



Rel. 357 - Islam

Updated January 1, 2021

**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE  
WINTER 2021 (BLOCK WEEK)**

**Course Number:** RELS 357

**Course Name:** Islam

**Classroom Location:** This is an online course that will be delivered *asynchronously* online through D2L

**Class Days & Times:** Block Week, January 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, MTWRF

**Instructor:** Hany Ibrahim, PhD.

**Office Hours:** By online appointment via Zoom (MTWRF 10:00-11:00).

**Email:** [hany.ibrahim@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hany.ibrahim@ucalgary.ca)

**Instructor Email Policy:** Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours.

**Course Calendar Statement:** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.html>

**Course Description:**

This course serves as an introduction to the Islamic religious tradition from its formative period in the Arabian Peninsula to contemporary times as a world 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 sacred 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, as considered by Muslims. Detail will be given to the religious, social and political aspects of the life of the Prophet of Islam. 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 Religious Studies courses.

**Online Elements for this Course:**

Please note that this course will run on Block Week from Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021. This course is taught entirely **online**, and all components of the course will be delivered *asynchronously* (i.e., students complete on their own time such as recorded lectures, discussion boards, watching videos, exams etc.) 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 or see also (<https://thamesandhudson.com/islam-a-new-historical-introduction-9780500110270>). A combination of readings, video clips and online

activities such as exams 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 (lectures and readings) please email the instructor for clarification.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

- 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.

**Learning Resources:**

**Required Readings, Textbooks, and Learning Materials (available at the UCalgary Bookstore)**

- 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.

**Learning Technologies and Requirements:**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](http://d2L.ucalgary.ca)).

**For Online, Remote or Blended Courses:**

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates.
- A current and updated web browser.
- Webcam (built-in or external), or headset with microphone.
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled.
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

**Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus (class schedule) will be made available the first day of class and posted to D2L shortly prior to that date.

**Class 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.

The course is organized on a lecture basis following the topics and readings listed in the tentative schedule of lectures and readings. The course activities are asynchronous (i.e., students complete on their own time such as discussion boards, watching videos, etc.). Students are expected to keep up with the reading schedule. Each student is required to write five online exams.

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required to pass the course
Monday, January 4	Online exam 1: 9:00 am Jan 4 - 9:00 am Jan 5	22.5	Yes
Tuesday, January 5	Online exam 2: 9:00 am Jan 5 - 9:00 am Jan 6	22.5	Yes
Wednesday, January 6	Online exam 3: 9:00 am Jan 6 - 9:00 am Jan 7	22.5	Yes
Thursday, January 7	Online exam 4: 9:00 am Jan 7 - 9:00 am Jan 8	22.5	Yes
Friday, January 8	Online exam 5: 9:00 am Jan 8 - 9:00 am Jan 9	10	Yes

\*Failure to complete and submit ALL course exams will result in a grade of F for the course.

**NOTE:** There will be NO Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

**Important Information per “B.6 Block Week Courses”:**

- The last day to drop a Block Week course (without it appearing on the student's transcript) shall be the end of the first day of lectures.
- The last day to withdraw from a Block Week course shall be the final day of lectures during the Block Week.
- Final grades for Block Week courses will not be required until the end of the term in which the course is offered.

**Assessment Components:**

**Examinations:**

*Five Exams* – to be written on each day of Block Week, *including* the first day. The exams are non-cumulative, and each exam will cover the course’s daily lectures, video clips and assigned readings for each day of Block Week. Exams are comprised of multiple choice and true or false questions. Exams are two hours long (2 hrs), except the exam on the final day which will be one hour (1 hr) long, and all exams can be written any time between 9:00am **EACH** day until 9:00am the following day (24 hrs). The exams will test the student’s knowledge of the pre-assigned daily readings, lectures, video clips and material that are posted on D2L prior to the beginning of Block Week.

Exams are **NOT** “open book.” Students are not permitted to consult any course material while completing any of the daily assigned exams. The use of course material 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 will **NOT** be available on the day of each exam. Students need to ensure that they have accessed the content material of each day of Block Week 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 UofC 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 Block Week after **ALL** exams are completed. At that time, you can review all your exam answers.

**Missed or Late Assignments:**

As this is an online class, all of the assigned daily lectures, readings and video clips will be posted all at once on D2L prior to Block Week. Daily online exams will be posted for a period of 24 hours each day between 9am to 9am the following day as per the schedule above. Please ensure that you are able to complete the exams during this period.

If a student misses an exam deadline due to illness or an emergency, the student **MUST** contact the instructor within 24 hours of the absence. If the student does not contact the instructor within 24 hours of the absence (unless there are extenuating circumstances), 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 exams will be awarded an ‘F’.**

**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. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

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%

**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.

### **Conduct:**

This is a student-driven, online course for one week. You should be prepared to read the material and follow the online lectures for the course posted on D2L. If you do not understand the material, it is up to you to find and read supplementary material (i.e. online academic journals, UofC library online sources, ... etc.) 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 question, at my discretion I will either respond to your email or defer response to the online office hour (MTWRF 10:00-11:00) where I will respond to questions or issues which may be helpful for the whole class. The aim for this *asynchronous* course is for you to be able to read/listen to the material on your own time, as well as clarify for yourself any issues or questions you may have. Emails 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 24 hours before a deadline. If you have a technical issue with an online exam, please email me as soon as possible in order to resolve the situation. The instructor may reply to emails on each day of Block Week, and only between 9:00-17:00.

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Use of Internet and Electronic Communication Devices in Class:**

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

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 daily online exams, you must finish them. You cannot re-take these exams, and failure to complete the daily exams will result in a zero awarded for that exam. 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.

### **Guidelines for Zoom Sessions:**

If video conferencing tools such as Zoom or MS Teams will be used during course activities, provide information related to student learning and conduct, and indicate whether these sessions will be recorded.

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit:

<https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **Course Evaluations and Student Feedback**

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm evaluation may

also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course with the instructor after the end of classes of Block Week.

### **University of Calgary Policies and Supports:**

#### **Academic Misconduct:**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website

at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

#### **Academic Accommodation:**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>. Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). 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.

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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

#### **Research Ethics:**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

#### **Instructor Intellectual Property:**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The



posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy:**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

**Copyright Legislation:**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

**Media Recording:**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students:

[https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

**Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

**Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

**Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.



**Sexual Violence Policy:**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

**Other Important Information:**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk