Meeting & Location:
M/W/F per. 6 – LIT 239

Instructor: Dr. Terje Ostebo
Office: 490 Grinter Hall
Phone: 352-392-2175
e-mail: ostebo@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Thursday, 8:30-10:30 (NB: Anderson Hall, room 008)

Course Description
This course will give you insights and understandings about Christian-Muslim relations in general, and in particular – in Africa. The course will explore the theological/ideological aspects of these relations, but will have an emphasis on the empirical sides, i.e. pay attention to how this is played out in different historical periods and in various contexts within Africa. The course will also deal with the nature of Islam and Christianity in Africa, as well as investigate how local political, cultural and social discourses have impacted relations between Christians and Muslims in Africa. The course will moreover discuss different debates and attitudes on dialogue between the two religious communities.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course you should have
• Overview over Islam and Christianity in Africa
• Overview over Christian-Muslim relations from a historical perspective
• Knowledge of the important issues in Christian-Muslim relations in Africa
• Understandings of the religious, political, social, and cultural aspects relevant for Christian-Muslim relations
• Understandings of relevant issues connected to debates on dialogue between Christians and Muslims

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria
The final grade will be determined by the total scored for:
• Attendance (up to 15 points). We will circulate an attendance sheet, which you should sign. Signing for others is considered Academic dishonesty.
• Participation / In-class presentations (25 points)
• Response papers (3 x 20 points)

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Active Participation and In-class presentations: Since the course will operate in a seminar format, students are expected to attend ALL classes and participate actively in class
discussions. Active and informed participation demands that students **read the material carefully before coming to class.** In-class presentations mean that you do a presentation on a selected topic + leading the discussion based on the presentation.

**3 Short Response Papers** (5-6 pp): These response papers will address key issues and methodological and theoretical questions raised in the readings, lectures and class discussions. The objective of these papers is to encourage you to read the materials closely and articulate your own informed and analytically nuanced positions. The more you engage the reading, the more likely you will receive a high mark. The format for the papers is double space / font size 12.

**Make-ups and Attendance**
Make-ups will only be allowed in unavoidable circumstances or for compelling reasons that can be convincingly documented. Similarly, absence(s) will detract points except unavoidable ones proven with satisfactory explanation/documentation. Arriving in class late can cause you to be recorded as absent for that day. There will be no extra credit through additional work. Failure to present in class and/or not submitting paper on time would mean loss of 5 points (max).

**Student Honor Code:**
As a UF student, you have agreed to follow the university’s Honor Code, meaning you will not give or receive unauthorized assistance in completing assignments. Violations can result in failing an exam, paper or the course. For more information, see: [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php). On all work submitted for credit by University of Florida students, the following pledge is implied, “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” Please note that acts of plagiarism include:

- Turning in a paper or assignment that was written by someone else.
- Copying verbatim a sentence or paragraph of text from the work of another author without proper citation and quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing or restating in your own words, text or ideas written by someone else without proper citation.

For more info, see [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html)

**Disabilities:**
“If you are a student with a disability and would like to request disability-related accommodations, you are encouraged to contact me and the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565.”

**Readings and course material**

**Books (for purchase; also on course reserve):**


**Articles/book-chapters (on course reserve):**


**Class Calendar and Reading Schedule**

*Note: This document is subject to change, students are responsible for all changes announced in class.*

**Week 1 (8/25-29): Introduction and Course Preview**

**Week 2 (9/1-5; Monday Holiday): CMR in general – historical & current perspectives**
Reading: Bennett (2008) pp. 1-63; Biljefeld (1995);

**Event (extra credits):**

**Week 3 (9/8-12): Islam & Christianity in Africa**

**Week 4 (9/15-19): Islam & Christianity in Africa**

Student presentation

**Week 5 (9/22-26): Film: Guelwaar**

Student presentation

**Week 6 (9/29-10/3): CMR issues and religious demography in Africa**

1st Response paper due – 10/3, 5pm

**Week 7 (10/6-10): Tanzania**
Readings: Loimeier (2007); De Mey (1997); Heilman (2002);

Student presentation

Event (extra credits):
October 10: Anne Bang (University of Bergen, Norway), *Sufi networks and Islamic reform in East Africa, c. 1880-1940*, Islam in Africa Working Group, 471 Grinter Hall @ 11:45.

**Week 8 (10/13-17; Friday Homecoming): CMR, debates & comparative religion**
Readings: Soares (2006) ch. 7; Westerlund (2003); An-Na’im (1999), ch. 10

Student presentation

**Week 9 (10/20-24): Nigeria**
Readings: Soares (2006), ch. 8-11; Griswold (2010), ch. 1-8

Student presentation

**Week 10 (10/27-31): CMR and politics**
Readings: Griswold (2010), ch. 9-18; Seeseman (2007); Rasmussen (1993), pp. 55-106

2nd Response paper due – 11/7, 5pm

**Week 11 (11/3-7): Ethiopia – a unique case?**
Week 12 (11/10-14): Film: The Battle for the Souls

Student presentation

Week 13 (11/17-21): CMR, Mission & Dawa
Readings: Rasmussen (1993), pp. 16-54; Soares (2006), ch. 3-6; Ikengu Metuh (2002); Onuwnwa (2002); An-Na’im (1999), ch. 1-3, 8;

Student presentation

Event (extra credits):
November 18: Dereje Feyissa (International Law and Policy Institute, Addis Ababa), *The terms of the Sufi-Salafi debate in the Ethiopian context*, Islam in Africa Working Group, 471 Grinter Hall @ 11:45.

Week 14 (11/24 Thanksgiving): CMR & dialogue

Student presentation

Week 15 (12/1-5): CMR & dialogue

Week 16 (12/8-10): Conclusions

3rd Response paper due – 12/5, 5pm

Event (extra credits):
December 9: Rosa De Jorio (UNF), *Reconstructing/Preserving Islamic Cultural Heritage Sites in Mali After the Crisis*, Islam in Africa Working Group, 471 Grinter Hall @ 11:45.