

**University of Florida  
Department of Religion**

**Global Islam  
Fall 2014**

**REL 4936 section 0360  
REL 5365 section 0365**

Meeting & Location:  
M 3 AND 21/W 2-3 MAT 105

Instructor: Dr. Terje Ostebo  
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Office Hours: Thursday 8:30-10:30 (NB: 008 Anderson Hall)

**Course Description:**

As one of the world's largest and fastest growing religions, Islam exerts significant global influence in politics, culture, and society. This course addresses the urgent need for a deeper understanding of the diversity of Muslim cultures and societies in the contemporary global context. With a focus on lived Islam in the contemporary world, the course will provide knowledge about the diversity and complexity of Global Islam, and provide a unique opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the richness of Muslim cultures and societies in the global context. The course will have a combined topical and geographical approach, and study Islam as it intersects with broader social, cultural, political and economic dynamics, and focus on areas such as America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and North-Africa/Middle East. The course will be of an interdisciplinary character, drawing from perspectives from the social sciences and the humanities.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of this course you should have:

- Understanding of current discourses and dynamics in the study of Global Islam
- Understanding of both the commonalities and the diversity within Global Islam
- Understanding of the intersection of Islam with social, political, and cultural issues in different parts of the world
- Understanding of Islam and trans-nationalism, migration, and global inter-connectivity
- Understanding of various perspectives on gender and feminism found within Global Islam
- Understanding of interrelations between Islam and other religions in a global context
- Understanding of the main currents with regard to Islam and politics in a global context

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

The final grade will be determined by the total scored for:

- Attendance (10 %). We will circulate an attendance sheet, which you should sign. Signing for others is considered Academic dishonesty.

- Participation / In-class presentations (15 %)
- 3 Response papers (25 % each)

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

**Active Participation and In-class presentations:** 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 10-min presentations on selected topics + leading the class discussion based on the presentation.

**3 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.

#### 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.”

#### Course Requirements and Grading Criteria – Graduate Section

The graduate students will follow the lectures for the course, do the readings for each lecture, do in-class presentations, and submit the assigned papers. In order to get the course registered as a graduate course, there is, however, some additional work as listed below.

In addition to the 3 response papers and the presentation, you will have 2 assignments which we will decide upon together. The assignment is to write a review<sup>1</sup> of different books. The reviews shall be 7-8 pages (for each book). The format for the papers is double space / font size 12. You will also meet with me 2 times (1/2 hour) during the semester to discuss the readings and assignments. These meetings will be during my office hours, and you should email me in advance with your questions and/or the texts which you would like me to comment on.

The final grade will be determined by the total scored for:

- Attendance (10 %). We will circulate an attendance sheet, which you should sign. Signing for others is considered Academic dishonesty.
- Participation / In-class presentations (15 %)
- 5 papers (15 % each)

### Required Reading:

*(Additional readings are found at the end of the syllabus)*

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

Bayat, Asef (2013). *Post-Islamism: The Changing Faces of Political Islam*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cooke, Miriam and Bruce Lawrence (2005). *Muslim Networks from Hajj to Hip Hop*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

Deol, Jevaun and Zaheer Kazmi (eds.) (2011). *Contextualizing Jihadi Thought*, New York: Columbia University Press.

Cormack, Margaret (ed.) (2013). *Muslims and Others in Sacred Space*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mandaville, Peter (2007). *Global Political Islam*, New York: Routledge.

Meijer, Roel (ed) (2009). *Global Salafism: Islam's New Religious Movement*, London: Hurst.

Roy, Oliver (2004). *Globalised Islam: The Search for a New Ummah*, London: Hurst.

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

Bowen, John R (2004). "Beyond Migration: Islam as a Transnational Public Space", *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 30,5: 879-894.

Grillo, Ralph (2004). "Islam and Transnationalism". *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 30,5: 861-878

Huntington, Samuel (1993). "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, 72,3: 22-49.

Islam, Arshad (2007). "Babri Mosque: A Historic Bone of Contention." *Muslim World*, 97. 2: 259-286.

Mahmood, Saba (2001). "Rehearsed Spontaneity and the Conventionality of Ritual: Disciplines of 'Salat'", *American Ethnologist*, 28. 4: 827-853.

Manger, Leif (1999). "Muslim Diversity: Local Islam in Global Contexts", Leif Manger (ed.). *Muslim diversity: Local Islam in Global contexts*, Richmond: Curzon.

