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
Phone: 352-392-2175
e-mail: ostebo@ufl.edu
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)

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
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<td>Tot %</td>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>88-</td>
<td>82-</td>
<td>76-</td>
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<td>61-</td>
<td>56-</td>
<td>51-</td>
<td>46-</td>
<td>40-</td>
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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 review\(^1\) 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):

Articles/book-chapters (on Canvas):
Campbell, J (2014) U.S. Policy to Counter Nigeria’s Boko Haram, Council on Foreign Relations, Report No. 70 (pp 1-29)


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 54-129)

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

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