

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Rels 357.01

The Religious Civilization of Islam

Fall 2007

August 7, 2007

Logistics	<p>Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:15</p> <p>Location: KNB 128</p> <p>Instructor: Dr. David A. Bergen</p> <p>Office Hours: SS 1304 Tues and Thurs, 10:00 - 11:00 (or by appointment)</p> <p>Telephone: 220-5612</p> <p>Email: dabergen@ucalgary.ca</p> <p>Website: http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dabergen</p> <p>Textbooks: Ayoub, Mahmoud. <i>The Crisis of Muslim History: Religion and Politics in Early Islam</i> (2005; Oneworld Publications; ISBN-10: 1851683968 / ISBN-13: 978-1851683963). Jenkins, Keith. <i>Rethinking History</i> (2003; London and New York: Routledge; ISBN-10: 0415304431/ ISBN-13: 978-0415304436).</p>
Course Description	<p>This course will investigate the origins of Islamic civilization from two perspectives. The first part of this course will survey the traditional historiographies of the Ummayyad and Abbasid dynasties. The second section will investigate the historiographies of “revisionist” scholars who have critiqued 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. Throughout, students will critically reflect on “history” as a strategy for understanding religious origins. Whose history is being narrated? Who is telling the story? For whom does the history of Islam create understanding and power?</p> <p>Students will also receive considerable guidance and feedback in the writing of a quality academic paper that will focus matters of historiography in the study of Islamic origins.</p>
Core Competencies	<p>This course promotes the following academic competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skill in reading, interpreting, and reflecting on secondary sources on religion.• Realization of the role of religion in human affairs.• Awareness of the malleable nature of religious ideas and traditions in history.• Recognition of “history” as a rhetorical device in human affairs.

Student Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of lectures • Comprehension of presented materials • Conceptual control of basic facts, concepts, and issues • Critical reflection and discussion of assigned readings 														
Learning Assessment	<p>Five in-class midterm comprehension / recall tests (10% each): 50% Sept 25, Oct 9 and 23, Nov 6 and 22</p> <p>Essay:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Essay Topic and Annotated Bibliography (Sept 27)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Essay Prospectus (Oct 11)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Essay Submission (Oct 30)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Essay (In-Class) Presentation (Nov 27, 29; Dec 4)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Revised Essay Submission (Dec 6)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Essay Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">Total:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">100%</td> </tr> </table> <p>* <i>There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course</i> <i>PLEASE NOTE:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a variety of testing styles will be employed in the tests (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, “definition-and-significance” questions, etc.). • <u>all</u> exams and essays must be written or submitted on the dates scheduled (TBA). 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. • each essay will be 5-7 pages in length. • students anticipating a class absence should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; no lecture notes will be available from the instructor. • class schedule, lecture outlines, important concepts, readings, and additional relevant materials will be posted online. • recording of lectures is not permitted, except by special permission. • students must “back up” all submissions ; no concessions will be made for papers purportedly “lost” 	Essay Topic and Annotated Bibliography (Sept 27)	5%	Essay Prospectus (Oct 11)	5%	Essay Submission (Oct 30)	10%	Essay (In-Class) Presentation (Nov 27, 29; Dec 4)	10%	Revised Essay Submission (Dec 6)	20%	Essay Total	50%	Total:	100%
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Grading Scale	<p>A numerical grade is assigned for each course requirement. Following the final graded component, a letter grade is assigned, using the department-approved table of equivalencies:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">A+ 100-96</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">B+ 84-80</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">C+ 69-65</td> <td>D+ 54-53</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">A 95-90</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">B 79-75</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">C 64-60</td> <td>D 52-50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">A- 89-85</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">B- 74-70</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">C- 59-55</td> <td>F under 50</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.</p>	A+ 100-96	B+ 84-80	C+ 69-65	D+ 54-53	A 95-90	B 79-75	C 64-60	D 52-50	A- 89-85	B- 74-70	C- 59-55	F under 50		
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Academic Honesty	Students should be familiar with the University regulations regarding academic dishonesty, particularly the definition of plagiarism. See the University of Calgary Calendar for details.														
Important Dates	Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the current University Calendar.														