Masquelier, Adeline (2008) "Witchcraft, Blood-Sucking Spirits, and the Demonization of Islam in Dogondoutchi", *Cahiers d'Études Africaines* 189-190 (pp. 131-160)

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: 71-89.

Said, Edward (2001). "The Clash of Ignorance", *The Nation*,  
<http://www.thenation.com/article/clash-ignorance>

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<sup>1</sup> A review is more than a synopsis; it entails giving your (argued) opinions on the text

- Salih, Ruba (2004). "The Backward and the New: National, Transnational, and Post-National Islam in Europe", *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 30,5: 995-1011.
- Shaikh, Sa'diyya (2008). "Transforming Feminisms: Islam, Women, and Gender Justice", in Omid Safi, *Progressive Muslims: On Justice, Gender, and Pluralism*. Oxford: Oneworld: 147-162.
- Westerlund, D. (2003): "Ahmed Deedat's Theology of Religion: Apologetics through Polemics", in *Journal of Religion in Africa*, 33, 3: 263-278
- Williams, R.H. (2011): "Creating an American Islam: Thoughts on Religion, Identity, and Place", in *Sociology of Religion*, 72,2: 127-153.

### Class Calendar and Reading Schedule:

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

#### **Week 1 (8/25-27): Introduction and Course Preview**

#### **Week 2 (9/3 (Monday Holiday): Islam – The Main Concepts**

##### 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 (9/8-10): Islam and the Local**

Readings: Manger (1999) (31p); Masquelier (2008)

#### **Week 4 (9/15-17): Islam and the Global**

Readings: Cooke and Lawrence (2005), pp. 1-28; Huntington (1993); Said (2001)

##### Event (extra credits):

September 18-19: *Global Islam and the Quest for Public Space*: UF Center for Global Islamic Studies Launching Conference (time and venue TBA)

#### **Week 5 (9/22-24): Transnationalism, Migration, and Muslim Minorities**

Readings: Grillo (2004); Bowen (2004)

#### **1<sup>st</sup> response paper due: 9/26 @ 5pm**

#### **Week 6 (9/29-10/1): Transnationalism, Migration, and Muslim Minorities**

Readings: Salih (2004); Williams (2011)

#### **Week 7 (10/6-8): Purity, Piety, and Religious Reform**

Readings: Roel Meijer (2009), chapter 1, Roy (2004), chapter 6

##### 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 (10/13-15): Purity, Piety, and Religious Reform**

Readings: Cormack (2013), chapter 1; Roel Meijer (2009), chapter 14, 17

##### Event (extra credits):

October 16: Kathleen Collins (University of Minnesota)... UF Center for Global Islamic Studies (5:30pm, venue TBA)

**Graduate section: 1<sup>st</sup> paper due: 10/10 @ 5pm**

**Week 9 (10/20-22): Global Islam and the Religious “Other”**

Readings: Cormack (2013), chapter 2; Arshad Islam (2007)

**Week 10 (10/27-29): Global Islam and the Religious “Other”**

Readings: Ostebo, 2008; Westerlund (2003)

**2<sup>nd</sup> response paper due: 10/31 @ 5pm**

**Week 11 (11/3-5): Gender and Islamic Feminism**

Readings: Mahmood (2001) (26p); Cooke and Lawrence (2005), chapter 8 (19p); Sa’diyya (2008) (15p)

**Week 12 (11/10-12): Islam, Politics, and the State**

Readings: Mandaville (2007), chapter 3

Event (extra credits):

November 13: Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na’im (Emory University), *Religious Belief Requires the Possibility of Disbelief: Tolerant Public Space is an Islamic Imperative*, UF Center for Global Islamic Studies (5:30 – the Ocora, Pugh Hall)

**Week 13 (11/17-19): Islam, Politics, and the State**

Reading: Bayat (2013), chapter 1, 3, 12

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.

**Graduate section: 2<sup>nd</sup> paper due: 11/14 @ 5pm**

**Week 14 (11/24 Thanksgiving): Violence and Global Jihad**

Readings: Deol and Kazmi, Introduction chapter, chapter 2, chapter 9

**Week 15 (12/1-3): Violence and Global Jihad**

Readings: Deol and Kazmi, chapter 8, chapter 10, chapter 11

**Week 16 (12/8-10): Conclusions**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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.