



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2023**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 473

COURSE NAME: Advanced Topics in Islam

CLASSROOM LOCATION: SS 527

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Th 11:00AM - 1:45PM (in person)

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE: Dr. Mushegh Asatryan,
Mushegh.asatryan@ucalgary.ca, (403) 220-3241

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment (please email me or talk to me in person to set up an appointment)

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY: I will respond to e-mails within 48 hrs during weekdays.

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.html>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course is a broad exploration of a number of topics related to Islam and modernity. We will study such topics as Islam and modernity, Islam and imperialism, Islam and politics, Islam and colonialism, Islam and fundamentalism. Our goal will be to situate Islam's modern manifestations in their social, political, and cultural contexts. We will read scholarship relating to Islam and modernity, and texts by key contemporary Muslim thinkers/actors.

***COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

A broad knowledge of key figures and movements in modern Islam.

A command of important scholarship in the field.

The ability to analyze religious texts and ideologies.

Express one's ideas in orally and in writing.

***LEARNING RESOURCES**

All the learning resources will be made available to students online or on D2L

***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).

CLASS SCHEDULE

The schedule of readings and topics will be made available on D2L just before the beginning of the semester.

***EXAMINATIONS**

There will be no final examination.

***ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Presentation (1 and 2, 15% each): Each student is expected to present one of the articles/book chapters during the semester. They will choose the date/material to present during the first week of the semester. During the presentation, the student will have to present the main arguments of the article and discuss its strengths and weaknesses. Afterwards, the student will lead the class in a discussion of said material. The student will also present a 1-2 page outline of the material, sketching out its main points. The guidelines will be posted on D2L.

Participation (15%): Each student is expected to actively participate in the discussion during all of the classes. Failing to do so, they will lose part of their participation grade.

Midterm essay (25%): Each student will have to write a short analytical essay on one of the topics that the course covers. The topic for the essay must be approved by the instructor. The students will also present their essay in class. Guidelines and requirements will be posted on D2L.

Final paper (25%): Each student will have to write a longer research paper at the end of the semester, based on the topics covered in class. The topic will have to be approved by the instructor. Guidelines and requirements will be posted on D2L.

Final paper topic presentation (5%): On the last day of classes, the students will present their final papers, outlining the questions they will explore and the materials they use. Guidelines and requirements will be posted on D2L.

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Throughout the semester	Participation	15%	
Throughout the semester	Presentation 1	15%	
Throughout the semester	Presentation 2	15%	
March 2	Midterm Essay and presentation	25%	
April 6	Final paper topic presentation	5%	
April 13	Final paper	25%	

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS*

Missed assignments may not be retaken. If you have a very serious reason for missing an assignment, talk to me beforehand.

***GRADING**

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

A student’s final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. These are part of the participation grade, as outlined in the assessment components section above. If students miss a class session that is included as a component of participation, they must contact the instructor within 24 hours to discuss options to make-up for that component.

***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 ACCOMODATION**

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/.

***RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)**

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 (if applicable)**

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

****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