

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**RELS 353.01 *Islam in the Modern World***

**WINTER 2014**

**Place and Time:** MS 217, Block Week, 9:00am to 5:00pm on Jan 2-4 and Jan 6-7.

**Instructor:** Dr. David A. Bergen, SS 1308, 403-220-7063, [dabergen@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dabergen@ucalgary.ca)

**Office hours:** By appointment.

**Textbooks:** *What Went Wrong?* (Bernard Lewis); *The Clash of Modernities* (Kahldoun Samman); *Islam in Transition* (Donohue/Esposito, eds).

**Content and Objectives:**

A common feature of any academic presentation of a world religion is the profound impact that European modernity has exercised on the thought and behaviour of that religion's adherents. Nowhere is this feature more prevalent than in academic discussions of Islam, which frequently mention the term "clash." Whether this clash involves civilizations (Bernard Lewis), cultures or interests (Fawaz Gerges), fundamentalisms (Tariq Ali), or modernities (Kahldoun Samman), all such constructions set up a metaphorical collision between two non-material entities (Islam versus modernity, or West versus East). This course will explore the ways that Muslims have engaged with modernity by analyzing a diversity of voices ranging from academic scholars to non-academic activists and from Muslims to non-Muslims. The outcomes of this exploration will be: 1) an awareness of academic modes of operation, 2) an introductory familiarity with the theory of dialogic and the method of discourse analysis, and 3) an understanding of human beings and their deeply motivated struggles.

**Assessments:**

*Four Quizzes – 30% (Jan 3, 4, 6, and 7)*

Non-cumulative and equally-weighted, using a variety of assessment styles from multiple choice to short-answer, to be written at 9:00 am every morning except the first day. These quizzes will test the student's knowledge of the assigned readings, lecture presentations, and discussions from the previous day.

*Four Group Presentations – 30%*

Students will be assigned each to a group and each group will be assigned a specific voice which it must (re)present during the afternoon discussion periods (excluding the first day).

*One Essay – 40% (due Friday, January 31)*

A 4-5 page essay that utilizes Samman, Lewis, and one other voice (featured during the block-week) to analyze academically a contemporary representation of modern Islam, whether it be a news report, a film or movie, a novel, a textbook, a journal article, blog posting, or some other medium.

### **Grading Scale:**

A+ 100-96	B+ 84.9-80	C+ 69.9-65	D+ 54.9-53
A 95.9-90	B 79.9-75	C 64.9-60	D 52.9-50
A- 89.9-85	B- 74.9-70	C- 59.9-55	F under 50

### **Student Expectations:**

Obviously, given the time compression involved, a block week course demands full attendance from a student. Attendance is therefore vital if a student wishes to achieve a strong performance. Absence from a test or from a group discussion will result in an automatic failing grade. *All quizzes must be written on the date and time stipulated.* Should an illness or family emergency arise that necessitates more than one day of absence, withdrawal from the course is recommended. Late essay submissions will be penalized 5%/day, including weekends. Significant “acts of God” (i.e. a winter blizzard) will be dealt with extemporaneously.

If possible, it is recommended that students read the Samman and Lewis textbooks in advance of January 2. Furthermore, students are advised to:

- *enter* in their personal calendar all deadlines pertinent to the assessments of this course (see schedule in Blackboard);
- *read* the assigned readings (a schedule will be posted in Blackboard, Course Information) prior to the week's lectures;
- *ask* questions of clarification related to the assigned readings (in class [if time] or via email);
- *attend* the lectures and record detailed notes;
- *review* and *reflect* on lecture notes. Obtain information from a classmate where records are inadequate; confirm or gain understanding of difficult concepts from the instructor;
- *check* email messages and Blackboard postings for updates and announcements;
- *study* hard and smart, allotting sufficient time prior to each test for rereading of textbook and notes.

### **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**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

### **Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at

<http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here:

[http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6\\_1/student/bbbs\\_r6\\_1\\_student/digital\\_drop\\_box.htm](http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbbs_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm).

### **Gnosis**

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

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The 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](mailto: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 at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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.

### **Student Ombudsman 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.