

## Muslim Thought and Practice, part II (Spring 2022)

Religion 5937

**Class Meeting Times:** Wednesdays 10AM-12PM (every other week)

**Class Venue:** Anderson Hall 134

**Instructor:** Professor Ali Altaf Mian, Ph.D.

**E-mail:** [alimian@ufl.edu](mailto:alimian@ufl.edu)

**Office Phone:** 352-273-2940

**Office Location:** Anderson Hall 107-A

### Course Synopsis:

This course is part two of a year-long graduate-level survey of Muslim Thought and Practice. Our readings will concentrate on the early modern, the modern, and the contemporary periods. Thematically, they will cover questions of historical memory, gender, intellectual innovation, reform and revival, sovereignty, secular reason, ethical practices, moral selfhood, technology and media, the local and the global, and center-periphery. Many of the readings will help us to analyze how colonialism transformed Muslim traditions, with a focus on intellectual history and especially with reference to South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. By writing focused weekly commentaries, students will engage these themes and the broader history of modern Islam from a range of critical perspectives. Students will also have the opportunity to present on key concepts of Islamic studies and also conduct research for producing polished papers.

### Required Texts:

- Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate* (Yale University Press, 1992).
- Muhammad U. Faruque, *Sculpting the Self: Islam, Selfhood, and Human Flourishing* (University of Michigan Press, 2021).
- Muhammad Qasim Zaman, *Modern Islamic Thought in a Radical Age: Religious Authority and Internal Criticism* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).
- Wilson Chacko Jacob, *For God or Empire? Sayyid Fadl and the Indian Ocean World* (Stanford University Press, 2019).
- Ismail Fajrie Alatas, *What is Religious Authority? Cultivating Islamic Communities in Indonesia* (Princeton University Press, 2021).
- Stefania Pandolfo, *Knot of the Soul: Madness, Psychoanalysis, Islam* (University of Chicago Press, 2018).
- Alireza Doostdar, *Iranian Metaphysicals: Explorations in Science, Islam, and the Uncanny* (Princeton University Press, 2018)

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is expected, and will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Class will begin and end on time.

### Grading Scale

Score	Percent	Grade	Grade Points
940-1000	94-100	A	4.00
900-939	90.0-93.9	A-	3.67
867-899	86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
834-866	83.4-86.6	B	3.00
800-833	80.0-83.3	B-	2.67

767-799	76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
734-766	73.4-76.6	C	2.00
700-733	70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
667-699	66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
634-666	63.4-66.6	D	1.00
600-633	60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-599	0-59.9	E	0.00

### Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### Assignments and Grade Breakdown (Total 1000 points):

Attendance and Discussion of Readings—200 points

Critical Commentaries on Readings—300 points (6 commentaries at 50 points each)

Final Paper—500 points

### Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://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.

### University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

### Schedule of Meetings

### Wednesday 19 January:

- Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate* (Yale University Press, 1992).

- Muhammad U. Faruque, *Sculpting the Self: Islam, Selfhood, and Human Flourishing* (University of Michigan Press, 2021).

**Wednesday 2 February:**

- Muhammad Qasim Zaman, *Modern Islamic Thought in a Radical Age: Religious Authority and Internal Criticism* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

**Wednesday 16 February:**

- Wilson Chacko Jacob, *For God or Empire? Sayyid Fadl and the Indian Ocean World* (Stanford University Press, 2019).

**Wednesday 16 February:**

- Ismail Fajrie Alatas, *What is Religious Authority? Cultivating Islamic Communities in Indonesia* (Princeton University Press, 2021).

**Wednesday 16 March:**

- Stefania Pandolfo, *Knot of the Soul: Madness, Psychoanalysis, Islam* (University of Chicago Press, 2018)

**Wednesday 6 April:**

- Alireza Doostdar, *Iranian Metaphysicals: Explorations in Science, Islam, and the Uncanny* (Princeton University Press, 2018)

**Wednesday 20 April: Readings TBA**