. One of the main goals is to illustrate the diversity of these beliefs and practices over time and across the world. Another is to demonstrate the development of Islam in its historical context.

**NOTE: This syllabus, like all learning, is a work in progress and subject to change.
I will notify students of all changes in class, by email, and/or through Canvas.**

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this class, students will be better able to:

1. formulate reflective, informed, and sympathetic evaluations of Islamic beliefs and practices.
2. use primary sources to answer questions about historical change in Islam
3. describe differences among interpretations of the Islamic past.
4. analyze institutional and cultural changes in Islam and in Muslim communities over time.
5. describe what the disciplines of history and religious studies each contribute to understanding the development of Islam.
6. explain the benefits of being able to combine the contributions of two different disciplines in examining a topic.

BOOKS AND READINGS

Required Books

Aslan, Reza. *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam*. Rental text. Required.

Ernst, Carl. *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World*. \$24.00. Required.

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. 9th edition. \$25.44. Required

Williams, John, editor. *The Word of Islam*. \$24.95. Required.

NOTE: Additional required readings will be distributed through Electronic Reserves (eReserves). Students must have a copy of the day's assigned reading with them when they come to class.

Additional Recommended Texts:

You are not required to purchase these texts, but you may find them useful. These are available through Text Rental or through the UWSP Library:

Egger, Vernon. *A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization*.
(Rental Textbook for History 232. Available through Textbook Rental as of Week 3.)

The Quran: A New Translation. Translated by M.A. S. Abdel Haleem. \$18.00. Available from Amazon.com. The eBook is also available from the UWSP Library

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

“Say, ‘Only what God has decreed will happen to us.
He is our Master: let the believers put their trust in God.’” Qur’an 9:63

This schedule is subject to change. As your instructor, I will take responsibility for announcing all such changes clearly, both in class and through the course Canvas page. I expect that you will take responsibility for keeping informed of these changes by attending class and checking Canvas.

Week	Date	No.	Topic and Readings
1			
	T, 1/22	1	Introduction to Class
	Th, 1/24		Islamophobia Readings: Ernst, Preface Ernst, Ch. 1, “Islam in the Eyes of the West,” 1-36
2			
	T, 1/29	2	Approaching Islam in Terms of History: A Brief Survey of Islam in World History Rampolla, Ch. 1, “Why Study History?” Rampolla, Sect. 3a, “Reading Actively in History”
	Th, 1/31	3	Islam in Religious Studies Ernst, Ch. 2, “Approaching Islam in Terms of Religion,” 37-70
3			
	T, 2/5	4	Sacred Sources of Islam: Muhammad (Film) Film: <i>Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet</i> (in class)
	Th, 2/7	5	Sacred Sources: Muhammad (Film and Discussion) Film: <i>Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet</i> (in class) Aslan, Ch. 1, “The Sanctuary in the Desert: Pre-Islamic Arabia” Aslan, Ch. 2, “The Keeper of the Keys: Muhammad in Mecca” Aslan, Ch. 3: “The City of the Prophet: The First Muslims” Aslan, Ch. 4: “Fight in the Way of God” Ernst, Ch. 3, “The Sacred Sources of Islam,” 71-92 Williams, 38-40, 43-46, 56, 59-60, 63-65 Rampolla, Ch. 2, “Working with Sources” <i>Optional: Remainder of Williams, Ch. 2.</i>

