

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

RelS 357 L60

The Religious Civilization of Islam

Summer 2007

Logistics	<p>Time: MW, 10:00-12:45 pm</p> <p>Location: SH 157</p> <p>Instructor: Dr. David A. Bergen</p> <p>Office Hours: MW 1:00 - 2:00</p> <p>Telephone: 220-3285</p> <p>Email: burgndy@telus.net</p> <p>Website: http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dabergen</p> <p>Textbooks: Ayoub, Mahmoud - <i>The Crisis of Muslim History: Religion and Politics in Early Islam</i> (2005; Oneworld Publications; ISBN-10: 1851683968 / ISBN-13: 978-1851683963).</p> <p>Jenkins, Keith <i>Rethinking History</i> (2003: London and New York: Routledge; ISBN-10: 0415304431/ ISBN-13: 978-0415304436).</p>
Course Description	<p>This course will investigate the origins of Islamic civilization from two perspectives. The first part of this course will survey the traditional historiographies of the Ummayyad and Abbasid dynasties. The second section will investigate the historiographies of “revisionist” scholars who have critiqued typical understandings of the origins of the Quran and the religion associated with Muhammad. Here, the Jenkins text will function as a methodological introduction to the principles of New Historicism and historiography. Throughout, students will critically reflect on “history” as a strategy for understanding religious origins. Whose history is being narrated? Who is telling the story? For whom does the history of Islam create understanding and power?</p> <p>Students will also receive considerable guidance and feedback in the writing of a quality academic paper that will focus matters of historiography in the study of Islamic origins.</p>
Core Competencies	<p>This course promotes the following academic competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skill in reading, interpreting, and reflecting on secondary sources on religion.• Realization of the role of religion in human affairs.• Awareness of the malleable nature of religious ideas and traditions in history.• Recognition of “history” as a rhetorical device in human affairs.

Student Responsibilities

- Attendance of lectures
- Comprehension of presented materials
- Conceptual control of basic facts, concepts, and issues
- Critical reflection and discussion of assigned readings

Learning Assessment

Ten in-class midterm comprehension / recall tests (5% each) 50%

Essay:

Essay Topic and Annotated Bibliography (July 11)	5%
Essay Prospectus (July 18)	5%
Essay Submission (Aug 1)	10%
Essay (In-Class) Presentation (Aug 8 and 13)	10%
Revised Essay Submission (Aug 15)	20%

Essay Total 50%

Total: 100%

PLEASE NOTE:

- a variety of testing styles will be employed in the tests (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, “definition-and-significance” questions, etc.).
- all exams and essays must be written or submitted on the dates scheduled (TBA). A 5%/day late penalty will be levied for all late submissions. Late submissions must be dated or stamped by the department’s administrative assistant.
- the essay will be approximately 5-7 pages in length.
- students anticipating a class absence should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; no lecture notes will be available from the instructor.
- class schedule, lecture outlines, important concepts, readings, and additional relevant materials will be posted online.
- recording of lectures is not permitted, except by special permission.
- students must “back up” all submissions ; no concessions will be made for papers purportedly “lost”

Grading Scale

A numerical grade is assigned for each course requirement. Following the final graded component, a letter grade is assigned, using the department-approved table of equivalencies:

A+ 100-96	B+ 84-80	C+ 69-65	D+ 54-53
A 95-90	B 79-75	C 64-60	D 52-50
A- 89-85	B- 74-70	C- 59-55	F under 50

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

Academic Honesty

Students should be familiar with the University regulations regarding academic dishonesty, particularly the definition of plagiarism. See the University of Calgary Calendar for details.

Important Dates

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the current University Calendar.