

**History 313/513 History of Islam (Spring 2016)**

Wednesdays, Fridays 1400-1515. CCC 224. Final Exam: Thursday, May 19, 12:30-14:30

**Professor E. Francis**

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Office Hours (Spring 2016): MWF 1045-1145, **and by appointment**

**OVERVIEW**

This course aims to introduce students to the development of Islamic religious beliefs and the practice of Islam from the time of the Prophet Muhammad (ca. 7<sup>th</sup> century CE) to the present. One of the main goals is to illustrate the diversity of these beliefs and practices over time and across the world. Another is to demonstrate the development of Islam in its historical context.

This course carries credit for the Interdisciplinary Studies and Global Awareness GEP categories. It is also an upper-level course suitable for majors and minors in History, International Studies, Broad-Field Social Science, and Religious Studies.

**NOTE: This syllabus, like all learning, is a work in progress and subject to change.**

**INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Comment [FE1]:** Note GEP's

At the end of this class, students will be able to:

1. formulate reflective, informed, and sympathetic evaluations of Islamic beliefs and practices.
2. describe events from the historical development of Islam and of Muslim groups and societies
3. recognize the varieties of evidence used to interpret the history of Islam and of Muslim societies.
4. identify and interpret primary sources.
5. evaluate competing historical claims about the Islamic past
6. apply knowledge and skills from history and religious studies to solve problems.
7. describe what the disciplines of history and religious studies each contribute to understanding the development of Islam.
8. explain the benefits of being able to combine the contributions of two different disciplines in examining a topic.

**Comment [FE2]:** Review ILO's to bring into line with hist Dept & GEP

**BOOKS AND READINGS**

Aslan, Reza. *No God But God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam*. Rental text. Required.

Ernst, Carl. *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World*. \$24.00. Required.

Williams, John, editor. *The Word of Islam*. \$24.95. Required.

**NOTE:** Additional required readings will be distributed through Electronic Reserves (E-Reserves). Students must have a **hardcopy** of the day's assigned reading with them when they come to class.

**Additional Recommended Texts:**

Ansary, Tamim. *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes*. \$15.95.

Egger, Vernon. *A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization*.  
(Rental Textbook for History 232. Available through Textbook Rental as of Week 3.)

*The Quran: A New Translation*. Translated by M.A. S. Abdel Haleem. \$18.00.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Seventh Edition*.  
\$18.00.

**Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments**

“Say, ‘Only what God has decreed will happen to us.

He is our Master: let the believers put their trust in God.’”

Qur’an 9:63

Detailed reading schedules will be distributed on a regular basis.

Here is a general plan for the semester:

Weeks 1-6: Introduction and Origins

- Week 1 Introduction to class
- Week 2 Approaches to Islam
- Week 3 Background and Origins
- Week 4 The Early Community
- Week 5 The Early Community (Continued)
- Week 6 After Muhammad
  - **Friday, March 4: Exam 1**

Weeks 7-10: Developing Islam

- Week 7: Developing Islam
  - **Friday, March 11: Book Critique Due**
- Week 8 Islamic Theology

SPRING BREAK, 3/15-3/23

- Week 9 Islamic Law (Sharia)
- Week 10 Islamic Law (Sharia) (continued)
  - **Friday, April 8: Exam 2**

Weeks 11-15: Islamic Spirituality Modernity

- Week 11 Shiism
- Week 12 Sufism
  - **Wednesday, April 20: Biography Due**
- Week 13 Sufism (Continued)
- Week 14 Muslims Respond to the Modern World
  - **Friday, May 6: Final Reflection Due**
- Week 15 **International Congress of Medieval Studies**
  - International Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI, May 11-15, 2016.  
Class may not meet in lieu of alternate assignment.
- Finals Week (5/14)
  - **FINAL EXAM/EXAM 3: Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 12:30-14:30**

**Comment [FE3]:** Do I want to require this?

**Comment [FE4]:** Do I want to require this?

**Comment [FE5]:** Somewhere, bring students to the mosque in Marshfield, or bring the imam to them. Also, Shanny has contact at AUC that puts students in contact with one another. Must investigate further.

**Comment [FE6]:** During Week 2, work in a thumbnail sketch of Islamic history. CONSIDER: *Orientalism* film? Future assignment.. for the future

**Comment [FE7]:** Tues, Week 3: Geography Quiz?

**Comment [FE8]:** Re: Sufism (*dhikr*): Assign Qur’an (XXXIII:41, II:153, IV:104, VII:206, XIII:28, XVIII:24, XXIV:36-37, LXXVI:25). And, for that matter, there’s plenty from the Quran to assign relative to Sufism for future classes in the future.

**Comment [FE9]:** Corrected for Sp. 16

**GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Final course grades will be assigned on a percentage basis:

	A	93.0%+	A-	90.0%+	Exceptional or exemplary work.	
B+	87.0%+	B	83.0%+	B-	80.0%+	Very good work. Above average.
C+	77.0%+	C	73.0%+	C-	70.0%+	Acceptable work. Meets minimum requirements.
D+	67.0%+	D	63.0%+	F	0-62.9%	Does not meet minimum requirements.

