

Summer 2022
MENA 160A1 - SUM22 - 102: THE RELIGION OF ISLAM

Instructor and Contact Information:

Instructor: Muhammet Topal

Office hours: By appointment via Zoom

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Course Objectives:

This course introduces students to the beliefs, intellectual diversity, and cultures of Islam. It provides an overview of the life and teachings of Muhammad, major themes of the Qur'an, and the primary differences between Sunni and Shi'i Islam. Students also receive an introduction to the mystical traditions of Islam and the development of modern Islamic ideology. The course explores issues related to women and Islam and concludes with a presentation of Muslim cultures in Asia and the United States. Students who complete this course will have a solid understanding of many of the beliefs and values of most Muslims, as well as a clear idea of the plurality of traditions within the religion and cultures of Islam.

Note:

This is a condensed version of a regular course over 14 weeks. You have the responsibility to do all the readings, watch the videos, and write responses for each session incorporating all the readings and videos.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Define key concepts, terms, values, and religious practices that are central to Muslim beliefs.
2. Articulate the historical evolution of Islam, including its geographic spread and diversity around the globe.
3. Compare and contrast various Muslim movements of the 20-21st centuries and explain how they draw on Islamic concepts to support their respective positions.
4. Identify how Muslim Americans are part of both American society and the global Muslim community.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills through academic writing.

This course meets the UA General Education criteria for Tier 1 Traditions and Cultures, TRAD 101, and Diversity Emphasis. In keeping with the UA General Education learning outcomes, students in this course will learn to:

1. *Think critically*: "Infer and assess the ambiguities, assumptions, values, and purposes at issue in inquiries, including one's own work."
2. *Communicate effectively*: "Compose correct and clear written material in multiple formats such as research logs, researched reports, exam answers, and reflective essays."
3. *Understand and value differences*: "Examine how differences in cultural and individual viewpoints expand our understanding of human experience."

Prior Knowledge:

No other classes are required to take this class.

Required Texts:

The following textbook should be purchased:

- Allen, Roger and Shawkat Toorawa. *Islam: A Short Guide to the Faith*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2011.
- Arthur Goldschmidt and Lawrence Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, Westview Press, 2010.

The remaining sources are available on D2L or the Web.

Grading Scale and Policies:**1. Attendance Policy and Regular Class Tasks and discussions:**

In an online course like this, the discussion forum on D2L will be used extensively to assess students' understanding of the material. Discussions are required in the form of responses to each session's material and should be posted under the discussion tab on D2L. Your response should be at least 300 words to fully cover the materials for each session. You need to first provide a short summary of the materials and add your view on how the materials relate to each other. You will also find one quiz on Quizlet each week that will be helping you to cover some of your module topics. Each quiz will be worth 1 point. You will not receive any credit if you do not demonstrate you have read the texts or viewed the videos, by the deadline. You are required to check D2L daily for any updates.

2. Midterm evaluation:

Based on the responses before the 28th of July, you are supposed to write at least a 1000-word essay that counts as your midterm paper. You are supposed to choose themes of two different modules and prepare an engaged reading of the subjects by aligning their contents in a meaningful context.

3. Final course paper:

The final paper you are again supposed to choose themes of different modules and prepare an engaged reading of the subjects by aligning their contents in a meaningful context. This time, you will choose 2 modules -different from the ones you engaged in your midterm essay- and 1 subject that we don't have in our modules such as "Islam and Education", "Islam and Family" etc. It should be at least a 1500-word essay (references are not included) and written until the end of the semester.

Your overall grade for this course will be based on the following:

1. Short Responses: 55% (there will be 11 response papers and you will be able to gain 5% of the total on each response paper)
2. Quizlet Tests: 5% (there will be 5 quizzes and you will be able to gain 1% of the total on each quizzes)
3. Midterm: 15%
4. Final: 25%

The total possible point for each component is 100 points.

The grading scale is as follows: 100- 90: A; 89-80: B; 79-70: C; 69-60: D; 59 and below: E.

Extra Credit:

Students will have the opportunity for extra credit up to 10% on their final average grades. There will be weekly discussions under the *Discussions* section. To receive full credit, you should post under the discussion topics regularly and comment under the posts of the other students actively.

Schedule of Classes:

Module Zero: Introduction (due Wednesday July 13)

Presenting yourself and expectations from MENA 160A1 with a short paragraph or video.

Module 1: Introduction (due Friday July 15):

Davidson & Goldschmidt, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, p. 13-24

Film on YouTube: “The Message: The Story of Islam” - 2h53m

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh6FMgv1oyY&ab_channel=THEWAYFARER

Module 2: Islam and the Life of Prophet Muhammad (due Monday July 18):

Allen & Toorawa, *Islam: A Short Guide*, p. 3-17.

Davidson & Goldschmidt, *A Concise History*, p. 25-47.

Video on YouTube: “How Islam Began - In Ten Minutes” - 8m10s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDxKxnVZtgo&ab_channel=TrueTube

Module 3: Sources of Islam: The Qur’an, Hadith and Sunna (due Wednesday July 20):

Allen & Toorawa, *Islam*, p. 21-40.

“Theological & Ethical verses;” and Daniel Madigan, “Themes and Topics,” in *The Cambridge Companion to the Qur’an*, ed. Jane McAuliffe, p. 79-95.

Video on YouTube: “Why do we need Hadith if the Quran is enough?” - 22m50s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB4cARWalY4&ab_channel=BayyinahInstitute

Module 4: Expansion of Islam: Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates (due Friday July 22)

Davidson & Goldschmidt, p. 49-79.

O. Grabar. “Umayyad ‘Palace’ and the ‘Abbasid ‘Revolution.’” *Studia Islamica*, no. 18, p. 5-18. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1595176>.

