

Fall 2013

Introduction to Islam – REL 2362 /Sections 2560, 4227, 4231  
Monday & Wednesdays (Lectures) 3<sup>rd</sup> period (9:35 – 10:25 am) in FAB 0105  
& Fridays (discussion) group locations: Sect: 2560 – 2nd period in AND-0134; Sect: 4227  
3<sup>rd</sup> period in TUR-2349 & Sect: 4231 5<sup>th</sup> period in MAT 0004

COURSE OUTLINE

Texts and Information for our Course:

**REQUIRED TEXT & OTHER MATERIALS**

- 1). Frederick M. Denny, *An Introduction to Islam*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (3<sup>rd</sup> ed. pgs in parenthesis) Upper Saddle River, NJ, Prentice Hall, 2011, ISBN: 978-0-13-814477-7 – pbk.
- 2). Norman Calder, Jawid Mojaddedi & Andrew Rippin, eds., *CLASSICAL ISLAM: A Sourcebook of Religious Literature*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, New York: Routledge, 2013, ISBN: 978-0-415-50508 - 6 pbk.
- 3). There will be Additional Readings from other texts listed on this Course Outline that will be sent as a pdf via our Class e-mail List and/or on our Sakai Course Site, when set up. I will let the class know when the Sakai Site is up & running
- 4). On and off campus events related to Islam will be announced in class, posted on the Sakai site and sent via our e-mail list site.
- 5). Study Question to help with your reading of the Course material will be sent by e-mail and posted on our Sakai Course Site when it is ready.
- 6). **The date for the final exam will be announced shortly after classes begin.**
- 7). **Missed quizzes and the Mid-Term can be made up only with a doctor's note, a UF approved activity such as a sports team event in which you are a participant, or the band or the choir, or a court appearance, job interview, etc., or a genuine emergency to be determined by the instructor and teaching assistant. If you know of a conflict before hand, please inform us so that arrangements can be made for you to take the Quiz before hand or if necessary take a make-up Quiz. A Make-Up for the Final Exam is much more difficult. I also hate to schedule it early but will consider only if there is a real emergency**
- 9). Those interested in purchasing a Qur'an should select: Abdullah Yusuf 'Ali's *The Meaning of THE HOLY QUR'AN*, (New Edition with Revised Translation, Commentary and Newly Compiled Comprehensive Index), Beltsville, Md., Amana Publications, 2001. I however recommend using one of the numerous Qur'an sites on the internet instead of buying a hard copy. At those sites you can not only read the English translations and transliteration, you see

(read) the Arabic and hear it recited in both Arabic & English. There are also teaching tools on line for those who want to learn *surahs* (chapters) of the Qur'an. Plus these sites enable you to download the Qur'an to your IPAD, IPHONE, KINDLE or similar devices. You can begin your on-line explorations of the Qur'an at: <http://www.quranexplorer.com/>.

Date / Topic and Readings:

- 1.) 8/21. Introduction to the Study of Islam, Introductions Review of Syllabus, Course Outline, Discussion of Perspectives, Problems, Bibliography for the Course, Goals, Class Requirements, Expectations –1/12. Continued viewing of *Inside Islam* with discussion
- 2.) 8/23. Video: Beginning of viewing of *Inside Islam* in Discussion groups
- 3.) 8/26. Cont'd viewing of *Inside Islam* with Q & A
- 4.) 8/29. Video: Documentary on *Ancient Mesopotamia*
- 5.) 8/30. Review and discussion of the two videos shown in class: *Inside Islam* and *Ancient Mesopotamia* (Bring any questions and comments)

6.) 9/2. **Labor Day Holiday – No Classes**

**Part One - Religion and Common Life in the Pre-Islamic Near East**

- 7.) 9/4 Early Civilizations and the Origins of Judaism and Christianity,  
Denny, Chpt. 1, pp. 5- 27
- 8.) 9/6 View a Documentary on Islam w/discussion (Title TBA).
- 7.) 9/9. Pre-Islamic Arabia: Beliefs, Values, Way of Life.  
Denny, Chpt. 2, pp. 32-36

**Part Two - The Coming of Islam: The Prophet, His People, and God's Religion**

- 8.) 9/11. "Muhammad and the Early Muslim Community,"  
Denny, Chpt. 3, pp. 49 -73  
Esposito, Chpt. 1, "Muhammad and the Qur'an: Messenger and Message" (pp.1-31) from *Islam The Straight Path*, by John L. Esposito, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (This chapter will be sent via our Class List & posted on Sakai.)
- 9.) 9/13. Discussion of Denny Chapters 1, 2 & 3.
- 10.) 9/16. *Classical Islam*: Notes for the reader and map, pp. xiii-xv & Part I, pp. 1-22

