

HISTORY 313/513 HISTORY OF ISLAM

Tuesdays, Thursdays 2:00-3:15 PM, Zoom Virtual Classroom

PROFESSOR E. FRANCIS

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Virtual Office Hours (Spring 2021): Tuesdays 10:30 AM-12:00 PM, Thursdays 10:30 AM-12:00 PM
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.

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 Canvas. I expect that all students will have access to their readings during virtual classroom sessions.

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.)

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 is a preliminary schedule, and **this schedule will change through the course of this semester**. I will maintain a continually updated schedule accessible through Canvas and I will do my best to announce changes through Canvas. I will do everything I can to avoid changing deadlines for assignments.

I expect that you will take responsibility for keeping informed of these changes by attending class and checking Canvas.

Week	Date	No.	Topics, Readings, and Deadlines
1			
	T, 1/26	1	Introduction to Class
	Th, 1/28		Islamophobia Readings: Ernst, Preface Ernst, Ch. 1, “Islam in the Eyes of the West,” 1-36
2			
	T, 2/2	2	Approaching Islam in Terms of History: A Brief Survey of Islam in World History Ernst, Ch. 1, “Islam in the Eyes of the West,” 1-36 (Review) <u>Optional:</u> Rampolla, Ch. 1, “Why Study History?” Rampolla, Sect. 3a, “Reading Actively in History”
	Th, 2/4	3	Islam in Religious Studies Ernst, Ch. 2, “Approaching Islam in Terms of Religion,” 37-70
3			
	T, 2/9	4	Sacred Sources of Islam: Muhammad (Film) Film: <i>Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet</i> (Virtual Watch Party, Part I) 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” Ernst, Ch. 3, “The Sacred Sources of Islam,” 71-92
	Th, 2/11	5	Sacred Sources: Muhammad (Film and Discussion) Film: <i>Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet</i> (Virtual Watch Party, Part II) Aslan, Ch. 4: “Fight in the Way of God” Williams, 38-40, 43-46, 56, 59-60, 63-65 <u>Optional:</u> <i>Remainder of Williams, Ch. 2</i> Rampolla, Ch. 2, “Working with Sources”.

Week	Date	No.	Topics, Readings, and Deadlines
4			
	T, 2/16	6	<p>Sacred Sources: Muhammad (Discussion) Review: 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 <u>Optional Readings:</u> Rampolla, Sect. 3f</p>
	Th, 2/18	7	<p>DEADLINE: Prospectus Due 11:59 PM 2/18/2021.</p> <p>Sacred Sources: The Quran Ernst, Ch. 3, "The Sacred Sources of Islam," 93-105 Williams, 8-14, 23-26</p>
5			
	T, 2/23	8	<p>Sacred Sources: The Quran Williams, 14-23, 26-31, 3-35 Rampolla, Sect. 4a, 4b, 5a</p>
	Th, 2/25	9	<p>Sharia: Method and the Question of Forbidden Beverages Aslan, 60-66 (review), 164-173¹ 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</p>
6			
	T, 3/2	10	<p>Sharia in Practice <i>Inside Mecca</i> (in class) Williams, 85-87</p>
	Th, 3/4	11	<p>DEADLINE: Exam 1. 11:59 PM, 3/4/2021</p>

Week	Date	No.	Topics, Readings, and Deadlines
7			
	T, 3/9	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, 3/11	13	Sharia: Women's Issues, Then and Now Ernst, 142-151 Williams, 87-92, 99-101 Additional Readings To Be Determined
8			
	T, 3/16	14	*** Topic and Readings To Be Determined ***
	Th, 3/18	15	*** Topic and Readings To Be Determined ***
			SPRING BREAK 3/20/21-3/28/21
9			
	T, 3/30	16	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
	Th, 4/2	17	Annotated Bibliography Due 11:59 PM, April 2, 2021 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
10			
	T, 4/6	18	Sectarianism, Theology, and History Readings To Be Determined
	Th, 4/8	19	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)

