FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

REL 3362 - U02 (Fall 2012): Islamic Faith & Society (Introduction to Islamic Civilization)

Lectures: M W F 1400-1450 in Engineering & Computer Science 136
Instructor: Iqbal Akhtar (iakhtar@fiu.edu)
Office: Department of Religious Studies in Deuxieme Maison
Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1300-1600

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to be a comprehensive survey of Islamic civilization from the birth of tradition in seventh century Arabia to the contemporary period. Organization of this course is both topical and historical. Students shall be encouraged to engage with primary texts in consultation with the instructor and relevant secondary literature. The course will engage the intellectual tradition of Islam as well minority discourses within the tradition, particularly from Asia and Africa.

REQUIRED TEXTS


GRADING

Class Participation: 10%
Midterm: 25%
Student Presentations and Blog Discussions: 20%
Mosque Visit 5%
Final Paper 40%
Class participation (10% of final grade)
Each student will endeavor to attend all class sessions on time and participate actively in class discussions. Every student will also serve at least once as a class discussant, singly or in a pair depending on class size: class discussants will prepare notes on the assigned readings ahead of time and raise key points, discussion topics, important background issues, and questions in order to facilitate class discussion. Discussants are not expected or required to lecture but rather should prepare to complement the work of the professor. Daily question papers shall be used to determine class participation and readiness.

Midterm (25% of final grade)
Class examination on 12 October 2012 for all material presented hitherto.

Student Presentations and Blog Discussions (20% of final grade)
Each student will prepare a 20 minute oral presentation on his/her research project for delivery and discussion during the class meetings of 19, 21, 26, and 28 November. This will include regular discussions by students on the various topics discussed on the class’ blog site.

Mosque Visit (5% of final grade)
The class will attend Friday prayer services (jum'ā‘a namāj) at the Baitul Naseer Mosque of the Aḥmādī community on 9 November at 208 NW 7th Court, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009. The reading for the class will be an introduction to the Aḥmādī tradition from the Encyclopedia of Islam. Prayer services shall be held from 1315-1400. The class will leave FIU at 1200 and return shortly after services, transportation shall be coordinated prior to the trip. Those needing exemptions from classes during this period should inform me ahead of time so I can coordinate with their instructor.

Final Paper (40% of final grade)
Due by 11:59 pm on 3 December 2012

5,000-7,000 words totaling 40% of final grade (see following breakdown)
- Consultation with the professor is required. Whenever possible, the term paper should fit into the student’s wider academic trajectory. Select from topics provided or propose topic of interest for instructor approval.
- Proposals (1-2 pages of narrative, plus preliminary bibliography using a standard bibliographic style) are due no later than 11:59 pm on Monday 29 October. Some students may be required to submit a revised proposal, due no later than Monday, November 12.
- Final Papers are due by 11:59 pm on Monday 3 December- electronic copies to turnitin.com for reference purposes; identical hard copies in my mailbox no later than 10am the next day (4 December) for grading (35% of final grade). Please note that, due to the late due date, no extensions will be permitted and no late papers accepted.
GRADING CRITERIA

All student work will be assigned numerical grades, corresponding to the following letter grades, according to the criteria below. Final grades will be calculated according to the percentages outlined above and converted to final letter grades for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>“As” are awarded for excellent to exceptional work, free of technical and stylistic errors, showing sustained thought and engagement with the material on an appropriate but impressive academic level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-97</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>“As” are awarded for excellent to exceptional work, free of technical and stylistic errors, showing sustained thought and engagement with the material on an appropriate but impressive academic level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>“As” are awarded for excellent to exceptional work, free of technical and stylistic errors, showing sustained thought and engagement with the material on an appropriate but impressive academic level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>88-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>“Bs” are awarded for good to very good work, with some occasional errors, but nonetheless clearly indicating a good grasp of the material and assigned task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-87</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>“Bs” are awarded for good to very good work, with some occasional errors, but nonetheless clearly indicating a good grasp of the material and assigned task.</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>“Bs” are awarded for good to very good work, with some occasional errors, but nonetheless clearly indicating a good grasp of the material and assigned task.</td>
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<tr>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>“Cs” are awarded for average to above average work, meeting minimal standards but marked with errors, and exposing gaps in student performance and/or fulfillment of the assignment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-77</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>“Cs” are awarded for average to above average work, meeting minimal standards but marked with errors, and exposing gaps in student performance and/or fulfillment of the assignment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>“Cs” are awarded for average to above average work, meeting minimal standards but marked with errors, and exposing gaps in student performance and/or fulfillment of the assignment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>68-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>“Ds” are awarded for barely passing to below average work, usually riddled with errors and seriously deficient in fulfilling the assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-67</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>“Ds” are awarded for barely passing to below average work, usually riddled with errors and seriously deficient in fulfilling the assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>“Ds” are awarded for barely passing to below average work, usually riddled with errors and seriously deficient in fulfilling the assignment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>“Fs” are awarded for unacceptable work.</td>
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COURSE REGULATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Readings must be completed by the date for which they are assigned. Careful preparation of readings is essential for success in this course! As this is a seminar-style class, students will be expected to actively participate in class discussions of the readings.

All written assignments are due via www.turnitin.com (register immediately using the enrollment ID and the password “sacrifice”) as indicated. In the interest of fairness, deadlines are firm and will not be extended except in case of emergencies. Late assignments without authorized extensions may be penalized **five percentage points** for each day late, or part thereof, up to a maximum of 30 points. *Keep disk and paper* copies of all written work. For your own protection, keep a copy of your turnitin.com *electronic receipt* until you have received your final grade for the course.