- 11.) 9/18. “The Arab Conquests & Islamic Rule: The Struggle for a Unified Umma”  
Denny, Chpt. 4, pp. 74-96
- 12.) 9/20. Discussion of readings from the week
- 13.) 9/23. Esposito Chapter 2 “The Muslim Community In History,” (pp. 32-67) from  
Esposito: *Islam The Straight Path*. (This chapter will be sent at a pdf file via our  
Course List & will be posted on Sakai)
- 14.) 9/25. “Basic Beliefs and Worship Practices of Islam,”  
Denny, Chpt 5, pp. 97- 129
- 15.) 9/27. **Quiz # One on Denny Chapters 1- 4, Esposito 1 - 2**

### **Part Three – The Islamic Religious System**

- 16.) 9/30. “The Basic Beliefs and Worship Practices of Islam,” Denny, Chpt 5, pp. 99 – 129
- 17.) 10/2. *Classical Islam*, Chapter 2, pp. 23-54
- 18.) 10/4. **View Video on Salat**
- 19.) 10/7. “The Nature and Function of the Qur’an”  
Denny, Chpt. 6, pp. 130-149
- 20.) 10/9. W. Montgomery Watt and Richard Bell, “The History of the Text” (pp.40-56)  
From *Introduction to the Qur’an* will be sent via the Class List as a pdf and  
posted on Sakai..
- 21.) 10/11. Discussion of Denny Chpts. 5 & 6 and Watt/Bell’s “The History of the Text”
- 22.) 10/14. “The Prophet’s Sunnah as Preserved in the Hadith,”  
Denny, Chpt. 7, pp. 150-163 (pp. 149-163)  
“The Islamic Tradition”, (pp.17-35) from *Introduction To The Hadith* by John  
Burton. (This chapter will be sent as a pdf via the Course List and posted on  
Sakai).
- 23.) 10/16. Continuation of discussion of our readings on the Hadith.
- 24.) 10/18. **Quiz # Two on Denny Chpts. 5, 6, & 7**
- 25.) 10/21. *Classical Islam*, Chapter 3, pp. 55-94

- 26.) 10/23. "Muslim Creeds and Theologies: Their Purposes and Varieties,"  
Denny Chpt. 8, pp. 164-186
- 27.) 10/25. Trip to **Jumah Prayers at the Islamic Center of Gainesville. Time:  
10<sup>th</sup> & University Avenue (it is mid-day either 12:30 or 1:30)**
- 28.) 10/28. Classical Islam, Chapter 6, pp. 189 - 239
- 29.) 10/30. "Law and the State in Classical Islamic Formulations"  
Denny, Chpt. 9, pp. 187- 208  
*Classical Islam*, Chapter 7, pp. 247-293
- 30.) 11/1. **In Class Mid-Term Exam**
- 31.) 11/4 "Islamic Mysticism and the Disciplines of Esoteric Piety"  
Denny, Chpt. 10, pp. 211 - 237
- 32.) 11/6. "Masters and Disciples: The Forms and Functions of Sufi Orders  
Denny Chpt. 11, pp. 238-260
- 33.) 11/8. **CLASS CANCELLED – UF HOMECOMING**
- 34.) 11/11. **CLASS CANCELLED – VETERANS DAY**

#### **Part Five Patterns of Islamic Personal & Communal Life**

- 35.) 11/13. "The Islamic Life Cycle and the Family"  
Denny Chpt. 12 pp. 263 - 288

#### **Part Six – Islam in the Modern World**

- 36.) 11/15. **Quiz Three on Readings from the Mid-Term to this date**
- 37.) 11/18. "Major Movements and Trends in Renewal and Reform"  
Denny Chpt. 14, pp. 315-340
- 38.) 11/20. "Three Forms of Islamic Revival: Fundamentalism, Feminism, Establishing  
The Umma in North America," Denny Chpt. 15 pp. 341-364
- 39.) 11/22. "Whither Islam and the Muslims? Progressive Muslims with a Vision of an  
Islam without Borders," Denny Chpt. 16 pp. 363-380

11/25 CLASS CANCELLED – ATTENDING AAR CONFERENCE

11/27-29 CLASSES CANCELLED – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

37.) 12/2. **Quiz Four on Readings from Denny, Chapters 14, 15, & 16.**

38.) 12/4. **Last Day of Classes – Wrap Up Discussion**

**UF Reading Days December 5 & 6**  
**FINAL EXAM DATE: TBA**

**GRADES AVAILABLE ON December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**HAVE HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons, Ph.D./ Instructor  
107-A Anderson Hall/ First Floor Level  
352 – 273-2940 Direct Line  
352 -392-1625 Religion Dept. Office  
Fax (352) 392-7395  
[Zoharah@ufl.edu](mailto:Zoharah@ufl.edu) or  
Office Hours: Mondays: 2:30 – 4:30 PM  
Wednesdays: 2:30 – 4:30PM  
& By Appointment

Bakhti Mamtora, M.A./Teaching Assistant  
Religion Department Office  
107 Anderson Hall  
Religion main office: (352) 392-1625  
Private office: (352) 273-2933  
Fax (352) 392-7395  
[bhaktim@ufl.edu](mailto:bhaktim@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: Mondays: 10:30am – 12:30pm  
Wednesdays: 10:30am – 12:30pm  
& By Appointment