

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

COURSE OUTLINE – SPRING 2020

Course: RELS 357 – Islam

Time: This is an online course that will be delivered through Desire2Learn (D2L).

Instructor: Hany Ibrahim, PhD (Candidate).

Office Hours: By online appointment only (T 10:00-11:00).

Email: hany.ibrahim@ucalgary.ca

Required Text(s):

- Hillenbrand, Carole. *Introduction to Islam: Beliefs and Practices in Historical Perspectives*. London: Thames & Hudson Ltd., 2015. (ISBN 978-0-500-29158-0)
Other required readings may be posted on the D2L site for this course.

Course Description:

This course serves as an introduction to the Islamic religious tradition from its formative period in the Arabian Peninsula to the contemporary times as a global religion. Attention will be given to the historical and cultural contexts in which Islam arose, the worldviews and goals it articulates, the development and content of its literature, and to its religious practices. The course will begin with an inquiry into the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and the revelation of the Quran. Detail will be given to the religious, social and political aspects of the life of Prophet Mohammed. After this we will turn to a more theoretical analysis of the Islamic faith and practices: scriptural exegesis/interpretation, Prophetic traditions (*Sunnah*), jurisprudence (*fiqh*), mysticism (*taṣawwuf*), art, music, and the sciences. Due attention will also be given to developments in modern Islam, with particular emphasis on Western perceptions of Islam, Islam's encounter with the modern world, and modern political Islam. As an introductory course, this course will not offer an in-depth analysis and study of the Islamic religious tradition, but it will serve as an important foundation for those wishing to enroll in higher level RELS courses.

Online Elements for this Course:

This course is taught entirely online, and all components of the course will be delivered online. A request has been sent out to the University of Calgary's bookstore in order to provide the course's textbook in **electronic format** (eBook). So please check the availability of the book with the UofC bookstore. A combination of readings, video clips and online activities such as exams/assessments will be posted on D2L course section. As such, students are expected to be entirely self-directed in this course. Students will need to read the assigned material as well as to independently research and learn any background material needed to understand the readings and lectures. If you have any questions or issues regarding the content of the course readings, these may be replied to or deferred to an online session at a specified date and time. If you have questions or issues with the format of the course, or difficulties accessing materials or access to research, please attend to these before the beginning of the class.

Core Competencies:

- 1- To identify and distinguish the essential features of Islam.
- 2- To understand basic Islamic terms, source of law, scriptures and authoritative texts.
- 3- To learn about Islamic rituals, practices, festivals, and holy days.
- 4- To become familiar with the chronological development, key figures, and events.
- 5- To comprehend the teachings, doctrines, and various Islamic beliefs.
- 6- To obtain a working knowledge of Islamic history, art, architecture, music and culture.
- 7- To know the various divisions, sects, movements and mystical groups.

Course Requirements:

The course is organized on a lecture/discussion basis following the topics and readings listed in the tentative schedule of lectures and readings. Students are expected to keep up with the reading schedule. Each student is required to write five online exams, and a final cumulative exam.

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Friday, May 15	Online exam 1; 9:00- 9:00 (24 hrs.)	14
Friday, May 22	Online exam 2; 9:00- 9:00 (24 hrs.)	14
Friday, May 29	Online exam 3; 9:00- 9:00 (24 hrs.)	14
Friday, June 5	Online exam 4; 9:00- 9:00 (24 hrs.)	14
Friday, June 12	Online exam 5; 9:00- 9:00 (24 hrs.)	14
TBA by the Registrar	Final Cumulative Exam	30

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, usually used 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.

Adjusted Final Grades:

The instructor will implement a standard measure of adjustment (.5%) for final grades. For example, a final grade of 62.5% (C-) will be rounded up to 63% (C). Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or ‘round up’ your final grade.

Exams:

The exams will cover all of the course’s lectures and assigned readings up to and including the class before the day of the exam. Exams are comprised of multiple choice and true or false questions.

Exams are not “open book.” Students are not permitted to consult any course materials while completing any of the assigned exams. The use of course materials during an exam constitutes

academic misconduct. Students must complete online exams individually. Collaboration with other students in taking exams is not permitted and constitutes academic misconduct.

Note: Course content is NOT available on the day of an exam. Students need to ensure that they have accessed the content before the day of the exam.