Standards for citation and referencing must be adhered to. I recommend MLA style (see [http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/Documentation.html](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/Documentation.html) and follow the link to MLA style), but any standard format is acceptable as long as you are consistent. Students may use abbreviated parenthetical references for assigned course texts,* i.e.*, (Girard, p. 90) but must provide full bibliographic information for all other sources used for written work. Internet sources are generally *unacceptable* as references, but if you do use them, citations must include full url details and date accessed. All written assignments must be typed, formatted in 10-12 point standard fonts, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.
Spelling, grammar, neatness, clarity, style, organization, etc. all DO count! Poor writing will affect your grade. Strive for clarity and use your computer’s spell-check program wisely. Re-write and revise your essays before turning them in; do not ask to do so afterwards. Ask yourself, Is this clear? Am I communicating my thoughts well? Would a friend in another class understand what I am saying?

Plagiarism and any and all forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is stealing someone else’s words or original ideas. Plagiarism occurs in three forms:

- Written work that is entirely stolen from another source;
- Using quotations from another source without properly citing them; and
- Paraphrasing from another source without proper citations

In all cases, to avoid plagiarism, students must properly cite the source material. Only commonly known facts and concepts, general material learned in the course of research and study, and students’ original ideas do not require citation.

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. See the University Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/codeofacainteg.htm if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course, and may be reported directly to the Office of Academic Affairs. For useful guidelines, go to the Plagiarism Prevention section on the FIU Library’s website: http://libguides.fiu.edu/plagiarism.

Attendance and punctuality in class are required. Each unexcused absence after ONE will adversely affect your final grade, deducting up to 15 points from your class participation grade for each occurrence. Students with more than four absences will receive a zero for class participation.
COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION AND THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD

August 20: The Islamic World Today (Esposito, Chapter 1)
August 22: Muhammad as Prophet and Statesman (Handout, Watt)
August 24: Islamic Epistemology (Link, McCall- pg. 50-64)

http://www.ghazali.org/books/McCall-1940.pdf

WEEK 2: THE SHIA

August 27: The Beginnings of the Shia and Karbala (Halm, Chapter 1)
August 29: ‘Orthodox’ Shiism (Ithnā ‘Asharī) (Halm, Chapters 2)
August 31: ‘Heterodox’ Shiism (Ismaili) (Halm, Chapters 3 and 4)

WEEK 3: THE QURAN

September 3: NO CLASS (Labour Day)
September 5: Introduction to the Quran (Handout, McAuliffe)
September 7: Selected Chapters (Haleem, Chapters 1, 12, 19, and 21)

WEEK 4: THE SUNNAH

September 10: Judgment Day and the Afterlife (Haleem, Chapters 96-114)
September 12: Introduction to Hadith (Handout and Ibn Arabi, Part I)
September 14: Analyzing Hadith (Ibn Arabi, Part III)

WEEK 5: THE SHARIA

September 17: Introduction to Islamic Law (Handout, Hallaq)
September 19: Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence (Handout, Hallaq)
September 21: Class Exercise- Interpreting the Law

WEEK 6: SUFISM

September 24: Introduction to Sufism (Handout, Ernst)
September 26: Mystical Interpretations of the Quran (Handout, Ernst)
September 28: Of Saints and Shrines (Handout, Ernst)
WEEK 7: ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY

October 1: Ibn Sīna (Khalidi, Chapter On the Soul) (Esposito, Chapter 6)
October 3: Al-Ghāzalī (Khalidi, Chapter The Rescuer from Error)
October 5: Ibn Ṭūfayl (Khalidi, Ḥayy bin Yaqqān)

WEEK 8: JUDAISM AND ISLAM

October 8: ‘Opening Lecture: How Islam Saved the Jews’
October 10: ‘The World Muhammad Made’
October 12: **Mid-term Examination**

WEEK 9: ISLAM IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA/ ISLAM IN SOUTH ASIA

October 15: Islam in South and Southeast Asia (Esposito, Chapter 9)
October 17: Islam in China and Central Asia (Esposito, Chapter 10)
October 19: Islam in Africa (Esposito, Chapter 11)

WEEK 10: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ ART AND ARCHITECTURE

October 22: Science, Medicine, and Technology (Esposito, Chapter 4)
October 24: Art and Architecture (Esposito, Chapter 5)
October 26: Quranic Recitation and Sacred Music

WEEK 11: ISLAM AND MODERNITY

October 29: Colonization (Esposito, Chapter 13)
**Paper proposals due**
October 31: Globalization (Esposito, Chapter 14)
November 2: Sex and Sexuality (Guest Lecture?)

WEEK 12: MINORITY DISCOURSES IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAM

November 5: Islam in the West (Handout, Roy)
November 7: Neofundamentalism (Handout, Roy)
November 9: Aḥmādī Islam (Handout, EI)
Aḥmādī Mosque Visit 1315-1400
208 NW 7th Court
Hallandale Beach, FL 33009
WEEK 13: CASE STUDY: THE KHOJA

November 12: NO CLASS (Veteran’s Day)
November 14: ‘Neo-Ismailism’                      (Handout, Green)
November 16: The Veil in Dar es Salaam          (Handout, Akhtar)

WEEK 14: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

November 19: Student Presentations
November 21: Student Presentations
November 23: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

WEEK 15: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

November 26: Student Presentations
November 28: Student Presentations
November 30: Course Conclusion

WEEK 16: FINAL REVIEW

December 3: Final Paper Due

SUGGESTED FURTHER READINGS