

# INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

## Religion 2362

**Location:** TUR L005 (Turlington Hall)

**Time:** Tuesday/Thursday 12:50-1:40 PM

FALL 2019

### **Instructor: Professor Ali Altaf Mian, Ph.D.**

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Office: Anderson Hall 107-A

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11 AM-12:15 PM

### **Teaching Assistant: Zachary H. Faircloth**

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Office:

Office Hours:

### **Friday Break-Out Sessions:**

22053 (REL 2362—2560) Friday 8:30-9:20 AM Location: AND 0013 (Anderson Hall)

22054 (REL 2362—4227) Friday 10:40-11:30 AM Location: MAT 0116 (Matherly Hall)

22055 (REL 2362—4231) Friday 11:45-12:35 PM Location: MAT 0112 (Matherly Hall)

### **Course Description**

This course offers a critical survey of Muslim belief and ritual in historical perspective. Yet, Muslims have not always used the word, “Islam,” to refer to the constellation of ideas and practices elaborated and embodied by the Prophet Muhammad and the early believers. This course unpacks the modern construction of Islam as religion, but also introduces students to Muslim doctrines, devotional acts, and socio-cultural institutions. To that end, we will read about the Islamic religious tradition from a number of thematic angles: community, historical self-consciousness, scripture, memory, theology, sectarianism, law and jurisprudence, mystical experience and practice, gender, sexuality, race and racialization, and secularity as well as globalization. In this way, we will use various crucial themes to survey key characteristics of Muslim experiences from late antiquity to modern times. At the same time, we will also study issues of representation and translation in Islamic studies. This course therefore brings two objects of study under critical scrutiny: “Islam” (by studying various accounts by and about Muslims) and “Islamic studies” (by studying various representations of “Islam” within multiple disciplinary frameworks, including religious studies, history, cultural anthropology, area studies, and political science).

### **General Education Objectives**

This course is a Humanities (H) and International (N) subject area course in the UF General Education Program. **Humanities courses** provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that

shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives. **International courses** promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.

**These General Education Objectives will be accomplished through:**

- Reading about the history of Islam as a tradition of faith and ritual, and the diversity of its expressions in the modern period
- Examining popular perceptions, misperceptions, and gaps in understanding with reference to Islam and Muslims
- Assessing how knowledge production about Islam and Muslims is informed by various disciplinary locations and political motivations
- Reflecting on the implications of Muslims' internal diversity and discussing issues of representation as well as translation

**At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication, and critical thinking:**

- **Content:** Students will have knowledge of the long history of Islam—its beginnings in Near Eastern religious, social, political, economic, and cultural settings, its evolution as a multi-faceted religious tradition, its entanglements in various political designs, its relationship with its religious and political others, the different ways in which Muslim thought and practice has changed in modernity, particularly in relation to European colonialism, and some of the key challenges Muslims face in today's world.
- **Communication:** Students will be able to communicate their reasoned perspectives to others with clarity and openness to dialogue, in both speech and writing. They will be encouraged to listen attentively and compassionately to others and to consider a wide range of perspectives before making up their own minds.
- **Critical Thinking:** Students will be able to examine their own as well as others' biases when it comes to speaking and thinking about religion. They will try their best to avoid generalizing statements, reductive views, stereotyping gestures, and essentialist claims. They will be able to assess the rhetorical value of different types of evidence and sources.

**Required Text:** Daniel W. Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam*

All Other Readings Will be Posted on Canvas (UF e-learning)

**Resources for Further Reading:**

- Carl W. Ernst, *Following Muhammad: Islam in the Contemporary World*. UNC Press, 2004.
- *The Koran Interpreted: A Translation*, by A.J. Arberry
- Ingrid Mattson, *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013 .

- Carl Ernst, *How to Read the Qur'an: A New Guide, with Select Translations*
- Kecia Ali, *The Lives of Muhammad*. Harvard University Press, 2014
- Richard W. Bulliet, *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization*. Columbia University Press, 2004.
- Bruce B. Lawrence, *Shattering the Myth: Islam beyond Violence*. Princeton University Press, 2000.
- Kecia Ali, *Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur'an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence*. Oneworld Publications, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (2016)

### Assignments/Grade Breakdown:

Item:	Points:	Percentage:
Attendance and Participation	150	15%
Meeting with the Instructor	50	5%
Reading Quizzes (5 quizzes, lowest score will be dropped)	400	40%
Reflection Paper	100	10%
Final Exam	300	30%

#### ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION—15% (150 POINTS)

Class attendance is expected, and will be taken at the beginning of each class session. You can miss two lecture sessions and one Friday discussion session without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will detract 50 points from your grade. Excused absences are consistent with university policies as listed in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation. Class will begin and end on time. Five late arrivals (anything over 5 minutes) will be considered one absence.

#### MEETING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR—5% (50 POINTS)

Each student will meet with the instructor for 15 minutes during the first three weeks. This meeting will give the instructor a better sense of students' educational and intellectual needs. It will also give students a better sense of the instructor's pedagogical commitments and expectations. Students will sign-up for this meeting on the first day of class. Alternatively, they may also email the instructor to schedule a meeting outside of office hours.

#### 5 READING QUIZZES—40% (400 POINTS AS EACH QUIZ IS WORTH 100 POINTS; YOUR LOWEST SCORE WILL BE DROPPED)

The reading quizzes will take place on Fridays during the break-out session with Zachary Faircloth. He will both design and grade the quizzes. The quizzes will test students' knowledge of content and their critical thinking and analyzing skills, and will therefore use a range of various question forms, such as T/F, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, and questions requiring 2-3 sentences of composition or an entire short essay. If a student would like to express concern with reference to a grade given on a quiz, he/she/they should first discuss it with Zachary. If the concern is not addressed, then please see the instructor.