CLASS SCHEDULE

I. History of Islam	
Sept 11	<p>Introduction to RELS 357</p> <p>Introduction to the Academic Study of Islam</p> <p>Film and Discussions: <i>Empire of Faith</i></p>
13	Film and Discussions: <i>Empire of Faith</i>
18	<p>Assigned Readings:</p> <p>Lecture: <i>Islam as Religion</i></p>
20	<p>Assigned Readings:</p> <p>Lecture: <i>Islam as Religion, cont.</i></p>
25	<p>Assigned Readings: Ayoub Textbook: Conclusion (145-55), Introduction (1-6), and Chapter Two (7-25)</p> <p>Test #1</p> <p>Lecture: <i>The Caliphate System – Part One</i></p>
27	<p>Assigned Readings: Ayoub Textbook: Chapter Three and Four (26-49)</p> <p>Lecture: <i>The Caliphate System – Part Two</i></p> <p>Submission: Essay Topic and Annotated Bibliography</p>
Oct 2	<p>Assigned Readings: Ayoub Textbook: Chapter Five (50-80)</p> <p>Lecture: <i>The Caliphate System – Part Three</i></p>
4	<p>Assigned Readings: Ayoub Textbook: Chapter Six (81-144)</p> <p>Lecture: TBA</p>
9	<p>Assigned Readings:</p> <p>Test #2</p> <p>Lecture: <i>The Umayyad Period</i></p>
11	<p>Assigned Readings:</p> <p>Lecture: <i>The Umayyad Period, cont.</i></p> <p>Submission: Essay Prospectus</p>
16	Assigned Readings:

	Lecture: <i>The Abbasid Period</i>
18	Assigned Readings: Lecture: <i>The Abbasid Period</i> , cont.
23	Assigned Readings: Test #3 Lecture: <i>Islam and Science</i>
25	Assigned Readings: Lecture: TBA
Oct 30	Assigned Readings: Said, Edward W. 1978 Orientalism (Pantheon) 1-28. Lecture: <i>Orientalism</i> Submission: Completed Essay
Nov 1	Assigned Readings: Jenkins, Keith <i>Rethinking History</i> Lecture: <i>New Historicism and Biblical Studies</i>
6	Assigned Readings: Jenkins, Keith <i>Rethinking History</i> Test #4 Lecture: <i>New Historicism and Biblical Studies</i> , cont.
8	Assigned Readings: Rawandi, Ibn al 2000 “Origins of Islam: A Critical Look at the Sources,” <i>Quest for the Historical Muhammad</i> (Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus Books) 89-123. Lecture: <i>Revisionist History and Islam</i>
13	Reading Week – No Class
15	Assigned Readings: Crone, Patricia 1987 Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam (Princeton University Press) 231-50. Hawting, G. T. 1999 “Introduction,” <i>The Idea of Idolatry and the Emergence of Islam: From Polemic to History</i> (Cambridge University Press) 1-19. Rippin, Andrew 2001 “Literary Analyses of Quran, Tafsir, and Sira: The Methodologies of John Wansbrough,” <i>Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies</i> (Oxford: One World) 151-63. Waines, David 1995 “Excursus on Islamic Origins,” <i>An Introduction to Islam</i> (Cambridge University Press) 265-79. Lecture: <i>Revisionist History and Islam</i>

20	Assigned Readings: Burton Mack: Lecture: <i>Revisionist History and Islam</i>, cont.
22	Assigned Readings: Test #5 Lecture: <i>Revisionist History and Islam</i>, cont.
27	Presentation of Essay Topics
29	Presentation of Essay Topics
Dec 4	Presentation of Essay Topics
6	Submission: Revised Essay