Week	Date	No.	Topic and Readings
4			
	T, 2/12	6	Sacred Sources: Muhammad (Discussion) Rampolla, Sect. 3f
	Th, 2/14	7	EXAM 1
5			
	T, 2/19	8	Sacred Sources: The Quran Ernst, Ch. 3, "The Sacred Sources of Islam," 93-105 Williams, 8-14, 23-26
	Th, 2/21	9	Sacred Sources: The Quran Williams, 14-23, 26-31, 3-35 Rampolla, Sect. 4a, 4b, 5a
6			
	T, 2/26	10	Sharia: Method and the Question of Forbidden Beverages Aslan, 60-66 (review), 164-173 ¹ Ernst, 107-119 (from) Ch. 4, "Ethics and Life in the World," Williams, 56-65, 163-167, 102-104 eReserve: Quran 2:219, 4:43, 5:90-91
	Th, 2/28	11	Sharia in Practice <i>Inside Mecca</i> (in class) Williams, 85-87
7			
	T, 3/5	12	Sharia: The Five Pillars of Islam Aslan, 146-153 ¹ Williams, 66-87, 87-107 eReserve: Kesvani, Hussein. "7 Things I learned about Myself While Fasting This Ramadan." <i>Buzzfeed</i> . 16 July, 2015.
	Th, 3/7	13	Sharia: Women's Issues, Then and Now Ernst, 142-151 Williams, 87-92, 99-101 Additional Readings TBA
8			
	T, 3/12	14	Topic and Readings To Be Announced
	Th, 3/14	15	History Day. Class Does Not Meet.
			SPRING BREAK 3/16/19-3/24/19
9			
	T, 3/26	16	Topic and Readings To Be Announced
	Th, 3/28	17	Exam 2

¹ Page numbers are given from the paperback edition. The exact pages will be slightly different for the hardback edition.

Week	Date	No.	Topic and Readings
10			
	T, 4/2	18	Special Visit: Churches for Middle East Peace
	Th, 4/4	19	Sectarian Differences: The Historical Background Aslan, Ch. 5: "The Rightly Guided Ones" Aslan, 174-182 (from Ch. 7, "In the Footsteps of Martyrs") Williams, 51-56, 170-172
11			
	T, 4/9	20	Sectarianism and Theology Aslan, 152-157 ¹ , 182-191 Ernst, 168-174 Williams, 92-96, 140-142, 151-154, Williams, 172-178, 192-196, 198-199
	Th, 4/11	21	Sufism: Origins and Introduction Aslan, Ch. 8: "Stain Your Prayer Rug with Wine" Ernst, 164-168 (from Ch. 5, "Spirituality in Practice") Williams, 43-46, 110-115 Quran 2:153, 7:205-206, 24:36-37, 33:41-44, 76:25-26 (eReserves)
12	T, 4/16	22	Sufism: Controversy and Institutions Ernst, 174-182 (from CH. 5, "Spirituality in Practice") Williams, 116-121, 123-127, 133-136, 137-139, 163-164, 167-168 Suhrawardi, "A Sufi Rule for Novices (Selections)" (eReserves)
	Th, 4/18	23	Islam and Modern Politics, Part I Aslan, Ch. 9, "An Awakening in the East" Ernst, 131-142 Qutb, Sayyid, "Jihad in the Cause of God" (eReserves)
13	T, 4/23	24	Islam and Modern Politics, Part II Aslan, 191-198 Aslan, Ch. 10 (255-277): "Slouching toward Medina"
	Th, 4/25	25	The Future of Islam Aslan, Ch. 11 (278-292): "Welcome to the Islamic Reformation" New ways of Interpreting Islam Ernst, Postscript (199-214): Reimagining Islam in the Twenty-First Century
14	T, 4/30	26	Catch-Up and Review
	Th, 5/2	27	Exam 3 In Class
	F, 5/3		UWSP Conferences: The Mediterranean: Past, Present, and Future CoLS Student Research Symposium
15	T, 5/7	28	Discussion: Islam, the Mediterranean, and Scholarship
	Th, 5/9	29	Thursday, 5/9/19: Class does not meet in lieu of Alternate Assignment: Writing Day
16	W, 5/15		Exam Period: 8:00-10:00 AM May 15 Final Paper due 10:00 AM

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Final course grades will be assigned on a percentage basis:

	A 93.0%+	A- 90.0%+	Exceptional or exemplary work.
B+ 87.0%+	B 83.0%+	B- 80.0%+	Very good work. Above average.
C+ 77.0%+	C 73.0%+	C- 70.0%+	Acceptable work. Meets minimum requirements.
D+ 67.0%+	D 63.0%+	F 0-62.9%	Does not meet minimum requirements.

