

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Fall 2005 Course Outline

05/08/16

Rels 357 L98 The Religious Civilization of Islam - Weekend University

Time: Saturday, 1:00-5:00 pm
Instructor: Dr. David A. Bergen
Office Hours: SS1322 - One hour prior to class or by appointment
Telephone: 220-3285
Email: burgndy@telus.net
Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dabergen>

Textbooks: Esposito, John *The Oxford History of Islam* (2000; Oxford University Press).
Jenkins, Keith *Rethinking History* (1991: London and New York: Routledge).

Course Description The first part of this course will survey the basic religious ideas, texts, figures, and practices of the religion of Islam, including an overview of their historical developments. The second section will critically reflect on “history” as a strategy for understanding Islam. Whose history is being narrated? Who is telling the story? For whom does the history of Islam create understanding? Attention will be given to “revisionist” scholars who critique typical understandings of the origins of the Quran and the religion associated with Muhammad. Here, the Jenkins text will function as a methodological introduction to the principles of New Historicism and historiography. Emphasis will be given to the historical diversity of Islamicate civilization throughout the Afro-Asian Oikumene as an antidote to orientalist descriptions of Islam as a singular sociological entity unified by unchanging religious doctrines.

Core Competencies

This course promotes the following academic competencies:

- Skill in reading, interpreting, and reflecting on secondary sources on religion.
- Realization of the role of religion in human affairs.
- Awareness of the malleability of religious ideas and traditions in history.
- Recognition of the insider/outsider differential in religious studies.

Student Responsibilities

- Attendance of lectures
- Comprehension of presented materials
- Conceptual control of basic facts, concepts, and issues
- Critical reflection and discussion of assigned readings

Learning Assessment

Prospectus and Bibliography for First Essay	5%
First essay	20%
Prospectus and Bibliography for Second Essay	5%
Second essay	20%
Class participation	25%
Registrar scheduled final exam	25%
Total:	100%

PLEASE NOTE:

- assignments must be written/submitted on the dates scheduled. No exceptions will be made, except for death or significant illness (corroborated by an original, verifiable note).
- students anticipating a class absence should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; no lecture notes will be available from the instructor.
- recording of lectures is not permitted, except by special permission.
- a 5%/day late penalty will be levied for all late submissions. Late submissions must be dated or stamped by the department's administrative assistant.
- students must maintain "back up" copies of all submissions and be able to reproduce them if required; no concessions will be made for "lost" papers.
- each class will involve discussion of assigned readings. Students will be divided into two groups, with group each alternately weekly between either presenting a summary of the reading for the day, or presenting critical assessment of the same.
- the first essay will be an historical analysis of an aspect or component of Islam of interest to the student. A prospectus and bibliography must be submitted for grading prior to the writing of the paper.
- the second essay will be reassess from a new historicist perspective the subject raised in the first paper.

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:

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.

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. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

I. Islamic Religion

- Sept
17 Introduction to RELS 357
 Introduction: The Academic Study of Islam
 Lecture: Islamic Authority Structures and Ideological Systems
 Assigned Readings:
 Esposito: chapter one – “Muhammad and the Caliphate”
 Esposito: chapter two – “Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge”
- Sept
24 Lecture: Islamic Ethics and Rituals
 Assigned Readings:
 Esposito: chapter three – “Law and Society”
 Esposito: chapter four – “Science, Medicine, and Technology”
- Oct
1 Lecture: Islamic Culture and Thought
 Assigned Readings:
 Esposito: chapter five – “Art and Architecture”
 Esposito: chapter six – “Philosophy and Theology”
 Prospectus and Bibliography Due for First Essay
- Oct
15 Lecture: Islam as a World Power
 Assigned Readings:
 Esposito: chapter seven – “Islam and Christendom”
 Esposito: chapter eight – “Sultanates and Gunpowder Empires”

II. Islamicate Civilization

- Oct
22 Film: An Empire of Faith
 Lecture: Islam in Asia
 Assigned Readings:
 Esposito: chapter nine – “The Eastward Journey of Muslim Kingship”
 Esposito: chapter ten – “Central Asia and China”
 First Essay Due
- Nov
5 Lecture: Sufism, Fundamentalism, and Orientalism
 Assigned Readings:
 Esposito: chapter eleven – “Islam in Africa to 1800”
 Esposito: chapter twelve – “Foundations for Renewal and Reform”
 Prospectus and Bibliography Due for Second Essay
- Nov
19 Lecture: Islam and the West
 Assigned Readings:
 Esposito: chapter thirteen – “European Colonialism and the Emergence of ...”
 Esposito: chapter fourteen – “The Globalization of Islam”
- Nov
26 Lecture: Islam in America
 Assigned Readings:
 Esposito: chapter fifteen – “Contemporary Islam”
 Second Essay Due
- Final Exam – Dec 10th**