

University of Florida
Department of Religion & Center for African Studies

Islam in Africa
Fall 2015

AFS 4935 section 11H0
AFS 6905 section 1D98
REL 3371 section 12D7
RLG 5365 section 1C92

Meeting & Location:

Tuesday 5-6: MAT107 /Thursday 6: MAT 107

Instructor: Dr. Terje Ostebo

Office: 490 Grinter Hall

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Office Hours: Thursday 8:30-10:30 (NB: 008 Anderson Hall)

Course Description:

Islam in Africa provides an overview over the development of Muslim societies in Africa from early history (7th century) to the present with a regional focus on North Africa, the Sahara, sub-Saharan West Africa, the Horn of Africa, and East Africa. The course will examine processes of Islamization and the emergence of local Muslim cultures, contemporary issues, and will expose students to the diversity of Islam in Africa. At the same time, the course will focus on current issues in contemporary African Islam, and aims at providing students with skills to assess issues common to many African Muslim societies, such as dynamics of religious reform, Islam and the state, Islam and socio-economic developments, and questions related to ethnic and religious identities.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course you should have an:

- Overview over the history of Islam in Africa
- Understanding of the Islamization processes in Africa
- Understanding of the variety found within Islam in Africa
- Understanding of the intersection of African Islam with social, political, and cultural issues
- Understanding of interrelations between Islam and other religions in Africa
- Understanding of the main currents within contemporary African Islam

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-	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: 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 + acting as discussants for other's presentations.

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 students to read the materials closely and articulate their 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 1.5 line space / font size 12.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria – Graduate Section

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

In addition to the 3 response papers and the presentation, you will have 3 assignments which we will decide upon together. The assignment is to write a review¹ of book(s) and articles/chapters – organized under different segments. The review of the books shall be 5-6 pages (for each book) and the review of articles/chapters shall be 2-3 pages (for each article/chapter). The format for the papers is 1.5 line space / font size 12. You will also meet with me 3 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)

Make-ups and Attendance:

Make-up exams and tests 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.

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

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."

Required Reading:

Books (for purchase; also on course reserve):

Gordon, A. & Gordon, D. (2007) *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

Esposito, J. (2011) *Islam the Straight Path*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Loimeier, R. (2013) *Muslim Societies in Africa: A Historical Anthropology*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Soares, B. F. & Otayek, R. (eds.) (2007) *Islam and the Muslim Politics in Africa*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Articles/book-chapters (on Canvas):

Ahmed, E (2015) "Militant Salafism in Sudan", *Islamic Africa* 6, 1-2 (164-184).

Anderson, D. & McKnight, J. (2014) "Kenya at War: Al-Shabaab and its Enemies in Eastern Africa", *African Affairs* 114, 545 (pp 1-27).

Anonymous (2012) "The Popular Discourses of Salafi Radicalism and Salafi Counter-radicalism in Nigeria: A Case Study of Boko Haram", *Journal of Religion in Africa* 42, 2 (pp 118-144).

Backmann, J. & Honke, J. (2009) "'Peace and Security' as Counterterrorism? The Political Effects of Liberal Interventions in Kenya", *African Affairs* 109, 434 (pp 97-114)

Brenner, L. (2000) "Sufism in Africa", J.K. Olupona (ed.), *African spirituality*, New York, The Crossroad Publishing Company (pp. 324-349)

Brenner, L. (2007) "The Transformation of Muslim Schooling in Mali: the Madrasa as an Institution of Social and Religious Mediation." In Robert W. Hefner and Muhammad Quasim Zaman, eds. *Schooling Islam: The Culture and Politics of Modern Muslim Education*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (pp. 199-223)

Campbell, J (2014) *U.S. Policy to Counter Nigeria's Boko Haram*, Council on Foreign Relations, Report No. 70 (pp 1-29)