#### REFLECTION PAPER—10% (100 POINTS)—Due Tuesday 3 December by Midnight

The reflection paper will enable students to examine their learning process in this course. More instructions and a sample reflection paper will be posted on Canvas a month prior to the due date. The reflection essays will be graded by the instructor.

**FINAL EXAM—30% (300 POINTS)—Friday 13 December 10AM-12PM**

The final exam will be cumulative of all class readings. It will consist of T/F, multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blanks questions, as well as questions requiring 2-3 sentences of composition or an entire short essay. The final exam will be graded by the instructor.

**Grading Scale**

Score	Percent	Grade	Grade Points
934-1000	93.4-100	A	4.00
900-933	90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
867-899	86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
834-866	83.4-86.6	B	3.00
800-833	80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
767-799	76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
734-766	73.4-76.6	C	2.00
700-733	70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
667-699	66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
634-666	63.4-66.6	D	1.00
600-633	60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-599	0-59.9	E	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**Late work will not be accepted.** A makeup quiz and makeup final exam will be provided for students who miss either due to extreme, documented circumstances. Students should arrange with the instructor for makeup material.

**Class Demeanor**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all. The use of laptops or tables is only allowed for purpose of note-taking.

**Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their

Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### Schedule of Meetings

#### Week One

Tuesday August 20—Introduction to the Course (No Reading)  
Thursday August 22—Carl Ernst, “Islam in the Eyes of the West”  
Friday August 23—Review/Discussion Session with Zachary Faircloth

#### Week Two

Tuesday August 27—Carl Ernst, “Approaching Islam in Terms of Religion”  
Thursday August 29—Daniel W. Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 1: Islam in Global Perspective)  
Friday August 30—Review/Discussion Session with Zachary Faircloth

#### Week Three

Tuesday September 3—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 2: Arabia)  
Thursday September 5—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 3: The Pre-Islamic Near East)  
Friday September 6—Quiz 1 in your session with Zachary Faircloth

#### Week Four

Tuesday September 10—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 4: The Life of Muhammad)  
Thursday September 12—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 5: The Qur’an)  
Friday September 13—Review/Discussion Session with Zachary Faircloth

#### Week Five

Tuesday September 17—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 6: The Tradition Literature)  
Thursday September 19—In-Class Review and Discussion with Primary Literature  
Friday September 20—Quiz 2 in your session with Zachary Faircloth

#### Week Six

Tuesday September 25—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 7: The Conquests)  
Thursday September 27—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 8: Religion of Empire)  
Friday September 28—Review/Discussion Session with Zachary Faircloth

#### Week Seven

Tuesday October 1—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 9: The Caliphate)  
Thursday October 3—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 10: Islamic Law)  
Friday October 4—(No Classes/Homecoming)

#### Week Eight

Tuesday October 8—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 11: Islamic Theology and Philosophy)  
Thursday October 10—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 12: Sufism)  
Friday October 11—Quiz 3 in your session with Zachary Faircloth

### **Week Nine**

Tuesday October 15—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 13: Turks, Crusaders, and Mongols)

Thursday October 17—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 14: Revival and Reform)

Friday October 18—Review/Discussion Session with Zachary Faircloth

### **Week Ten**

Tuesday October 22—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 15: Islam and the West)

Thursday October 24—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 16: The Turbulent 20<sup>th</sup> Century)

Friday October 25—Review/Discussion Session with Zachary Faircloth

### **Week Eleven**

Tuesday October 29—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 17: Salafism)

Thursday October 31—Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Chapter 18: Islam in the Twenty-First Century)

Friday November 1—Quiz 4 in your session with Zachary Faircloth

### **Week Twelve**

Tuesday November 5: Souleymane Bachir Diagne, “And How to Not Philosophize?” and “The Sufi and the State.”

Thursday November 7: Caner K. Dagli, “Conquest and Conversion, War and Peace in the Quran,” from *The Study Quran*

Friday November 8—Review/Discussion Session with Zachary Faircloth

### **Week Thirteen**

Tuesday November 12—Moustafa Bayoumi, “Racing Religion” and “Conclusion: Our Muslim American Lives,” from *This Muslim American Life*

Thursday November 14—Leila Ahmed, *A Border Passage: From Cairo to America: A Woman’s Journey*, pages 271-318

Friday November 15—Review/Discussion Session with Zachary Faircloth

### **Week Fourteen**

Tuesday November 19—amina wadud, *Inside the Gender Jihad: Women’s Reform in Islam*, pages 217-262

Thursday November 21—Kecia Ali, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell: Same-Sex Intimacy in Muslim Thought,” and “Toward an Islamic Ethics of Sex,” from *Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur’an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence*

Friday November 22—Quiz 5 in your session with Zachary Faircloth

### **Week Fifteen**

Tuesday November 26—Scott Siraj al-Haqq Kugle, “Engaging Religious Tradition,” from *Living Out Islam: Voices of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Muslims*

Thursday November 28 (No Class/Thanksgiving)

Friday November 29 (No Class/Thanksgiving)

### **Week Sixteen**

**Tuesday December 3—Last Class and Wrap-Up Discussion (Reflection Essays Due by Midnight)**

### **Week Seventeen**

**Final Exam December 13<sup>th</sup> 10 AM- 12 PM**

### **Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### **Counseling and Wellness Center**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.