The university does not recognize a grade of D-, so any grade of less than 63.0% will result in a grade of F for the course. Grades will be based on completion of the following assignments:

ASSIGNMENT	DEADLINE*	NOTES	GRADE%
SHORT ASSIGNMENTS	Ongoing	Distributed equally over 7-10 assignments	10%
PROFESSIONALISM	Ongoing	Distributed equally; assessed regularly	15%
EXAMS	March 4 April 8 Thursday, May 19, 12:30-14:30*	Distributed equally	37%
<u>WRITING</u>			38%
Book Critique (ca. 4-6 pp.)	<u>March 11</u>	40% of Writing	
<u>Biography (ca. 4-6 pp.)</u>	<u>April 20</u>	40% of Writing	
Final Reflection (2-4 pp.)	Friday, May 6*	20% of Writing	
TOTAL			100%

\*Deadlines for the Final Reflection Paper and Exam 3 subject to change to accommodate the International Congress on Medieval Studies.

See below for further detail on specific assignments.

- Comment [FE10]:** Deadlines: Night before, online?
- Comment [FE11]:** Make deadline a day before class?
- Comment [FE12]:** Require an appendix of primary sources?
- Comment [FE13]:** Make deadline a day before class?

**GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS** (continued)

**Professionalism.** 15% of overall grade. Assessed three times during the semester  
College is your gateway into the working world. Thus, I will follow practices of common courtesy and professionalism expected in the workplace. I expect that you do the same. You will be held to those standards, and these will be reflected in your professionalism grade. Aspects of your professionalism grade will include **attendance, preparation, courtesy, participation, and academic honesty**. Missing more than 10% of class sessions will result in significant penalties to your "Professionalism" grade. For more information, see the rubric on professionalism posted to D2L. I will assess students' professionalism three times during the semester.

**Short Assignments.** 10% of overall grade. Ongoing, unannounced. ca. 10 assignments.

- o I will conduct frequent, unannounced quizzes on assigned readings at the start of lectures and class discussions. These quizzes will assess your basic understanding of the texts assigned.
- o I will also assign brief, graded writing assignments periodically—either as homework or as in-class writing. These assignments will never exceed 250 words.
- o Only the top 90% of your quizzes and short assignments (rounding down) will count towards your grade. Because of this, **students may not normally make up missed quizzes or short assignments.**

Comment [FE14]: Higher figure?

**Exams.** 37% of course grade, distributed equally among three exams:

- Wednesday, March 4
- Wednesday, April 8
- Thursday, May 19, 12:30-14:30\*

There will be three scheduled in-class exams during the course of the semester. These will be "blue book" exams in which you will be asked for several short answers (e.g., definitions) and 1-2 longer essays. Study guides will be available for all exams beforehand.

\*The date for Exam 3 is subject to change, as needed to accommodate the International Congress of Medieval Studies.

**Writing.** Three writing assignments will make up 38% of your grade:

**Book Critique** Deadline: 3/6. 1000-1500 words. 40% of Writing grade=ca. 16% of overall grade  
You will be required to write a critique of a book that is important to debates in the historiography of Islam. A list of possible books will be provided. Any books will be available in the UWSP Library or through Universal Borrowing or Inter-Library Loan. This critique will be approximately 4-6 pages long.

**Biography** Deadline: 4/15. 1000-1500 words. 40% of Writing grade=ca. 16% of overall grade  
You will be required to write a brief biography of an important figure in either Sufism or in modern reforms of Islam. You will need to conduct independent research to complete this paper. This will be approximately 4-6 pages long. You will also be responsible for leading class discussions on your figure in the last sessions of class.

**Final Reflection** Deadline: 5/9. 500-750 words. 20% of Writing grade=ca. 8% of overall grade  
Your final paper will be a brief essay describing how history, religious studies, and other disciplines have contributed to your learning about Islam. This will be approximately 1-3 pages long.

\*The deadline for the Final Reflection Paper is subject to change, as needed to accommodate the International Congress of Medieval Studies.

### COURSE POLICIES

**Academic Honesty:** This course operates in accordance with the University's policies on academic honesty. In particular, note the following policies:

- Students must complete all quizzes, exams and written assignments without assistance from others, except where specific instructions say otherwise (e.g., group assignments).
- I expect that no student will plagiarize any assignment or portion of any assignment. Cambridge University's "University-Wide Statement on Plagiarism" defines plagiarism as "submitting as one's own work, irrespective of intent to deceive, that which derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others without due acknowledgement." [Emphasis added.] The statement adds, "[Plagiarism] is both poor scholarship and a breach of academic integrity."<sup>1</sup>
- Material taken from other sources must be acknowledged and clearly cited in accordance with a style manual such as Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (which is a recommended book for the class).
- No student may submit the same piece of work for two different classes without the prior consent of both instructors.
- Cheating and plagiarism carry serious penalties at the university. I encourage you to review your rights and responsibilities as outlined in "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures," available online at:  
<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/Community%20Rights%20and%20Responsibilities.pdf#page=8>.

