HUM 3419: Islamic Thought and Culture

Kassim

Office hours: Tues and Thurs-days 9:30-10:45
& by Appointment
Office: Psychology Building, 247
kassim@mail.ucf.edu

Description of the Course

The course deals with the historical development of Islam from its inception and medieval ages to the modern times through the teachings of the Qur'ān, Hadīth and other sources; Islamic jurisprudence and sources of Islamic shari'a laws; the life of Prophet Muhammad, the reception of Islam in the medieval ages by the West and its relations with the West in modern times.

Objectives of the Course

The course is designed to familiarize students and understand the basic teachings of Islam, sources of Islamic law and its historical development law, its relations with the West in medieval ages through modern times, and the real causes of the crisis which the Muslim world is experiencing today.

Text Books:

(B) An Introduction to Islam by Frederick Mathewson Denny (Upper Saddler River, NJ: Pearson), 2011
(D) Islam and the West by Bernard Lewis (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 1993
(E) Shattering the Myth by Bruce Lawrence (Princeton: Princeton University Press), 1998

Topics and Themes:

(1) Nature of Muslim World, the Nature of Islam, its Origins as Judeo-Christian Tradition: Introduction A1; Chapt 1B
(2) Pre-Islamic Arabia, Chapt 1A; Chapt 2B
(3) Muhammad as a Person and as a Prophet: Chapt 4A, Chapt 3B and C in general
(4) Lives of Muhammad and his Message as perceived in the Medieval Christianity: Handouts
(5) The Prophet’s Women (G. Brooks’ Nine Parts of Desire: (Handout)
(6) Salman Rusdie’s Satanic Verses as a Confrontation between the Muslim World and West: Various Sources (Only a short review concerning its problematics).
(7) Basic Beliefs and Practices of Islam, Chapt 5B
(8) The Qur’an: Chapt 5A; Chapt 6B
(9) Hadīth (Tradition), its Development and various Collections: Chapt 6B; Chapt 7B
(10) Islamic Institutions and Structure of Law, the Shari’a, Chapt 10A; Chapt 9B
Sunni and Shi’ite Sects and their various jurist school of thoughts: Chapt 9B,
(10) Sufism, its Doctrines and Practices: Chapt 12A; 11B,
(11) Premodern Reform Movements in the Muslim World and Modern Developments:
Chapts 14 & 15A; Chapts 16 and 13B
(12) Islamic Resurgence, Twentieth Century Muslim World, Chapt 16A
(13) Explaining and analysing the Changes in the manifestations of today’s Muslim
World in Configurations with Modernity.; Chapts, 1,2,3,4E
(14) Islam and the West, Chapts 1,6,8,11
(15) Concluding remarks and Discussions

Exams, Research Papers and Other Conditions:

Exams:
Regular attendance and punctuality is required in the classroom. Failing to comply
with it may reflect in your final grade. (More than three times absent in the class may
be subject to the reduction of 10% of points towards final grade).

(1) Two Take Home Exams, each due on October 9, 2012 and
December 6, 2012. Each Essay Exam carries 20% of credit.

(2) One Class-In Exam carrying 20% of credit due on November 15, 2012.

Research Paper and other Conditions:

Research paper carries 40% of the final grade.

One Research Paper (8 to 10 pages with no less than five to seven sources not
counting e-line sources) due on November 22, 2012.

(i) The topic of research paper must have been approved by the instructor
by October 18, 2012. In order to get topic of research
paper approved, student should have explored all the sources, must
have made notes of contents and the point of view of the author(s).
The topic should be specific and narrowed down. General topics are
not suitable for writing a decent research paper.

(ii) In order to get approval of the topic, the student should meet with the
instructor and discuss the suitability of the topic and how to deal with
the material.

(iii) Research paper should further explore and expand the material and
should not be duplicative of the material covered in the class.
(iv) Failing to comply with these requirements, the research topic chosen or submitted by the student would not be accepted.
(v) No submission of take home-exams, outlines of the research or research paper by email. No consultation of research paper by email
(vi) Grading is done on plus minus system.