- Handloff, R. (1982) "Prayers, Amulets, and Charms: Health and Social Control", *African Studies Review* 25, 2/3 (pp.185-194)
- Hill, J (2010) "'All Women are Guides': Sufi Leadership and Womanhood among Taalibe Baay in Senegal", *Journal of Religion in Africa* 40 (pp 375-412)
- Janson, M. (2005) "Roaming about for God's Sake: The Upsurge of the Tabligh Jamā'at in the Gambia", *Journal of Religion in Africa* 35, 4 (pp 450-481).
- Kobo, O. (2015) "Shifting Trajectories of Salafi/Ahl-Sunna Reformism in Ghana", *Islamic Africa* 6,1-2 (pp 60-81).
- Kogelmann, F. (2006) "The 'Sharia Factor' in Nigeria's 2003 Elections" in Soares, B. (ed.) *Muslim-Christian Encounters in Africa*, Leiden: Brill (pp 256-274).
- Larsen, K. (2014) "Bodily Selves: Identity and Shared Realities among Humans and Spirits in Zanzibar", *Journal of Religion in Africa* 44, 1 (pp 5-27).
- Loimeier, R. (2003) "Patterns and Peculiarities of Islamic Reform in Africa", *Journal of Religion in Africa* 33, 3 (pp. 237-262)
- Loimeier, R (2009): "Editorial". *Die Welt des Islam*, vol. 49, no. 3-4 (pp. 287-298)
- Marchal, R. (2009) "A Tentative Assessment of the Somali *Harakat Al-Shabaab*", *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 3 (3) (pp. 381-404).
- Ostebo, T. (2012) "Islamic Militancy in Africa", *Africa Security Brief* no 23, Washington DC: Africa Center for Strategic Studies (pp1-8).
- Ostebo, T. (2013) "Islam and State Relations in Ethiopia: From Containment to the Production of a 'Governmental Islam'", in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 81, 4.
- Ostebo, T (2014) "Religious divides and Public Spheres in a Developmental State", Unpublished paper
- Ostebo, T (2015) "African Salafism: Religious Purity and the Politicization of Purity" in *Islamic Africa*, 6,1-2, 2015
- Seeseman, R & Soares, B (2009) "Being Good Muslims as Frenchmen: On Islam and Colonial Modernity in West Africa", *Journal of Religion in Africa* 39, 1 (pp.91-120)
- Seeseman, R (2006) "African Islam or Islam in Africa: Evidence from Kenya" in R. Loimeier, & R. Seesemann (eds.), *The Global World of the Swahili: Interfaces of Islam, Identity and Space in 19th and 20th Century East Africa*, Berlin: Lit Verlag (pp. 229-250)
- Tayob, A. (2014) "Back to the Roots, the Origins and the Beginning: Reflections on Revival (*tajdīd*) in Islamic Discourse" *Temenos* 50, 2 (pp 257-271)
- Thurston, A. (2015) "Nigeria's Mainstream Salafis between Boko Haram and the State", *Islamic Africa* 6, 1-2 (pp 109-134)

Class Calendar and Reading Schedule:

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

Week 1 (8/24-28): Introduction and Course Preview

Week 2 (8/31-9/4): Understanding Islam & Africa

Readings: Gordon & Gordon 2007 (pp 7-107); Esposito 2011

Week 3 (9/7-11): Understanding Islam & Africa

Readings: Gordon & Gordon 2007 (pp 7-107); Esposito 2011

Readings:

Week 4 (9/14-18): *The Study of Islam in Africa: Perspectives and Issues*

Readings: Loimeier 2009 (pp 287-298); Loimeier 2013 (pp 11-34); Soares/Otayek 2007 (pp 1-24)

Week 5 (9/21-25): *The History of Islam in Africa*

Readings: Loimeier 2013 (pp 54-129)

1st response paper due: 9/25 (5pm)

Week 6 (9/28-10/10/2): *The History of Islam in Africa*

Readings: Loimeier 2013 (pp 154-247)

Graduate section: 1st paper due 10/2 (5pm)

Week 7 (10/5-9): *Sufism and Indigenous Religious Traditions*

Readings:

