REL 3363.0001: Islamic Thought and Culture

Kassim

Office: Psychology Building, 247
Office Hours: Tues and Thurs-days 1:30 - 2:30
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Text Books:

(A) A New Introduction to Islam, Brown
(B) An Introduction to Islam, Denny
(C) Muhammad, Armstrong
(D) Islam and West, Lewis
(E) Shattering the Myth, Lawrence

Course Description: This is an introductory course on Islam, its birth and growth from the sixth century onwards. It deals with the conditions of pre-Islamic Arabia, Life of Muhammad, Qur’ān and its main themes, Sources of Islamic law, two sects in Islam and their differences. It takes an account of mysticism in Islam, Pre-modern Reform movement in Islam, Islam in the modern world and its relations with the West.

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) Salman Rusdie’s Satanic Verses as a Confrontation between the Muslim World and West: Various Sources (Only a short review concerning its problematics).
(6) Basic Beliefs and Practices of Islam, Chapt 5B
(7) The Qur’ān: Chapt 5A; Chapt 6B
(8) Hadīth (Tradition), its Development and various Collections: Chapt 6B; Chapt 7B
(9) 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: Chapt 14 & 15A; Chapt 16and 13B
(11) Islamic Resurgence, Twentieth Century Muslim World, Chapt 16A
(12) Explaining and analyzing the Changes in the manifestations of today’s Muslim World in Configurations with Modernity,: Chapts, 1,2,3,4E
(12) Islam and the West, Chapt 1,6,8,11 D
(13) Concluding Remarks: Allahu ‘Ālam (God knows better)….?
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, 2014 and December 4, 2014 Each Essay Exam carries 20% of credit.

(2) One Class-In Exam carrying 20% of credit due on November 18, 2013.

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 20, 2014.

(i) The topic of research paper must have been approved by the instructor by October 15, 2014. 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.

Wallāh yahdī mushtarikīn fī al-dirāsa (O’ God, Guide all the participants in the class).

And Thereafter ---- Merry Christmas