

Muslim Thought and Practice, part II (Spring 2020)

Religion 5365

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday 3-6PM

Class Venue: Anderson Hall 134

Instructor: Professor Ali Altaf Mian, Ph.D.

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Office Phone: 352-273-2940

Office Location: Anderson Hall 107-A

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:40-12:40 PM and Wednesdays 3:15-5:15 PM

Course Synopsis:

This course is part two of a year-long graduate-level survey of Muslim Thought and Practice. Our readings will concentrate on the early modern, the modern, and the contemporary periods. Thematically, they will cover questions of historical memory, gender, intellectual innovation, reform and revival, sovereignty, secular reason, ethical practices, moral selfhood, technology and media, the local and the global, and center-periphery. Many of the readings will help us to analyze how colonialism transformed Muslim traditions, with a focus on intellectual history and especially with reference to South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. By writing focused weekly commentaries, students will engage these themes and the broader history of modern Islam from a range of critical perspectives. Students will also have the opportunity to present on key concepts of Islamic studies and also conduct research for producing polished papers.

Required Texts:

- Najam Haider, *The Rebel and the Imam in Early Islam: Explorations in Muslim Historiography* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)
- Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate* (Yale University Press, 1992)
- Khaled El-Rouayheb, *Islamic Intellectual History in the Seventeenth Century: Scholarly Currents in the Ottoman Empire and the Maghreb* (Cambridge University Press, 2015)
- Ahmad Dallal, *Islam without Europe: Traditions of Reform in Eighteenth-Century Islamic Thought* (UNC Press, 2018)
- SherAli Tareen, *Defending Muhammad in Modernity* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2019)
- Leor Halevi, *Modern Things on Trial: Islam's Global and Material Reformation in the Age of Rida, 1865-1935* (Columbia University Press, 2019)
- Benjamin Soares, *Islam and the Prayer Economy: History and Authority in a Malian Town* (University of Michigan Press, 2005)
- Alireza Doostdar, *Iranian Metaphysicals: Explorations in Science, Islam, and the Uncanny* (Princeton University Press, 2018)
- Simon Wolfgang Fuchs, *In a Pure Muslim Land: Shi'ism between Pakistan and the Middle East* (UNC Press, 2019)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is expected, and will be taken at the beginning of each class session. You can miss one session without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will detract 30 points from your grade. Class will begin and end on time. Five late arrivals (anything over 5 minutes) will be considered one absence.

Grading Scale

Score	Percent	Grade	Grade Points
940-1000	94-100	A	4.00
900-939	90.0-93.9	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

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.aa.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/>.

Assignments and Grade Breakdown (Total 1000 points):

Attendance and Participation—100 points
Weekly Critical Commentaries—300 points
Presentation on Key Concepts in Islamic Studies—100 points
Presentation on a Reading—100 points
Presentation on Final Paper—50 points
Final Paper—350 points

Detailed Guidelines Will be Provided for Each Assignment

Schedule:

Week 1 (7 January): Rethinking the Historiography of Early Islam, part I

- Najam Haider, *The Rebel and the Imam in Early Islam: Explorations in Muslim Historiography* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

Week 2: (14 January): Rethinking the Historiography of Early Islam, part II*

- Najam Haider, *The Rebel and the Imam in Early Islam: Explorations in Muslim Historiography* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

Week 3 (21 January): Muslim Bodies from Late Antiquity to Modernity*

- Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate* (Yale University Press, 1992)
- Kecia Ali, "The Wife of Muhammad," and "Mother of the Faithful," from *The Lives of Muhammad* (Harvard University Press, 2014)

Week 4 (28 January): The Early Modern Period*

- Khaled El-Rouayheb, *Islamic Intellectual History in the Seventeenth Century: Scholarly Currents in the Ottoman Empire and the Maghreb* (Cambridge University Press, 2015)

Week 5 (4 February): Rethinking "Reform"*

- Ahmad Dallal, *Islam without Europe: Traditions of Reform in Eighteenth-Century Islamic Thought* (UNC Press, 2018)

Week 6 (11 February): Modernity and Company (Rationality, Globalization, Cosmopolitanism)*

- Aziz al-Azmeh, *Islams and Modernities* (excerpt)
- Samira Haj, *Reconfiguring Islamic Tradition: Reform, Rationality and Modernity* (Stanford University Press, 2008) (excerpt)
- Wael Hallaq, *Reforming Modernity: Ethics and the New Human in the Philosophy of Abdurrahman Taha* (excerpt)
- Seema Alavi, *Muslim Cosmopolitanism in the Age of Empire* (Harvard University Press, 2015) (excerpt)
- Supplementary: Walter Dignolo, *The Darker Side of Western Modernity: Global Futures, Decolonial Options* (excerpt)

Week 7 (18 February): Presentations on Key Concepts in Islamic Studies

Week 8 (25 February): Muhammad, Sovereignty, and Secular Reason*

- SherAli Tareen, *Defending Muhammad in Modernity* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2019)
- Supplementary: Andrew F. March, *The Caliphate of Man: Popular Sovereignty in Modern Islamic Thought* (Harvard University Press, 2019) (excerpt)

Week 9 (3 March): NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

Week 10 (10 March): Embodied Ethics and the Poetics of Muslim Selfhood*

- Ali Altaf Mian, *Surviving Modernity: Ashraf 'Ali Thanvi and the Genres of Muslim Selfhood in Colonial India*
- Supplementary: Talal Asad, *Secular Translations: Nation-State, Modern Self, and Calculative Reason* (Columbia University Press, 2019) (excerpt)

Week 11 (17 March): Technologies of Change and Continuity*

- Leor Halevi, *Modern Things on Trial: Islam's Global and Material Reformation in the Age of Rida, 1865-1935* (Columbia University Press, 2019)
- Ali Altaf Mian, "Troubling Technology: The Deobandi Debate on the Loud Speaker in Ritual Prayer."

Week 12 (24 March): The Historical in the Contemporary: Object Lessons from the Anthropology of Religion, part I*

- Benjamin Soares, *Islam and the Prayer Economy: History and Authority in a Malian Town* (University of Michigan Press, 2005)

Week 13 (31 March): Between Text & Practice, Local & Global: Object Lessons from the Anthropology of Religion, part II*

- Brinkley Messick, *Shari'a Scripts: A Historical Anthropology* (excerpt)
- Terje Østebø, *Localising Salafism* (excerpt)

Week 14 (7 April): Observing Islam on the Other Side of Modernity*

- Alireza Doostdar, *Iranian Metaphysicals: Explorations in Science, Islam, and the Uncanny* (Princeton University Press, 2018)

Week 15 (14 April): Rethinking Center-Periphery and Majority-Minority*

- Simon Wolfgang Fuchs, *In a Pure Muslim Land: Shi'ism between Pakistan and the Middle East* (UNC Press, 2019)

Week 16 (21 April): Final Paper Presentations

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, 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.