Videos on YouTube: “The Umayyad Dynasty” - 7m32s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rACWxttgqeA&ab_channel=AlMuqaddimah

“The Abbasid Revolution” - 6m42s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSOvLF6Xq-o&ab_channel=AlMuqaddimh

Module 5: Islam and Turks: Seljuks and Ottomans (due Monday July 25)

Davidson & Goldschmidt, p. 81-98.

Tijana Krstić, “Illuminated by the Light of Islam and the Glory of the Ottoman Sultanate: Self-Narratives of Conversion to Islam in the Age of Confessionalization.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 51, no. 1, 2009, pp. 35–63. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27563730>.

Video on YouTube: “Seljuk Empire” - 20m04s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMMt_bqnwR4&ab_channel=edhaje

Module 6: A Political Division?: Sunni - Shi'a (due Wednesday July 27)

Allen & Toorawa, Islam, 68-83.

Video YouTube: “How Islam Split into the Sunni and Shia Branches” - 19m01s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-85dXjgMiSU&ab_channel=KingsandGenerals “Difference between Shia and Sunni”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30vSVYjh0aQ&ab_channel=MuhammedFaizan “Shia / Sunni”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kt3yFGiElrs&t=181s&ab_channel=TrueTube

⇒ : **MIDTERM PAPER: DUE ON Thursday July 28**

Module 7: Islamic Doctrine: Shariah, Sufism and Islamic Law (due Friday July 29):

Allen & Toorawa, p. 43-83.

Davidson & Goldschmidt, p. 99-119.

Video on YouTube: “What is Sharia Law?” 15m35s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTliMiRTPrE&ab_channel=StepBack

⇒ **MIDTERM PAPER REWRITE: DUE ON Sunday July 31**

Module 8: City in Islam: Islamic Administration and Economy (due Monday August 1)

Allen & Toorawa, p. 87-101.

Zubaida, Sami. “Max Weber’s ‘The City’ and the Islamic City.” *Max Weber Studies*, vol. 5.2/6.1, 2005, p. 111–18.

AlSayyad, Nezar. “Space in Islamic City: Some Urban Design Patterns.” *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, vol. 4, no. 2, p. 108–19.

Recommended Reading: Halil Inalcik, “Istanbul: An Islamic City”, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, vol. 1, 1990, p. 1–23.

Video on YouTube: “Institutional Structure of the Islamic Economic System” - 1h15m

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcCeSqi3ugw&ab_channel=%C4%B0stanbulSabahattinZaim%C3%9Cniversitesi

Module 9: Islamic Contributions: Science, Art and Literature (due Wednesday August 3)

Gardner, Vika, et al. “Preaching Science and Islam: Dr. Zakir Naik and Discourses of Science and Islam in Internet Videos.” *Die Welt Des Islams*, vol. 58, no. 3, 2018, p. 357–92.

Yenişehirlioğlu, Filiz. “Whither Art History?: How Global Is Ottoman Art and Architecture?” *The Art Bulletin*, vol. 97, no. 4, 2015, p. 359–63.

Jane Ciabattari, “Why is Rumi the best-selling poet in the US?” *BBC*, 2014. <http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20140414-america-best-selling-poet>

Video on YouTube: “Science in a Golden Age - Al-Razi, Ibn Sina and the Canon of Medicine” - 25m24s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8HIFFDTBWQ&ab_channel=AlJazeeraEnglish

Module 10: Women in Islam (Due on Friday August 5)

Allen & Toorawa, *Islam*, 105-115.

Perin Gurel, "Transnational Feminism, Islam, and the Other Woman: How to Teach." *The Radical Teacher*, no. 86, 2009, p. 66–70.

Video on YouTube: "What Islam really says about women?" - 12m13s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEtryXMpDI8&ab_channel=TED

"Inside the Weird World of Adnan Oktar's Islamic 'Feminist' Cult" - 19m08s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bH2lw2R0hc&t=39s&ab_channel=VICELife

Module 11: "Muslim World" and Islam in the World (Due on Monday August 8)

Allen & Toorawa, "Islam in America", 135-139.

Ahmed, Akbar. "Ibn Khaldun's Understanding of Civilizations and the Dilemmas of Islam and the West Today." *Middle East Journal*, vol. 56, no. 1, 2002, p. 20–45.

Cemil Aydin, *The Idea of the Muslim World: A Global Intellectual History*, Harvard University Press, 2017, p. 1-13.

Video on YouTube: "Islam, Judaism, and Christianity - A Conversation" - 1h33m

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INIG636SnU4&ab_channel=SMAADallas

"What it's like to be a Muslim in America" - 16m16s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzkFoetp-M&ab_channel=TED

⇒ **FINAL PAPER DUE ON Thursday August 10**

Additional Policies:

Course Communications:

The best way to reach me via email. I will communicate any announcements to you via the email function on D2L. You may want to link your D2L to your university email account.

Makeup Policy for Students Who Register Late:

Students who register after the first class may make up missed assignments by the end of the third week of classes.

Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with

University policies, which are available at

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively.

Threatening Behavior Policy:

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See

<http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

Dispute of Grade Policy:

If you wish to dispute your grade on a test or assignment, you may do so within one week of receiving your grade.

Code of Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA [Code of Academic Integrity](#) as [described](#) in the UA General Catalog.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA email to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

Note on plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Be sure to properly cite other people's ideas in your writings. If any part of a paper is plagiarized, you will receive a zero for the assignment. No exceptions. Students are required to upload all papers into the D2L dropbox prior to handing in a hard copy. The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available [here](#).

UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy:

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>.

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

Additional Resources:

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>.

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at:

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>.

Confidentiality of Student Records: <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personal-information/family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-1974-ferpa?topic=ferpa>.

Subject to Change Statement:

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.