Readings: Brenner 2000 (pp 324-349); Handloff 1982 (pp 185-194)

Week 8 (10/12-16): *Sufism and Indigenous Religious Traditions*

Readings: Hill 2010 (pp 375-412); Larsen 2014 (pp 5-27); Seesemann 2006 (pp 229-250)

Graduate section: 2nd paper due 10/16 (5pm)

Week 9 (10/19-23): *Christian-Muslim Relations*

Readings: Soares/Otayek 2007 (pp 137-156); Ostebo 2014 (pp 1-26); Kogelman 2006 (pp 256-274);

Week 10 (10/26-30): *Islam, Social Change, and the Modern*

Readings: Loimeier 2013 (pp 267-294); Seeseman & Soares 2009 (pp 91-120); Brenner 2007 (pp 199-223); Soares/Otayek 2007 (pp 243-262)

2nd response paper due: 10/30 (5pm)

Week 11 (11/2-6): *Islam and Islamic Reform in Africa*

Readings: Tayob 2014 (pp 257-271); Ostebo 2015 (pp 1-29); Loimeier 2003 (pp 237-262)

Week 12 (11/9-13): *Islam and Islamic Reform in Africa*

Readings: Ahmed 2015 (pp 164-184); Kobo 2015 (pp 60-81); Janson 2005 (pp 450-481)

Week 13 (11/16-20): *Jihad and Violence*

Readings: Ostebo 2012 (pp 1-8); Anderson & McKnight 2014 (pp 1-27); Marchal 2009 (pp 381-404); Anonymous 2012 (pp 118-144)

Graduate section: 3rd paper due 11/20 (5pm)

Week 14 (11/23-27, Thanksgiving): *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and State Policies*

Readings: Backmann & Honke 2009 (pp 97-114); Soares/Otayek 2007 (pp 157-176)

Week 15 (11/30-12/4): *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and State Politics*

Ostebo 2013; Thurston 2015 (pp 109-134); Campbell 2014 (pp 1-29)

Week 16 (12/8): Conclusions
(Classes end December 8)

3rd response paper due: 12/11 (5pm)

Reference/Additional Reading:

- Abun-Nasr J. M (1987) *A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Bang, A. K. (2003) *Sufis and Scholars of the Sea: Family Networks in East Africa, 1860-1925*, London: RoutledgeCurzon.
- Constantin, F. (1988) "Charisma and the Crisis of Power in East Africa" in D. Cruise O'Brien (ed), *Charisma and Brotherhood in African Islam*, Oxford: Clarendon Press (pp. 67-90)
- Curtin, P. D. (1971) "Jihad in West Africa: early phases and inter-relations in Mauritania and Senegal", *Journal of African History*, 12, 1: 11-24.
- Hiskett, M. (1994) *The Course of Islam in Africa*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- (1984) *The development of Islam in West Africa*, Longman: London.
- Hussein Ahmed (1993) "Trends and Issues in the History of Islam in Ethiopia", M. Nur Alkali (ed.), *Islam in Africa: Proceedings of the Islam in Africa Conference*, Ibadan: Spectrum Books: 205-220.
- Levtzion, N. (1973) *Ancient Ghana and Mali*, New York: Africana Publishing Company.
- Lewis, I.M. (1998) *Saints and Somalis, Popular Islam in a Clan-Based Society*, Lawrenceville & Asmara: Red Sea Press.
- Martin, B. G (1976) *Muslim Brotherhoods in 19th Century Africa*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Niezen, R (1990) "The Community of Helpers of the Sunna: Islamic Reform among the Songhay of Gao (Mali)", *Africa*, 60, 3: 399-424.
- Pouwels, R. (1987) *Horn and Crescent: Cultural Change and Traditional Islam on the East African Coast, 800-1900*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Waterbury, J. (1970) *The Commander of the Faithful - The Moroccan Political Elite - A Study in Segmented Politics*, New York: Columbia University Press.