Extra Assignments:

There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake exams to increase their grade.

Weighting of Exams:

The weighting for exams identified above will not be changed to accommodate student requests. In accordance with the U of C Academic Regulations E.1 (e) Course Outlines, “Weighting may not be changed during the term or at the time of grade reporting.”

Reviewing Exams:

The online exams for this course display the student’s final score. Individual exam answers are not displayed. For students interested in seeing individual exam answers, please make an appointment with the instructor at the end of the term after all exams are completed. At that time, you can review all your exam answers.

Policy with Regards to Missed Exams or Assignments/Assessments:

As this is an online class, weekly lectures will be posted Sunday nights for the following week. I will not post all of the materials at once, so you will need to follow the course on a weekly basis. Friday online exams/assessments will be posted for a period of 24 hours each Friday between 9am to 9am as per the schedule above. Please ensure that you are able to complete the assessment during this period.

If a student misses an exam deadline due to illness or an emergency, the student must contact the instructor within 48 hours of the absence. If the student does not contact the instructor within 48 hours before the exam deadline, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the exam and will receive a numerical mark of zero. **Without an acceptable reason missed assessments will be awarded an ‘F’.**

There will be a compulsory, cumulative final exam for this course. Please ensure you are able to attend the date and times for this online exam. Please consult the registrar for exact time and date of the exam.

Expectations for Student Conduct in this Course:

This is a student-driven, online course. You should be prepared to read the materials and follow the online lectures for the course. If you do not understand the material, it is up to you to find and read supplementary material in order for you to understand it. The instructor will not respond to emails which, in his view, ask questions which, with a little effort or re-reading, can be answered for yourself. (Such discussion and input are, of course, aspects of in-person courses, and I will not attempt to re-create such an experience through online communication). If you have a genuinely philosophical or critical question, at my discretion I will either respond to your email

or defer response to the online office hour (Tuesdays 10:00-11:00) where I will respond to questions or issues which may be helpful for the whole class. The aim for this course is for you to be able to read/listen to the material in your own time, as well as clarify for yourself any issues or questions you may have. Email must be sent to the instructor from a University of Calgary email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail. Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course number you are registered in. Inquiries related to exams must be sent no less than 48 hours before a deadline. Do not send me emails concerning an online exam/assessment on the day of the assessment. In most cases these will not be answered. The instructor will reply to emails only on business days, and only between 9:00-17:00.

Electronic Device Policy:

As an online class, students are entirely responsible for their own methods of getting online. I will not accept “bad internet connections”, “computer problems” or any other technical issues as excuses for failing to complete assignments or exams. Timed, online exams/assessments will be available for a strictly set period of time and will not be available at other periods. Once you begin the online exams/assessments, you must finish them. You cannot re-take these exams/assessments, and failure to complete the exams/assessments will result in a zero awarded for that exam/assessment. Students are urged to make sure that their connection the internet and to the D2L site is robust and stable during the online assessments. I will not accept any excuses along the lines of: “my internet went down during the exam”, or “my computer crashed during the exam” for failure to complete the assessments. Computing facilities on campus are available for student use if you feel you need reliable access. Do not rely on your computer battery as your only power source when taking the exam. Plug in your computer power cord. “My battery died” will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to complete the assignments. This policy is meant to maintain equity for all students as it is virtually impossible for me to validate technical issues you may face.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

Course Schedule:

The course schedule is provided on D2L. Availability of material and exam dates will not be changed to accommodate personal scheduling preferences of students, including work schedules, vacations, camping trips, and the repair of personal computers.

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.

Copyright Regulations:

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the [Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright Policy](#) and understand their copyright responsibilities. Instructor created content (lecture presentations, assignments, exams, etc.) have been designed for use as part of this course at the University of Calgary and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters and articles) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copyright-protected materials may only be copied or distributed provided it is permissible to do so under [Canadian Copyright law](#), university agreements and permission from the copyright holder. Find out more about copyright at library.ucalgary.ca/copyright.

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 ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca> 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 Block.

Freedom of Information and Privacy:

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP):

https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom_of_information_and_protection_of_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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/> for more information. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@su.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 hours per day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.

Health and Wellness:

There are services available to students to help with physical and mental health, including the SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>