

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2018

Course RELS 353
Time TR 12:30-13:45
Instructor Dr. Mushegh Asatryan
Office Hours Th 14:30-15:30
Office CHD 322
E-mail Mushegh.asatryan@ucalgary.ca
Telephone 403-220-3241

Required Text(s): John Obert Voll, *Islam: Continuity and Change in the Modern World*, 2nd ed. (Cyracuse University Press, 1994)

Additional texts will be uploaded to D2L

Optional Text(s):

Course Description: How is Islam today different from what it was a thousand years ago (or is it)? What are the responses to Western colonialism, the rise of nation states, and globalization by various Muslim groups and individuals? Is Islam in the West different from Islam in traditionally Muslim regions? This course will address these and other questions within a broad historical framework, by asking, not only *what?* and *when?*, but also *how?* and *why?*

During the semester will read about the history of various Islamic movements that have emerged in the last couple of hundred years, while examining the political and social circumstances of their rise. We will examine the writings of modern Muslim thinkers and will study how they have used the Islamic tradition to advocate for contemporary concerns. We will try to understand the ways Islam has been evoked to justify (sometimes violent) political action. Finally, we will look at the changing perceptions about gender among different Muslim groups in the West and in the East. The materials covered during the course include films, studies *about* modern Islam as well as works *by* modern Muslim thinkers.

Core Competencies: Knowledge of key Muslim thinkers, political figures, and movements in the modern period; the ability to critically read and analyze religious texts; to place individuals, events, and ideas in historical perspective; the ability to express oneself with clarity orally and on paper.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
1 March	Midterm test	30%	
12 April	Take Home Final test	35%	
1 April	Final paper	35%	

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments: Missed tests may not be retaken unless you have a serious excuse. If you do not submit your papers on the due date, for each additional day you will lose 10% (e.g., if it's 100%, you will get 90%). You can have five extra days to submit your paper, after which you cannot submit it anymore and will receive 0 for that paper.

Expectations for student conduct in this course: *Attendance and participation* are key to your success in this class. This will be an interactive class, and by attending all sessions and by actively participating you will ensure that you maximize your learning experience (and your final grade).

Please do not come to class late, this disrupts the teaching and learning process.

Electronic Device Policy: No cellphones, are allowed in class. You may only use laptops and tablets *to take notes*: if you use them for any other purpose, such as surfing the internet, checking email, Facebook, etc., you will be asked to turn them off. I reserve the right to ban the use of laptops altogether, should I notice that they interfere with the students' participation and negatively affect class discussion in general.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>). If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, or librarian staff.

Student Accommodations

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints. Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

Safewalk

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.