

**University of Florida
Center for African Studies & Department of Religion**

**REL 3938/AFS4935 Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa
Fall 2014**

Sections 06GG, 11H0

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

Instructor: Dr. Terje Ostebo
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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)

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Tot	94-	88-	82-	76-	71-	66-	61-	56-	51-	46-	40-	<40
%	100	93	87	81	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	

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>. 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>

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):

- An-Na'im, A. A. (ed) (1999): *Proselytization and Communal Self-Determination in Africa*, Orbis Books.
- Bennett, C. (2008): *Understanding Christian-Muslim Relations: Past and Present*, Continuum.
- Griswold, E. (2010): *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault line between Christianity and Islam*, Farar, Straus and Giroux
- Rasmussen, L. (1993): *Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa: The Cases of Northern Nigeria and Tanzania Compared*, British Academic Press.

- Robinson, D. (2004), *Muslim Societies in African History. New Approaches to African History*, Cambridge University Press.
- Siddiqui, A. (1997): *Christian-Muslim Dialogue in the Twentieth Century*, Macmillan Press.
- Soares B. (ed.) (2006): *Muslim-Christian Encounters in Africa*, Brill.
- *Tolerance and Tensions: Islam and Christianity in Africa*, Pew Forum on Religion and Public life, 2010.

Articles/book-chapters (on course reserve):

- Biljefeld, W. A. (1995): “Christian-Muslim Studies, Islamic Studies, and the Future of Christian-Muslim Encounter”, in Y. Haddad & W. Haddad (red.): *Christian-Muslim Encounters*, University Press of Florida.
- De Mey, M. (1997): “Controversial Issues in Christian-Muslim Relations in East Africa”, in *Exchange*, 26, 3.
- Haafkens, J. (1995): “The Direction of Christian-Muslim Relations in Sub-Saharan Africa”, in Y. Haddad & W. Haddad (red.): *Christian-Muslim Encounters*, University Press of Florida.
- Heilman, B. & Kaiser, P.J. (2002): ”Religion, Identity and Politics in Tanzania”, in *Third World Quarterly*, 23, 4.
- Ikengu Metuh, E. (2002): “Muslim Resistance to Christian Missionary Penetration of Northern Nigeria 1857-1960: A Missiological Interpretation”, in Ikengu Metuh, E. (ed): *The Gods in Retreat: Continuity and Change in African Religion*, Fourth Dimension Publ.
- Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, J. (2007): “‘Born of water and the spirit’: Pentecostal/charismatic Christianity in Africa“, in Ogbu, U. K. (ed.): *African Christianity: An African Story*, Africa World Press.
- Loimeier, R (2007): “Perceptions of Marginalization: Muslims in Contemporary Tanzania”, in Soares, B & Otayek, R (eds): *Islam and Muslim Politics in Africa*, Palgrave.
- Ogbu, U. K (2007): “African Christianity: An Overview”, in Ogbu, U. K. (ed.): *African Christianity: An African Story*, Africa World Press.
- Onuwnwa, U.R (2002): “Christian Missionary Methods and their Influence on Eastern Nigeria”, in Ikengu Metuh, E. (ed): *The Gods in Retreat: Continuity and Change in African Religion*, Fourth Dimension Publ.
- Ostebo, T. (2008) “Christian-Muslim Relations in Ethiopia”, in Kubai, A. N. & Tarakegn Adebo (eds.): *Striving in Faith: Christians and Muslims in Africa*, Life & Peace Institute.
- Seesemann, R (2007) “Kenyan Muslims, the Aftermath of 9/11, and the ‘War on Terror’”, in Soares, B & Otayek, R (eds): *Islam and Muslim Politics in Africa*, Palgrave.
- Westerlund, D. (2003): “Ahmed Deedat’s Theology of Religion: Apologetics through Polemics”, in *Journal of Religion in Africa*, 33, 3.

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):

September 2: Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim (UF), *Islam and Islamic Insurgency in the Sahel: The Current Debates*, Islam in Africa Working Group, 471 Grinter Hall @ 11:45.

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

Readings: Rasmussen (1993), pp. 1-15; Kwabena (2007); Ogbu (2007); Robinson (2004), ch. 1-6

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

Readings: Rasmussen (1993), pp. 1-15; Kwabena (2007); Ogbu (2007); Robinson (2004), ch. 1-6

Student presentation

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

Student presentation

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

Readings: Soares (2006) intro. ch., 1; Haafkens (1995); *Tolerance and Tensions* (2010)

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?

Readings: Soares (2006) ch. 2; Ostebo (2008)

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

Readings: Bennett (2008), pp 188-224 Siddiqui (1997) ch 1-3

Student presentation

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

Readings: Bennett (2008), pp 188-224 Siddiqui (1997) ch 1-3

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.