Meeting Times & Location:
Mon. 8-9 (3:00-3:50; 4:05-4:55) & Wed. 8 (3:00-3:50): AND 0021

Instructor: Benjamin Soares
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Office hours: Mon., 2-3 PM, Wed., 4-5 PM, & by appointment

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 better and deeper understanding of Islam and Muslim societies in the contemporary global context. With a focus on Islam in the contemporary world, the course will provide knowledge about the diversity and complexity of Islam and Muslim cultures and societies in global context with particular attention to questions of politics. The course will be topical in approach, and it will study Islam at the intersection of broader social, cultural, and political economic processes in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and the Middle East. The course is interdisciplinary in nature and draws on perspectives from the humanities and the social sciences.

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course students should have an:
- Understanding of current discourses and dynamics in the study of global Islam
- Understanding of both the commonalities and diversity within global Islam
- Understanding of the intersection of Islam with broader social, cultural, and political economic processes in different parts of the world
- Understanding of Islam and politics in a global context
- Understanding of Islam, transnationalism, and greater global interconnections
- Understanding of questions of gender in relation to global Islam
- Understanding of the relations between Islam and other religions

Course Contract: By accepting this syllabus, you are agreeing to participate in frank discussions of some matters that many consider offensive or disturbing. If you are not ready to learn about and critically discuss such matters, do not take this course.

Requirements, Assignments, & Grading Criteria (N.B.: additional requirements for graduate students follow)

This class fulfills the Writing requirement (4,000 words) for undergraduates. You must complete at least 4,000 words of writing during the semester. Please ensure that each written assignment fulfills the minimum word requirement.
The final grade for **undergraduates** will be determined by:

- Attendance (10%)
- Participation and presentations (10%)
- Quizzes (10%)
- “Global Islam” Project (20%)
- 2 Response papers (50%)

**Attendance Guidelines:** All students are allowed two unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after the second will result in a five-point deduction from the overall attendance and participation grades. Students with six or more unexcused absences will automatically fail the course. Absences will be considered excused only if a written request is submitted and accepted or if written explanations are submitted and accepted with valid documentation.

**Course Participation Guidelines:** To achieve full credit for participation, students should be consistently prepared, engage in discussion, actively take notes, and offer informed questions and comment. Students must read the material carefully before coming to class. In-class presentations include brief presentations (7 to 10 minutes) on selected readings (from the supplementary readings or additional assigned readings) and help to facilitate discussion. Everyone will make at least two presentations, one on the readings and a second on the individual “Global Islam” project.

**Use of Technology:** During class, electronic devices should only be used for note-taking, accessing course readings, or when prompted by the instructor. Students who use electronic devices for non-course purposes will be asked to put devices away and take notes on paper. Participation grades are tied to appropriate use of technology.

**Quizzes:** There will be at least two unannounced quizzes covering the readings.

**“Global Islam” Project:** All students are required to attend at least one event (public lecture, presentation, etc.) at UF, listen to an agreed upon podcast about Islam and Muslim societies or culture, or watch an agreed upon film or online media source about Islam. Using at least one related article from a scholarly journal or from a long-form journalistic outlet (magazine or website) students will discuss these in a paper (1,000 words) and make a presentation about their project in class. All projects must receive approval from the instructor.

**Response Papers** (1,500 words each, inclusive of notes and citations): 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.

*All papers* should have a title and include the course name, date, page numbers, and a bibliography. All papers must be submitted via e-learning. The format for papers is double spaced with font size 12.

**Graduate Section Requirements and Grading Criteria:**
Graduate students will fulfill all of the requirements listed above, including the papers. In addition to the papers, they will have additional writing assignments, which we will agree upon together. The assignment is to write two reviews of book(s) and articles and/or book chapters. Each review should be 2,000 to 2,500 words double-spaced with font size 12. Graduate students will also meet with me at least two times (1/2 hour) during the semester to discuss the
agreed upon readings and assignments. These meetings will be during my office hours, and each student should email me with questions and/or the list of texts for me to comment on in advance of the meeting.

The final grade for graduate students will be determined by:
• Attendance (10%)
• Participation and presentations (15%)
• “Global Islam” Project (5%)
• 5 papers (70%)

Grading Policies:
On UF policy: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Grading Scale:
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\begin{array}{c|c|c|c}
& A & B- & D+ \\
94-100 (4.0) & 80-83 (2.67) & 67-69 (1.33) \\
90-93 (3.67) & 77-79 (2.33) & 64-66 (1.0) \\
87-89 (3.33) & 74-76 (2.0) & 60-63 (0.67) \\
84-86 (3.0) & 70-73 (1.67) & E \\
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Readings:

The following book is available for purchase at the bookstore:

All other readings will be available either in electronic format (e-books and e-journal articles) through the UF course reserves or via e-Learning (http://elearning.ufl.edu).

