

**TRAD 101 THE RELIGION OF ISLAM**  
**FALL 2008 | Department of Near Eastern Studies**

Instructor: Dr. Aomar Boum

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Class Hours: MW 10:00-10:50

Location: Steward Observatory N 210

Office Location: Marshall Building 454

Office Hours: W 2:30-5:00

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**DISCUSSION SESSIONS**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DISCUSSANT</b>
Lecture 043H	F 10:00-10:50	MCLND 122	<b>Boum</b> <a href="mailto:bouma@u.arizona.edu">bouma@u.arizona.edu</a>
Lecture 044	F 8:00-8:50	ILC 129	<b>Ellison</b> <a href="mailto:jellison@email.arizona.edu">jellison@email.arizona.edu</a>
Lecture 045	R 3:00-3:50	MLNG 405	<b>Foley</b> <a href="mailto:jdfoley@email.arizona.edu">jdfoley@email.arizona.edu</a>
Lecture 046	R 9:00-9:50	PAS 404	<b>Kocamaner</b> <a href="mailto:hikmet@email.arizona.edu">hikmet@email.arizona.edu</a>
Lecture 047	R 10:00-10:50	HARV 107	<b>Kocamaner</b> <a href="mailto:hikmet@email.arizona.edu">hikmet@email.arizona.edu</a>
Lecture 048	F 8:00-8:50	ORTI 432	<b>Provencher</b> <a href="mailto:lprovenc@email.arizona.edu">lprovenc@email.arizona.edu</a>
Lecture 049	R 8:00-8:50	MCLND 130	<b>Ellison</b> <a href="mailto:jellison@email.arizona.edu">jellison@email.arizona.edu</a>
Lecture 050	F 11:00-11:50	FCS 223	<b>Razi</b> <a href="mailto:razi@email.arizona.edu">razi@email.arizona.edu</a>
Lecture 051	W 3:00-3:50	CHEVZ 306	<b>Walsh</b> <a href="mailto:abwalsh@email.arizona.edu">abwalsh@email.arizona.edu</a>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This is an introductory survey of the religious and cultural foundations of Islam. Drawing on traditional primary and secondary texts as well as sociological, anthropological and historical sources, our main approach centers on how the religious doctrines and teachings interact with the socio-cultural environment. First, we will cover the context of pre-Islamic Arabia, Islamic doctrines, and ritual practices. Second, we will provide an overview of the *Qur'an* and the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. Third, we will focus on the intellectual diversity within Islam and cover the differences between *Sunni* and *Shi'i* Islam as well as the mystical practices of *Sufism*. Fourth, we will broadly discuss some of the modern interpretations within Islam and their variations across the Muslim World. Finally, we will look at Muslims in America and Europe.

The main objectives of this course are (1) to introduce students to the fundamental beliefs and practices of Muslims, (2) to acquaint students with the religious and cultural pluralism within Islam (3) and to familiarize students with some sources of Islamic culture and religion.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

- Elias, Jamal J. *Islam*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999.
- Brown Daniel. *A New Introduction to Islam*. Blackwell, 2004.

Additional readings will be available on electronic reserve at *Desire2Learn* by logging at the following address: <http://d2l.arizona.edu>.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION**

Students are required to attend class regularly in order to do well in this course. Equally important, students **MUST** attend the weekly discussion sessions. You will be assigned three quizzes (15) during those sessions. In addition to regular attendance and class participation (10%), students are expected to complete the following assignments in accordance with the University of Arizona code of Academic Integrity. Plagiarism is **STEALING** what is not yours. **DO NOT GIVE ME A PLAGIARIZED WORK.** It is important to properly cite others' ideas in your work. Get in touch with me, or your session discussant if you are not sure about the procedures of citation.

The final grade will be based upon the following:

- Attendance and Participation	10%
- Midterm Exam	25%
- Final Exam	35%
- Paper	15%
- Quizzes	15%

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY**

Any student who needs special accommodation is advised to contact me privately to discuss his/her needs.

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

August 25: Overview

August 27: **Muslims Today**

Elias, 13-18.

*August 29*

September 1 NO CLASSES

September 3 **Pre-Islamic Arabia**

Elias, 28-31.

Brown, 10-20.

*September 5*

September 8-10 **Muhammad and the Foundation of the Muslim Community**

Elias, 31-35.

Brown, 69-83.

*September 12*

September 15-17 **The Qur'an**

Elias, 18-21.

Brown, 53-68.

*September 19*

September 22-24 **Hadith**

Elias, 24-27.

Brown, 84-96.

*September 26*

September 29- October 1 **Beliefs, Ritual and Practices**

Elias, 61-81; 58-60

Brown, 126-131

*October 3: Mid-term review*

October 6 **Mid-term**

October 8 **Islamic Law and Theology**

Elias, 44-52;

Brown, 116-126; 131-134

*October 10*

October 13-15 **The Caliphate**

Elias, 35-39

Brown, 99-100

*October 17*

October 20-22 **Shi'i Islam**

Elias, 39-43

Brown, 100-115

*October 24*

October 27-29 **Islamic Art**

Elias, 22-24

Eickelman, "The Islamic City in the Middle East." In: *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*. pp. 88-96.

*October 31*

November 3-5 **Sufism and Religious brotherhood**

Elias, 52-60

Brown, 154-174

*November 7*

November 10-12 **Islam and Colonial Encounters**

Elias, 82-85

Brown, 190-197

*November 14*

November 17-19 **Reform and Renewal**

Elias, 85-93

Brown, 200-206  
*November 21*

November 24-26 **Political Islam and the West**

Elias, 93-96

Brown, 214-224

*November 28* **NO CLASS**

December 1-3 **Muslims in the West: America**

Elias, pp. 103-105

Brown, pp. 214-216

Ghulam M. Haniff. The Muslim community in America: A Brief Profile. *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 23(2):303-311, 2003.

Iftikhar Ahmad and Michelle Szpara. Muslim Children in Urban America: The New York City Schools Experience. *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 23(2):295-301, 2003.

*December 5*

**Paper DUE**

December 8-10 **Muslims in the West: Europe**

Tariq Ramadan. Muslims, the Pope and European Identity. *New Perspectives Quarterly* 23(4):14-18, 2007.

Tariq Ramadan. Europe's Muslim Show the Way. *New Perspectives Quarterly* 22(1):28-33, 2005.

Elias, pp. 102-103.