The university does not recognize a grade of D-, so any grade of less than 63.0% will result in a grade of F for the course. Grades will be based on completion of the following assignments:

ASSIGNMENT	DEADLINE	POINTS	GRADE%
EXAMS			
Exam 1	Week 4 (2/14)	100	19%
Exam 2	Week 9 (3/28)	100	19%
Exam 3	Week 14 (5/2)	100	19%
WRITING			
Proposal	Week 6 (2/26)	25	5%
Annotated Bibliography	Week 11 (4/9)	50	10%
Final Draft	Week 16/ Finals (5/17)	100	19%
Professionalism	Ongoing	50	10%
Short Assignments	Ongoing	12 each	*No more than 10%
TOTAL		525	100%

Professionalism

College is your gateway into the working world, so I will follow practices of common courtesy and professionalism expected in the workplace and will hold you to those standards. This will be reflected in your professionalism grade. Aspects of your professionalism grade will include **attendance, preparation, courtesy, participation, and academic honesty**. I will post a detailed rubric on Canvas. I will assess students' professionalism three times during the semester.

Exams

There will be three scheduled in-class exams during the course of the semester. These will be "blue book" exams in which you will be asked for several short answers (e.g., definitions) and 1-2 longer essays. Study guides will be available for all exams beforehand.

Research Paper

A major part of your grade will be based on your completion of a major research paper (ca. 10-15 pages long) dealing with some aspect of the history of Islam. This project is broken down into a number of steps in order to assist you. The different parts of the paper include:

- A proposal, including a preliminary bibliography.
- An annotated bibliography.
- The final paper

As individual deadlines approach, I will distribute prompts with more specific information on what is expected in each section.

Short Assignments

From time to time, I will create short assignments to be completed in class or before coming to class. These assignments may be graded or pass/fail. The total value of these assignments will not exceed 10% of your final grade.

COMMUNICATION

Office Hours

Please visit me in my office (463 CCC), especially if there are things you don't understand in the class or if you are experiencing any other difficulties. I hold regular office hours every week at times listed on the first page of the syllabus. At those times I am always available to students. If you are not available during my scheduled office hours, I am always happy to schedule an appointment.

Canvas Discussion Boards.

I also encourage you to contact me on the Canvas Discussion Boards for any question that is not strictly personal. If you have a question, there's a good chance several other students have it too! I check the Canvas Discussion Boards at least once a day, Monday through Friday. This means I will usually respond to any question within "one business day," even if I do not have a definitive answer.

Email.

Regularly check your university provided email account (e.g., spointer@uwsp.edu). This is the account I will use for any formal communication related to this class. As with the Discussion Boards, I will check my campus email account (efrancis@uwsp.edu) at least once a day, Monday through Friday. While the Canvas Discussion Boards are the best place for most questions, email is a better medium for questions that apply only to you (e.g., requests for extensions). To preserve student privacy, I will not discuss grades over email, as a rule.

Netiquette

In addition to common courtesy, I ask that all students follow some basic principles of "netiquette" in email exchanges. Furthermore, I recommend these principles in all of your academic emails.

- Briefly identify yourself. (For instance, give your name and mention the class you have with the professor). Your professors receive numerous emails every day and may have hundreds of students. This makes it difficult to identify emails simply signed "Dave" or "Sally."
- Always use appropriate terms of address. I prefer to be addressed as "Dr. Francis" or "Professor Francis." I recommend you follow this pattern with your other professors, unless they tell you otherwise.
- Always include a relevant subject heading, such as a brief summary of your concern or even the course number or course name.

COURSE POLICIES

These policies cover any issues not addressed above. Course policies are listed in alphabetical order.

Academic Honesty.

I expect all students to uphold principles of academic honesty in this classroom. Students who commit any form of academic dishonesty in this class will be given a **"0" (zero)** grade for the relevant assignment. Further penalties can range from a lowered grade in the class (up to and including failing the class) to suspension or expulsion from the University.

- Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to):
 - plagiarism.
 - cheating on exams
 - providing false information on official documentation (e.g., signing others in for attendance, or giving false excuses to make up work)
 - presenting the same piece of work for credit in two different classes without prior permission
- Regarding plagiarism, I find the following statement from Cambridge University very helpful: "Plagiarism is defined as submitting as one's own work, irrespective of intent to deceive, that which derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others without due acknowledgement. It is both poor scholarship and a breach of academic integrity."²
- Review your rights and responsibilities as outlined on the web page for the Office of the Dean of Students: (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>):
 - "Academic Integrity: A Guide for Students." *UWSP Dean of Students*.
<<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>>
 - "Academic Misconduct" *UWSP Dean of Students*.
< <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>>
 - "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" (UWS/UWSP Chapter 14). Available from the UWSP Dean of Students Website.

Add/Drop Period:

It is your responsibility to understand when you need to consider disenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP [Academic Calendar](#) for dates and deadlines for registration. Please note that these are the deadlines for all paperwork to be turned in. You may need signatures from different faculty or staff, and they may not all be waiting around for you on the very last day. Plan ahead!

By the same token, if you enroll in the course after the first day of classes, contact me to inform me that you have added the course. Even when you add a course late, you are responsible for all of the material presented before you enrolled--just like the rest of the class.

² University of Cambridge, "University-Wide Statement on Plagiarism," <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/students/statement.html> (published June 2011, accessed January 19, 2014.)

Attendance, Absenteeism, and Make-Up Work

Students are expected to attend all classes for the entire session and complete all work by the date assigned.

- If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so in such a way that you minimize disruption to the rest of the class.
- Failure to take a quiz, exam, or in-class assignment will result in zero credit for that assignment.
- I will only allow make-up assignments in documented cases of illness, emergency, or university-related travel.
- Students are always responsible for all material presented in lectures. I do post my PowerPoint slides on Canvas but I do not share my lecture notes. Be sure to get notes from a classmate. If you have specific questions, I will always be happy to answer them.
- As the instructor, I work to establish a distraction-free environment where all can learn:
 - I reserve the right to remove any disruptive or clearly non-attentive student from my classroom, either for one session or for the remainder of the semester, as I see fit.
 - I allow the use of electronic devices (e.g., laptop computers, e-readers, etc.) solely for purposes directly related to the class. If I suspect that such devices are being misused or that they are distracting students, I may expel the offending student from the class or confiscate the device in question for the class duration as I see fit.

Equity of Educational Access.

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC) on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (the University Library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu. See also: Religious Beliefs

Extensions:

I am willing to discuss extending deadlines for individual students if the student approaches me beforehand. Such extensions will only be granted in cases where unusual circumstances prevent the student from completing the work on time. As a rule, I will only grant extensions after the fact under truly exceptional circumstances, such as a personal or family emergency. See also: **Late Work, Religious Beliefs, Equity of Educational Access**

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if the student has completed two-thirds of all coursework. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within one semester.

Late Work.

There are different policies for late work, depending on the assignment involved:

- As a rule, all quizzes, exams, and forum discussions must be completed by the assigned deadline. Such work may not be submitted late. Any such work not completed by the deadline will result in zero credit.
- Written Assignments will be penalized if submitted late:
 - Any work submitted after the deadline will be subject to a -5% penalty for each 24 hours (or portion thereof) it is late.
 - No written assignment may be submitted more than one week after the deadline.

See also: **Extensions**

Missed Assignments. See: Extensions, Late Work.

Religious Beliefs.

If you think you may need academic accommodations in this class due to your religious beliefs (for instance, if you cannot complete an assignment due to a religious holiday), please let me know **within the first three weeks of class**. I will work with all such students to provide reasonable accommodations for religious beliefs, in accordance with UWS 22.03.

Acknowledgements. I consulted many different materials produced by others in drafting this syllabus. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the work of Corinne Dempsey, Tracy Feldman, Neil Prendergast, and Robert Morrison. The end product is my own, as are any errors.