Other resources and texts you might find useful for background reading or reference include:

Schedule of Topics and Readings: *N.B.: This document is subject to change; students are responsible for all announced changes.*

**Week 1 (1/6-8): Introduction & Orientation**

*Reading:*

**Week 2 (1/13-15): Islam: Some of the Key Concepts**

*Reading:*

*Primary sources* from John J. Donohue and John L. Esposito, eds, *Islam in Transition: Muslim
Perspectives, New York: Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 2007:
Afghani, pp. 13-19;
Abduh, pp. 20-23;
Rida, pp. 41-43.

Supplementary readings:

Week 3 (1/20-22): Islam, the Local, and the Global

**1/20: No Class, Martin Luther King Day

Readings:

Supplementary reading:

Week 4 (1/27-29): Globalization & Geopolitics

Readings:
Said, Edward, “The Clash of Ignorance,” The Nation (September 2001)
http://www.thenation.com/article/clash-ignorance

**UF event: January 27th, 5.30 PM in the Judaica Suite, Smathers Library, 2nd floor, Steven Weitzman (“The FBI, Jews, and Muslims: A History of Suspicion”)**

Supplementary readings:
Week 5 (2/3-5): Islamism

Reading:

Banna, pp. 59-63;
Mawdudi pp. 74-77.

Supplementary readings:

Week 6 (2/10-12): Islamism as Political Strategy

Reading:

Mawdudi, pp. 262-70;
Ghannouchi, pp. 271-78.

Supplementary readings:
Wiktorowicz, Quintan & Suha Taji Farouki, “Islamic NGOs and Muslim Politics: A Case from Jordan,” Third World Quarterly, 21, 4 (2000), 685-699, DOI: 10.1080/01436590050079065

Week 7 (2/17-19): Islam & Media with guest Dr. Musa Ibrahim

Readings:

Supplementary readings:
**1st Response Paper Due: Friday, 2/21 at 5 pm**

Week 8 (2/24-26): Islamic States and “Islamization” from above

*Reading:*

Mawdudi, pp. 262-70;
Khomeini, pp. 332-40;
Soroush, pp. 311-18.

*Supplementary readings:*

Week 9: Spring break

Week 10 (3/9-11): Weak and Failed States

*Reading:*


*Supplementary readings:*

Week 11 (3/16-18): Radical Islamism and Jihad, with guest Dr. Adib Bencherif

*Readings:*

Qutb, pp. 409-16;

**Supplementary reading:**

**Week 12 (3/23-25): Post-Islamism?**

**Readings:**

**Supplementary readings:**

**Week 13 (3/30-4/1): Questions of Gender**

**Readings:**

Supplementary readings:

Week 14 (4/6-8): The Religious “Other”

Readings:

Supplementary readings:

**2nd Response Paper Due: Friday, 4/10 at 5 pm**


Week 16 (4/20-22): Class Presentations/Wrap Up

**“Global Islam” project paper due: Tuesday, 4/24 at 12 noon**
Policies, Rules, Expectations, and Resources:

1. **Multi-tasking**: Given the prevalence of technology and its attendant effects (fragmentation, interruption, poor concentration, distraction) the use of electronic devices in class is for classroom use only. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned to vibrate during class (in order to be available for the UF emergency system).

2. **Late Assignments**: You may receive an extension only in extraordinary circumstances. If you do not receive an extension from the instructor, assignment will be marked down a half grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each day late.

3. **Completion of All Assignments**: You must complete all written and oral work and fulfil the requirement for attendance and class participation in order to pass the course.

4. **Honor Code**: UF students are bound by the Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/), and all students have agreed to follow this Code, meaning they will not give or receive unauthorized assistance in completing assignments.

5. **Writing Tips & Plagiarism**: On writing strategy and how to avoid plagiarism, see: https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/for-students/video-resources/rhetoric-strategy/. A grade of zero will be assigned to any assignment that breaks the UF Honor Code; in such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean.

6. **Course Evaluation**: Students are expected to provide feedback on the course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu.

7. **Students Requiring Accommodation**: Students with disabilities requesting accommodation should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.