

History 313/513 History of Islam

Wednesdays, Fridays 2:00-3:15 PM CCC 224

Final Exam: Thursday, May 17, 2018, 12:30 PM-2:30 PM CC 224

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Office Hours (Spring 2018): Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:30-11:30 **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. 7th 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.

NOTE: This syllabus, like all learning, is a work in progress and subject to change. I will notify students of all changes in class, by email, and/or through D2L.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. formulate reflective, informed, and sympathetic evaluations of Islamic beliefs and practices.
2. use primary sources to answer questions about historical change in Islam
3. describe differences among interpretations of the Islamic past.
4. analyze institutional and cultural changes in Islam and in Muslim communities over time.
5. describe what the disciplines of history and religious studies each contribute to understanding the development of Islam.
6. explain the benefits of being able to combine the contributions of two different disciplines in examining a topic.

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.

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

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 copy of the day's assigned reading with them when they come to class.

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	GRADE%
Professionalism	Ongoing	15%
Exams (3)		40%
WRITING		
Book Critique (4-7 pp.)		18%
Biography (4-7 pp.)		17%
Final Reflection (2-4 pp.)		10%
TOTAL		100%

Professionalism

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**. In addition, quizzes, in-class exercises, and short writing assignments may be incorporated into your Professionalism grade as I deem necessary. I will post a detailed rubric on D2L. I will assess students' professionalism three times during the semester.

Exams

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.

Book Critique

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 4-7 pages long.

Biography

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 4-7 pages long.

COURSE POLICIES

These policies cover any issues not addressed above. Course policies are listed in alphabetical order.

Academic Honesty.

I expect all students to uphold principles of academic honesty in this classroom. Students who commit any form of academic dishonesty in this class will be given a "**0**" (**zero**) grade for the relevant assignment. Further penalties can range from a lowered grade in the class (up to and including failing the class) to suspension or expulsion from the University.

- Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to):
 - plagiarism.
 - cheating on exams
 - providing false information on official documentation (e.g., signing others in for attendance, or giving false excuses to make up work)
 - presenting the same piece of work for credit in two different classes without prior permission
- Regarding plagiarism, I find the following statement from Cambridge University very helpful: "Plagiarism is defined 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. It is both poor scholarship and a breach of academic integrity."¹
- Review your rights and responsibilities as outlined on the web page for the Office of the Dean of Students: (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>):
 - "Academic Integrity: A Guide for Students." *UWSP Dean of Students*.
<<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>>
 - "Academic Misconduct" *UWSP Dean of Students*.
< <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>>
 - "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" (UWS/UWSP Chapter 14). Available from the UWSP Dean of Students Website.

Add/Drop Period:

It is your responsibility to understand when you need to consider disenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP Academic Calendar for dates and deadlines for registration. Please note that these are the deadlines for all paperwork to be turned in. You may need signatures from different faculty or staff, and they may not all be waiting around for you on the very last day. Plan ahead!

By the same token, if you enroll in the course after the first day of classes, contact me to inform me that you have added the course. Even when you add a course late, you are responsible for all of the material presented before you enrolled--just like the rest of the class.

¹ 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.)

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.