

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2016

Course RELS 353 - Islam in the Modern World
Time TR 12:30 - 13:45
Instructor Mushegh Asatryan
Office Hours M 13:00-14:00
Office CHD 511
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Telephone 587-220-3241

Required Text(s): All the readings are included in a reading packet, which will be made available online

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 *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
	Participation	10%	
Oct. 13	1 st test	20%	
Oct. 25	1 st paper due	20%	
Dec. 1	2 nd paper due	25 %	
Dec. 6	Final test	25 %	
Throughout the semester	Presentation (optional)	10% (this is an additional 10 percent that may be added to your final grade)	

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, standardized 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 test.

Electronic Device Policy: No electronic devices, such as 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. Furthermore, 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.

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

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 as-carts@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 Block.

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.