**Comment [FE15]:** Future: Refer them to Dean of Students?

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and Participation make up a significant portion of your grade in this course. (See "Professionalism," above.) To participate in class discussions, you must be present for the entire session; you must be prepared; and you must be attentive. All of these factors will contribute to your "Professionalism" grade. Missing more than 10% of class sessions will result in significant penalties to your "Professionalism" grade. In any case, whenever you miss class for whatever reason, it is also your responsibility to obtain that day's notes and any other pertinent information from one of your classmates. To be prepared, read the material due that day and bringing a hard copy to class. To remain attentive, turn off all electronic devices (see below). See also: **Electronic Devices, Late Work, Missed Assignments, PowerPoint**

**Comment [FE16]:** Need to align with rubric for Professionalism

**Communication.** See **Desire 2 Learn, E-mail, and Office Hours.**

**Copyright on Course Materials.** As the instructor, I retain all copyright on lectures, slides, assignments, and other course materials. I do not allow anybody to photograph, film, or otherwise record lectures without my express permission. I do not allow anybody to distribute course materials to people not currently enrolled in this class without my express permission. Posting course material I have created onto course-sharing websites directly violates my copyright on my academic materials.

<sup>1</sup> University of Cambridge, "University-Wide Statement on Plagiarism," <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/students/statement.html> (published June 2011, accessed January 19, 2014.)

**COURSE POLICIES** (continued)

**Desire 2 Learn (D2L).** This class uses Desire2Learn (D2L), UWSP's Online Learning Management System.

- All written work must be submitted electronically to the D2L Dropbox.
- I will post grades, class announcements, review sheets, course information, and PowerPoint slides on D2L, as well as other materials.
- I encourage you to ask me questions about the course on the D2L discussion boards. If you have a question, there's a good chance several other students have it too! As with e-mail, I will check D2L at least once a day, Monday through Friday.
- You can log into D2L at <https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/>, with your UWSP logon. D2L can also be found on your MyPoint Portal, <https://mypoint.uwsp.edu>, on the Academics tab. After you have logged in to D2L, look below "My Stevens Point Courses" in the middle of the screen. Click the plus sign in front of the current semester to access the link to our class.

**E-mail.** I may make course announcements by e-mail. Be sure to regularly check your university provided email account (e.g., [spointer@uwsp.edu](mailto:spointer@uwsp.edu)). For my part, I check my e-mail at least once a day, Monday through Friday.

**Electronic Devices.** I strongly discourage the use of electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, or laptop computers in the classroom. All those who wish to use laptop computers or similar devices must sit at the back of the room to avoid distracting other students. If I believe that any student is creating a distraction for others, I will insist that they put away the device or leave the class.

**Equity of Educational Access.** I will make every effort to accommodate verified disabilities so that students can do their best work in this course. If you have a learning or physical challenge which requires classroom accommodation, please contact the UWSP Disability Services Office with your documentation as early as possible in the semester. They will then notify me, in a confidential memo, of the accommodations that will facilitate your success in the course. They can be reached at:

**Disability Services Office**, LRC 609, Voice: (715) 346-3365, TTY: (715) 346-3362,  
web: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/contact/default.aspx>.

**Graduate Credit.** Graduate students enrolled in History 513 for graduate credit will be held to a higher standard in all areas of grading. In addition, graduate students must complete an additional assignment requiring independent research. Graduate students should meet with the instructor by the end of the second week of classes to settle the details of their graduate assignment.

**Late Work.** Any work submitted after the deadline will be subject to a -5% penalty for each 24 hours (or portion thereof) it is late. No written assignment may be submitted more than two weeks after the deadline. I will consider accommodations for special circumstances if informed beforehand, but am unlikely to do so after the fact except in case of a verified, legitimate emergency.

See also: **Missed Assignments**

**Comment [FE17]:** Adopted from Hist 102, S16

**COURSE POLICIES** (continued)

**Missed Assignments.** Failure to take a quiz, exam, or in-class assignment will result in zero credit for that assignment.

- I will only allow make-up exams in documented cases of illness, emergency, or university-related travel.
- As a rule, students **cannot** make up grades for in-class work or "short assignments," since all students may drop 10% in this category. I will only make exceptions in rare cases only for the reasons stated above.
- See also: **Attendance, Late Work**

**Office Hours.** Please visit me in my office (463 CCC), especially if there are things you don't understand in the class or if you are experiencing any other difficulties. I have scheduled office hours (listed on the syllabus) when I am always available to students. If you are not available during my scheduled office hours, I am always happy to schedule an appointment.

**PowerPoint.** I do use PowerPoint slideshows in the classroom. I do not make them available to students, except when necessary for reasons of equity of educational access.

**Religious Beliefs.** If you think you may need academic accommodations in this class due to your religious beliefs (for instance, if you cannot complete an assignment due to a religious holiday), please let me know within the first three weeks of class. I will work with all such students to provide reasonable accommodations for religious beliefs, in accordance with UWS 22.03.

**Acknowledgements.** I consulted many different materials produced by others in drafting this syllabus. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the work of Corinne Dempsey, Tracy Feldman, Neil Prendergast, and Robert Morrison. The end product is my own, as are any errors.