

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

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2020

Course RELS 353
Time TR 12:30-13:45
Instructor Dr. Mushegh Asatryan
Office T 14:10-15:10
Hours
Office CHD 322
E-mail Mushegh.asatryan@ucalgary.ca
Telephone 403-220-3241

Required Text(s): Aaron Hughes, *Muslim Identities: An Introduction to Islam* (available online at the TFDL library, [here](#); In the Schedule, it will be noted as “Hughes”)

Additional texts will be uploaded to D2L.

Course Description: The course is a broad overview of the religion of Islam. It surveys the main historical stages of Islam’s development, its main trends of thought, its sectarian divisions, and its schools of law. We will study the beliefs and practices of Muslims in the historically Muslim territories as well as in Europe and North America. We will read excerpts from Islam’s holy scripture, medieval and contemporary reports by Muslims about their religion, and will watch films illustrating the challenges Muslims face today in a globalized world.

Most importantly, we will analyze Islam as a social and cultural phenomenon. We will look how various Muslims throughout the ages have interpreted it differently in order to make sense of their lives.

Core Competencies: A broad knowledge of the Islamic tradition in its historical and contemporary dimensions. The ability to critically examine and historically analyze religious phenomena pertaining to Islam, as expressed in a variety of ways: textual, ritual, and oral.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Jan. 23	Test 1	10%	
Feb. 7	Essay 1	20%	
Feb. 27	Essay 2	20%	
March 30	Essay 3	20%	
March 22	Summary of Hughes 183-200		Pass/fail
March 29	Summary of Hughes 203-220		Pass/fail
April 5	Summary of Hughes 225-250		Pass/fail
April 12	Summary of Hughes 225-250		Pass/fail

April 14	Multiple choice Quiz 2 (conducted online)	10%	
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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	95.99 - 90	A-	89.99 – 85
B+	84.99 - 80	B	79.99 - 75	B-	74.99 - 70
C+	69.99 - 65	C	64.99 - 60	C-	59.99 - 55
D+	54.99 - 53	D	52.99-50	F	Under 50

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

It is against my policy to “bump up” grades, so please do not ask me to. The final letter grade will be given according to the above scheme. E.g., if your grade is 89.99 (as calculated by D2L), you will receive A-, not A.

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

- Given the extraordinary circumstances, the deadlines for the assignments may be extended with no penalty if some of the students need extra time.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

- On March 19, 24, 31, and April 7, I will offer an online mini-lecture online during the regular class time. I will talk about the content of the relevant readings for the week, and will take your questions. Attending these sessions is **not** mandatory.

Email Etiquette

I expect our email communications to be professional and respectful. Those emails, therefore, that lack the proper forms of professional address and are unprofessionally and carelessly written, will remain unanswered (e.g., ones starting with “Hi there”; “Hey prof;”, or ones that lack any formal address at all).

I may not be able to respond to your emails on the same day. I likewise won’t be checking my email after 5:00pm and on weekends.

During the semester, I will be providing lots of information about the course policies, readings, paper and exam guidelines – in class and in writing. In particular, I will be uploading detailed guidelines about my expectations for your exams and papers to D2L, and will be explaining them in class. **Before emailing me with a question**, therefore, *check if the answer is found in one of the guideline-sheets, on the syllabus, or in your class notes*. If it’s already there, don’t email me as I may not answer.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available 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, or librarian staff.

Student Accommodations

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help

Go to <http://ellearn.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 <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.

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.