



REL 3367

Islamic Faith and Society

Section: U01

In Person

Fall Term 2026

Course Meeting Information

Classes are twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 1:45 PM in PC 447.

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

REL 3367 ISLAMIC FAITH AND SOCIETY offers a survey of the religious beliefs, institutions and history of Islam from the formative period to its manifestations in modern times. The wide scope and diversity of beliefs in Islam will be examined with a brief account of the principal schools of thought (*madhhabs*) in Sacred Law (*shari'a*), as well as foundational belief (*'aqida*), in addition to some aspects of philosophy (*falsafa*) and sufism (*tasawwuf*). Finally,

we will conclude by examining Islam's encounter with the West.

Textbook and Course Materials

A New Introduction to Islam, 3rd ed.

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Daniel Brown

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell

Publication Date: 2017

Copyright Date: 2017

ISBN 10: 9781118953464

ISBN 13: 978-1118953464

Chapters/Pages: 1-432

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for \$22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the [Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop](#).

Readings, Materials, and Open Educational Resources (OER)

A New Introduction to Islam. Daniel Brown. (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004) is the required textbook in this course from which regular readings will be assigned. A schedule of readings is given below. The topics refer to chapter titles in the required textbook mentioned.

Week 1 Aug. 25 Introducing the each other and the course

Aug. 27 Ch. 1 Islam in Global Perspective.

Week 2 Sept. 1 Ch. 2 Arabia,

Sept. 3 Ch. 3 The Pre-Islamic Near East &

Week 3 Sept. 8, 10 Ch. 4 The Life of Muhammad

Week 4 Sept. 15, 17 Ch. 5 The Qur'an

Week 5 Sept. 22, 24 Ch. 6 The Tradition Literature

*****Paper 1 due on Sept. 24th (30 points)*****

Week 6 Sept. 29, Oct. 1 Ch. 6 The Tradition Literature (cont'd.)

Week 7 Oct. 6, 8 Ch. 9 The Caliphate

Week 8 Oct. 13, 16 Ch. 10 Islamic Law

Week 9 Oct. 20, 22 Ch. 11 Islamic Theology and Philosophy

Week 10 Oct. 27, 29 Ch. 12 Sufism

*****Paper 2 due on October. 29th (30 points)*****

Week 11 Nov. 3, 5 Ch. 15 Islam and the West

Week 12 Nov. 10, 12 Ch. 16 The Turbulent 20th Century

Week 13 Nov. 17, 19 Ch. 17 Salafism, Resurgent Shi 'ism

Week 14 Nov. 24 Ch. 18 Islam in the 21st Century

*****Nov. 25-29 Thanksgiving Break, No Class*****

Week 15 Dec. 1, 3 Ch. 18 Islam in the 21st Century, cont'd.

*****Paper 3 due on Dec 5 (30 points)*****

Course Goals

Our aim is to acquire an understanding of the bases of Islam both as a religion

and as a civilization. This will be accomplished by examining the main figures, teachings, texts and points of divergence associated with the contents of the previous paragraph.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Students will be able to explain the fundamental beliefs of Islam.

Students will be able to discuss the main themes and ideas of the Quran.

Students will be able to discuss the main events in the life of the Prophet Muhammad.

Students will be able to discuss the importance of Hadith in Islam.

Students will be able to discuss the emergence of the Caliphate and the Sunni-Shia split.

Students will be able to discuss the main features of Islamic theology, philosophy and Sufism.

Students will be able to discuss the main developments in modern Islam and the encounter with the West.

Expectations of the Course

Students are expected to attend all lectures and keep up with the readings as well as participate in all class discussions.

Assignments & Assessments

There will be three research papers (format to be discussed in class). There will be no extra credit in this course.

Paper 1: 30 points

Paper 2: 30 points

Paper 3: 30 points

Class Participation: 10 points

Grading

Grading Scale

A 95–100 C+ 76–79

A– 90–94 C 73–75

B+ 86–89 C– 70–72

B 83–85 D 60–69

B– 80–82 F below 60

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Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via direct interaction with the professor in class, in office ours, via email, via Canvas, and via phone.

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas, which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity

- Copyright Statement
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Nondiscrimination Statement

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