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

Week	Date	No.	Topics, Readings, and Deadlines
11			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)
	T, 4/13	20	Sufism Precise Topic and Readings To Be Determined
	Th, 4/15	21	DEADLINE: Exam 2 Due 4/15/2021, 11:59 PM.
12	T, 4/20	22	Sufism Precise Topic and Readings To Be Determined
	Th, 4/22	23	
13	T, 4/27	24	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)
	Th, 4/29	25	Islam and Modern Politics, Part II Aslan, 191-198 Aslan, Ch. 10 (255-277): "Slouching toward Medina"
14	T, 5/4	26	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
	Th, 5/6	27	Last Virtual Classroom Meeting, 5/6/2021. Topic and Readings TBD
15			
	T, 5/11	28	International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 10-14. Virtual Classroom will not meet. All work to be conducted asynchronously. Topic and Readings TBD
	Th, 5/13	29	International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 10-14. Virtual Classroom will not meet. All work to be conducted asynchronously. Topic and Readings TBD
16/ Finals	T, 5/18		DEADLINE: Exam 3: 11:59 PM, Tuesday, May 18. (Exam Period: Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 12:30-2:30 PM.)

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%+	Very good work. Above average.
C+	77.0%+	C	73.0%+	Acceptable work. Meets minimum requirements.
D+	67.0%+	D	63.0%+	Does not meet minimum requirements.
F	0-62.9%			

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	POINTS	GRADE%
EXAMS		
Exam 1	100	19%
Exam 2	100	19%
Exam 3	100	19%
WRITING		
Proposal	25	5%
Annotated Bibliography	50	10%
Final Draft	100	19%
Professionalism	50	10%
Short Assignments	12 each	*No more than 10%
TOTAL	525	100%

Research Paper

Over the course of this semester, you will write a research paper on some historical question related to the history of Islam. In preparation for this work, you will be responsible for a number of shorter assignments:

Prospectus (500-750 words)

You will start work on your research paper with a prospectus, including:

- An explanation of your topic and its significance.
- A preliminary bibliography with five items.
- A research narrative describing how you wrote the topic explanation and found the items in your bibliography.

Annotated Bibliography (6 entries, plus annotations for all)

In the annotated bibliography, you will summarize your sources and explain their value for your research. This will be subject to peer review.

Final Paper (ca. 2500-3500 words)

The final paper will be the culmination of your efforts.

Written Exams

You will be responsible for three “take-home” (“stay at home”?) exams, in which I will ask you a set of essay questions. These may combine “short answer” questions with longer essays. I will provide prompts approximately one week in advance. The second and third exams will not be cumulative as such. However, your work in the early part of the semester will form the foundation of your learning in this class.

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.

Short Assignments

I reserve the right to create short assignments to be completed in class or before coming to class. These may include brief quizzes, short writing assignments, or Canvas discussions. These assignments may be graded or pass/fail. The total value of these assignments will not exceed 10% of your final grade.

Grading Policies

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
- Review your rights and responsibilities as outlined on the following web page:
“Student Conduct Process.” UWSP Office of the Dean of Students. 2020.
<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>. Accessed June 17, 2020.

“Attendance,” Absences, Participation, and Professionalism

This class meets twice a week in a Zoom “virtual classroom.” I will use this time for discussion, for taking your questions, and for some lecturing. In the interest of accessibility, I will record all “virtual classroom sessions” and post those sessions to Canvas under the “Zoom” tab.

I will keep track of attendance at these sessions. Any unexcused absence will have a negative effect on your professionalism grade. Most importantly, you are responsible for all material presented or discussed during these classroom sessions, regardless of whether or not you were “present.”

In accordance with university policies and professional good practice, I will grant excused absences to students who are unable to attend specific sessions due to circumstances beyond their control such as:

- University-approved travel.
- Personal emergency.
- Technical failures beyond your control (e.g., failures of Canvas or loss of Internet access).
- Religious holidays.
- Mandatory service as a member of the armed services or emergency personnel such as police, fire, or rescue squad.

