

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

RELS 353 L01: *Islam in the Modern World*

WINTER 2015

Place and Time: EDC 388, Block Week, 9:00am to 5:00pm on Jan 5-9.

Instructor: Dr. David A. Bergen, SS540, 403-220-7063, dabergen@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: By appointment.

Required Textbooks:

What Went Wrong? (Lewis)

The Clash of Modernities (Samman)

Islam in Transition (Donohue/Esposito, eds)

Sex in the Citadel (El-Feki) (to be read before the start of Block Week)

Content and Objectives:

A common feature of any academic discourse of religion is the detailing of modernity's impact on religious adherents and their traditions. The academic discourse on Islam is no different--academics frequently refer to a "clash" between modernists and traditionalists, a clash between civilizations (Bernard Lewis), a clash between cultures (Fawaz Gerges) or fundamentalisms (Tariq Ali), even a clash between modernities (Kahldoun Samman). Picking up on this conflictual rhetoric, this course will pay close attention to the diversity of modern Muslim voices as they contend vigorously one with another.

The outcomes of this course include: 1) an awareness of the academic mode of critical analysis, 2) an introductory familiarity with the theories and methods of dialogic and discourse analysis, and 3) an understanding of human beings (in this case, Muslims) and their deeply motivated concerns and struggles.

Online elements for this course:

A schedule of assigned readings and assessments will be posted on Desire 2 Learn (D2L), as well as updates and announcements.

Assessments:

Five Quizzes – 50% (to be written at the outset of each class, *including* the first day)

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. These quizzes will test the student's knowledge of the assigned readings, lecture presentations, and/or discussions from the previous day (or in the case of the first test, the student's knowledge of *Sex in the Citadel*).

Two Group Presentations – 20%

Each student will be assigned to a group whose responsibility it will be to represent collectively a specific Muslim voice (Donohue/Esposito reader) in the afternoon discussions. The

purpose of this exercise is to dramatize something of the discursive field that constitutes modern Islam. Each group will perform this dramatization twice, either on Tuesday and Thursday, or on Wednesday and Friday.

Two Written Analyses - 20%

On those afternoons when not engaged in dramatizing modern Islamic discourse, students will be required to listen carefully to the dialogic interactions of their classmates and to provide a written analysis of the discursive field that their classmates reenact. This written assessment must be handed in the same afternoon that the discussion occurred.

One Reflective Response – 10% (due Friday, January 16)

Students will submit a 500-word reflective response to a specific question, due one week following block-week. This response will be submitted electronically in D2L's Dropbox.

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

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

Student Expectations & Policy with regard to missed assessments:

Obviously, given the time compression involved, a block week course demands full attention 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 advised. Late written submissions will be penalized 5%/day, including weekends. Significant “acts of God” that impact the entire class (i.e. a winter blizzard) will be dealt with impromptu.

Students must have read *Sex In the Citadel* prior to the start of the term. The first morning will involve a test on this reading. Also, if possible, it is recommended that students read the Samman and Lewis textbooks in advance of January 5.

Furthermore, students are advised to:

- *enter* into their personal calendar all deadlines pertinent to the assessments of this course (see schedule in D2L);
- *note* that the last day to withdraw from this course is Friday, January 9.
- *read* the assigned readings (a schedule will be posted in D2L) 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 D2L postings for updates and announcements;

- *study* hard and smart, allotting sufficient time prior to each test for rereading of text-book and notes.

Electronic Device Policy:

All electronic devices will be banned from the afternoon discussion sessions. Students may use their laptops during the morning lectures for lecture recording purposes only.

Syllabus:

A syllabus will be made available on D2L prior to the first week of class.

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, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

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 the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre 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.

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.

Gnosis

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

Classics Student Society

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: classsoc@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@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 3rd 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 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.