

**University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies**

RELS 357 L01 - The Religious Civilization of Islam

Instructor: Oren Steinitz
Class day & time: MW 6:00-8:45pm
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Office hours: TBA
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Textbook:

- Daniel W. Brown (2009). *A New Introduction to Islam*. 2nd Edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell
- Additional Material will be posted on *Blackboard*.

Description:

The course will present a survey of the historical development of Islamic institutions, beliefs and practice in light of the changing social circumstances in the Middle-East, North-Africa and South-East Asia. Special emphasis will be placed on the dynamic and diverse nature of Islam, and its interpretation in different communities.

Students are expected to follow the academic schedule and fulfill their reading assignments, ideally before coming to class. Class lectures do not repeat the contents of the textbook and posted articles but will supplement them and provide an opportunity to discuss and focus on specific issues.

Course Requirements

- **One mid-term in-class exam, based on readings and class discussions – 30%**
The exam will take place on May 30th, and will include term definitions, multiple choice questions and ‘fill in the blank’ questions
- **A one paragraph research proposal, including a preliminary bibliography.** The proposal should be submitted electronically *before* June 1st. Late submissions will be penalized by 5% of your *final* grade *per week*.
- **In-class Presentation – 10%**
- **A Research Paper – 25%**
Approximately 1500-2000 words, due on the last day of class (June 22nd)
Specific instructions will be given in class.
- **Registrar scheduled final exam – 35%**
The exam will follow the same format as the mid-term, and will be based on the readings and lectures not included in the mid-term.

Penalties:

Late submissions of the research proposal will be penalized by 5% of the *final grade per week* or any part thereof.

Unapproved late submissions of the research paper will be penalized by 5% of the paper grade. An additional 2% will be deducted for every additional day of tardiness.

Class Schedule

Date and Title	Assigned Readings	Presentation Topics
11/5 – Religion/Religious, Islamic/Islamist. The problem of studying Islam	pp. 3-18	----
16/5 – <i>Jahiliyya</i> and the pre-Islamic Near East	pp. 19-31 pp. 33-47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Islamic Poetry • Religions in the Pre-Islamic Near East
18/5 – Prophet of Islam	pp. 49-68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early life up to the <i>Hijra</i> • Battles and Treaties
23/5 – VICTORIA DAY		• NO CLASS
25/5 – <i>Qur'an</i> , <i>Hadith</i> and <i>Sunnah</i>	pp. 69-86 pp. 88-100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Authority of the <i>Qur'an</i> • <i>Hadith</i> and the problem of Authenticity
30/5 – Conquests and Internal Struggles	pp. 105-112 pp. 113-128	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first four Caliphs • Battle of Karbala
31/5 – The Caliphate	pp. 129-145 In Class Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Abbasid Caliphate
6/6 – Islamic Law, Theology and Philosophy	pp. 149-170 pp. 172-192 Research Proposals Due!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Uşul al-Fiqh</i> • Jewish and Christian Influence
8/6 – Sufism	pp. 193-215 pp. 219-232	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufism and the Orthodoxy • <i>Al-Ghazali</i>
13/6 – Empires Fall	pp. 234-247 pp. 249-258	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wahhabism</i> • Napoleon's invasion and the birth of Orientalism
15/6 – The Twentieth Century	pp. 259-281	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalism • The Muslim Brotherhood
20/6 – The Twentieth Century (continued)	TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the gates of <i>Ijtihad</i> close? • <i>Muhammad 'Abduh</i>
22/6 – The Twenty First Century Summary	pp. 282-298	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam in the West • Islamic Feminism

Plagiarism:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity, as set down in the University Calendar

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	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

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

Academic Accommodation:

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at (403) 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

(DRC web address is: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/.](http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/))

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- 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 Block.