If you believe you will be absent for a class session, contact me as soon as possible. When possible (e.g., upcoming religious holidays or scheduled military deployment), contact me before the deadline. The earlier you contact me, the easier it is for me to arrange for some kind of accommodation.

Extra Credit

As a rule, I do not grant extra credit in my classes. I definitely do not create special extra credit assignments for individual students. Any extra credit assignment will be publicly offered to the entire class with plenty of time for students to participate.

Graduate Credit

Graduate students enrolled in History 513 will be required to complete an additional research paper and/or produce longer writing assignments. Please contact me for details.

Extensions, Late Work, Missed Assignments, and Extensions

I will accept late submissions of most assignments. All work submitted after the deadline is subject to a **penalty of -5% per day late** (or portion thereof).

Contact Me to Request Accommodations for Late or Missed Work

I am willing to waive or reduce late penalties if you are unable to complete work due to circumstances beyond your control. See “Absences” above for a list of appropriate circumstances.

If you believe you will need an extension on an assignment, contact me as soon as possible. When possible (e.g., upcoming religious holidays or scheduled military deployment), contact me before the deadline. The earlier you contact me, the easier it is for me to arrange for some kind of accommodation.

Written Assignments: Submission

Unless noted otherwise, all written assignments and discussions are due at 11:59 PM. All written assignments submitted through Canvas must be in a format which Canvas can read. I recommend .pdf files if possible. If I cannot read an assignment, you will need to re-submit it in a different format.

COMMUNICATION POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Please reach out to me to ask questions and to help me know you better as an individual. The best ways to contact me are through the Canvas Discussions, the Canvas Inbox, or through Zoom meetings. See below for advice on offline communication, for when you do not have access to the Internet.

Canvas Discussions

If you have general questions about the course or about course content, or you just want to chat, please contact me through the “Professor’s Office” discussion forum on Canvas. If you have a question, there’s a good chance several other students have it too! I check the Discussion Boards at least once a day, Monday through Friday. I will usually respond to any question within “one business day,” even if I do not have a definitive answer.

Canvas Inbox

In addition to the discussion boards, Canvas also has a tool for one-on-one communication: The Inbox. Please use the Canvas Inbox to contact me about issues that apply only to you or that you prefer to keep private (e.g., requests for extensions). I will check my Canvas Inbox at least once a day, Monday through Friday. You should check yours regularly too. Where possible, I will use this tool to contact students about individual or private class matters (e.g., missing or late assignments).

Email.

Check your UWSP email account regularly (e.g., spointer@uwsp.edu). I may use email in addition to the Canvas Inbox. I check my campus email account (efrancis@uwsp.edu) at least once a day, Monday through Friday.

Zoom/Virtual Office Hours

I will hold virtual office hours on Zoom at the times listed on Canvas. I am also willing to schedule Zoom meetings at other times. These times are for one-on-one meetings or study groups, and are distinct from our regular class sessions. If you do not have Internet access, you can still access Zoom meetings using the phone number and passcode provided in the invitation.

“Netiquette” in Online Communication

In addition to common courtesy, I ask that all students follow some basic principles of “netiquette” in online exchanges through Canvas Discussions, Inbox messages, emails, and carrier pigeon messages. I recommend these principles in all your academic communication.

- Briefly identify yourself. Give your name and mention the class you have with the professor. We 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 where possible--particularly when you send an email. For instance, identify the course number or course name or summarize your concern.

COURSE POLICIES

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

Copyright on Course Materials

Lecture materials, recordings, and original materials produced for this class (The Arab-Israeli Conflict) are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Other material used in this course, such as textbooks, articles, audiovisual recordings, or applications may also be protected by copyright.

Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC)

As a professor at UWSP, I am 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.

Registrar Policies

All UWSP students are responsible for understanding the policies which govern their education. See the web page for the Office of the Registrar (<https://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/AtoZPolicySearch.aspx>) for information on the following policies (and many more):

- Add/Drop Procedure, Forms, Schedule
- Attendance Information
- Incompletes