

California State University, Sacramento
Department of Humanities and Religious Studies
HRS 144: Introduction to Islam

Spring 2009

MW: 4:00-5:15

Building: CLV 145

Phone: 278-7329

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Course Description:

This course will examine Islam as a religion (i.e. its belief system, traditions and practices) based on Qur'anic origins and the practices of Prophet Muhammad (the *sunnah*). A comparative approach will be applied to the discussion of examining the historical development of Islamic law, religious sects, mysticism, and the intellectual thought of global Muslim community from medieval to contemporary times.

Learning Objectives:

The course will investigate the religious and the historical aspects in order to provide sound knowledge and a culminating experience of Islam. By the end of the course, students should:

- Be familiar with Islam's belief system, its practices and traditions, and the historical development of its intellectual thought.
- Develop and refine analytical and critical thinking techniques through intellectual reading, analytical writing, and class discussion.
- Compare and contrast the religious different sects in the Muslim World.
- Identify the main geographical temperament of the Muslim region(s).
- Acquire the ability to assess information in an array of different religious, historical, and socio-cultural matters in order to construct a full picture of the studied subject.

Required Texts:

Abdo, Geneive. *Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America After 9/11*.
Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Armstrong, Karen. *Islam: A Short History*. New York, New York: Random House, Inc., 2002.

Fakhry, Majid. *Islamic Philosophy, Theology, and Mysticism: A Short Introduction*. Oxford, England: Oneworld Publications, 2005.

Al-Nawawi, Yahya ibn Sharaf. *Al-Maqasid: Nawawi's Manual of Islam*. Rev.ed. Translated by Nuh Ha Min Keller. Beltsville, Maryland: Amana Publications, 2002.

----- . *An-Nawawi's Forty Hadith*. Reprint. Translated by Ezzeddin Ibrahim and Denys Johnson-Davies. Cambridge, England: Islamic Text Society, 2006.

Sells, Michael. Trans. *Approaching the Quran: The Early Revelations*. 2 nd printing. Ashland, Oregon: White Cloud Press, 2001.

----- . Trans. *Desert Tracings: Six Classic Arabian Odes by 'Alqama, Shanfara, Labid, 'Antara, Al-A'sha, and Dhu al-Rumma*. Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 1989.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation (25%): Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class session. Students are expected to come to class and **(25%)** of the total grade will be based on attendance and participation. In order to obtain the total **(25%)** students need to attend all classes.

Writing Assignments on the Readings (60%): Preparation is crucial for participation. In order to foster good discussions, students need to write a paper on the readings. These assignments must be **typed** (doubled spaced, 12-point font, and one-inch margin) and should be no longer than **two pages**. Hand written papers will not be accepted. Students **must** attend class to turn the assignment in, and it must be turned in during class. The assignments are **six (6)** in total, **hundred** points each, and they will account for **six hundred** points, which is **(60%)** of the total course grade.

Map Quiz (10%): The map quiz is intended to familiarize you with the geography of the Muslim World. Focus will be on countries, capitals, major cities, and the Muslim World global location. The date for the map quiz is given below in the

class schedule. The map quiz will account for **hundred** points, which is **(10%)** of the total course grade.

Class Presentation (5%): Each student must present once during the course. Presentations should cover one of the weekly assigned readings, not exceed five minutes in length, and each presenter must prepare one or two questions for class discussion. Class presentation will account for **fifty** points, which is **(5%)** of the total course grade.

Grades:

Attendance and Participation:	250 points= 25%
Writing Assignments on the Readings (6)	600 points= 60%
Map Quiz	100 points= 10%
Class Presentation	50 points= 05%

Important Notes:

- *Cheating* and *plagiarism* will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic **(F)** for the course.
- No food allowed during the lecture. However, drinks are Ok.
- No cellular phones, laptops, iPods, etc.
- No late coming to class because of class disruption. Exceptions could be made on an ad-hoc status.

Cheating:

- To deceive by trickery.
- To act dishonestly.
- To violate rules deliberately.¹

Plagiarism:

The unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.²

1 <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/cheating>

2 <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/plagiarism>

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: January 26-28

M: Introduction to the Course & Historical-Geographical Background.

W: Armstrong, *Islam*, p. 3-33.

Week 2: February 2-4

M: Sells, *Desert tracing*, p. 3-31.

W: Sells, *Desert tracing*, p. 32-76.

First writing assignment on the readings due at beginning of Monday's class.

Week 3: February 9-11

M: Sells, *The Quran*, p. 1-40.

W: Sells, *The Quran*, p. 42-76.

Second writing assignment on the readings due at beginning of Monday's class.

Week 4: February 16-18

M: Sells, *The Quran*, p. 78-115.

W: Sells, *The Quran*, p. 116-149.

Week 5: February 23- 25

M: Sells, *The Quran*, p. 150-180.

W: Sells, *The Quran*, p. 183-207.

Map quiz at the end of Thursday's class.

Week 6: March 2-4

M: Al-Nawawi, *Forty Hadith*, p. 7- 61.

W: Al-Nawawi, *Forty Hadith*, p. 62- 127.

Third writing assignment on the readings due at beginning of Monday's class.

Week 7: March 9-11

M: Al-Nawawi, *Al-Maqasid*, p. 5- 31.

W: Al-Nawawi, *Al-Maqasid*, p. 32- 69.

Forth writing assignment on the readings due at beginning of Monday's class.

Week 8: March 16-18

M: Al-Nawawi, *Al-Maqasid*, p. 70- 84.

W: Al-Nawawi, *Al-Maqasid*, p. 85- 94.

Week 9: March 23-25

M: Armstrong, *Islam*, p. 41- 80.

W: Armstrong, *Islam*, p. 81- 114.

Week 10: March 30- April 1

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Week 11: April 6-8

M: Armstrong, *Islam*, p. 115- 140.

W: Armstrong, *Islam*, p. 141- 187.

Week 12: April 13-15

M: Fakhry, *Islamic Philosophy*, p. 1- 37.

W: Fakhry, *Islamic Philosophy*, p. 38- 72.

Fifth writing assignment on the readings due at beginning of Monday's class.

Week 13: April 20-22

M: Fakhry, *Islamic Philosophy*, p. 73- 100.

W: Fakhry, *Islamic Philosophy*, p. 101- 142.

Week 14: April 27-29

M: Abdo, *Mecca*, p. 1- 36.

W: Abdo, *Mecca*, p. 37- 86.

Sixth writing assignment on the readings due at beginning of Monday's class.

Week 15: May 4-6

M: Abdo, *Mecca*, p. 87- 136.

W: Abdo, *Mecca*, p. 137- 186.

Week 16: May 11-13

M: Abdo, *Mecca*, p. 187- 201.

W: **Conclusion and Reflections.**