

## REL 3363

### Islam

Online

Fall 2019

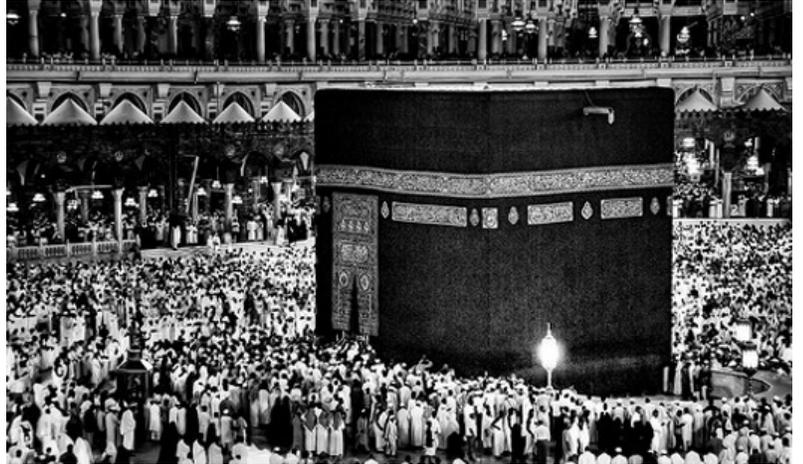
Instructor: Cyrus Zargar

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Office: PSYCH 237;

Office Hours: Wednesday 10am-12pm

*During some weeks, office hours will be by appointment. Appointments can be made throughout the term, as well.*



### Description:

This is an introduction to Islam, with a focus on the Qur'an and early Islamic history, as well as the major questions that surround the word "Islam" in American discourse. Topics include the development of Islamic religious thought and culture, the theological teachings of the Qur'an, Hadith, Islamic law, and philosophy. Toward the end of the course, our focus will be on perceptions and misconceptions surrounding Islam. REL 2300 ("World Religions") is a prerequisite for this course, but I am happy to waive it for those adventurous enough to answer a few questions and do some short readings.

### Texts:

1. *The Study Quran*, ed. Seyyed Hossein Nasr. HarperOne, 2015 (ISBN 978-0-06-112587-4). Please use this edition.
2. All other readings will be on Canvas.

### Goals:

1. Gaining a basic understanding of Islam.
  - By discussing the terms and themes of the Qur'an.
  - By discovering practices/rituals of Muslims, from outsider/insider perspectives.
  - By uncovering key thinkers, concepts, and trends in classical and contemporary Islamic thought.
  - By exploring problems, both theological and historical, in the study of Islam.
  - By thinking about and discussing normativity and Self/Other dichotomies.
  - By examining ways critics discuss cultures and societies.

2. Developing knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives; acquiring global awareness.
  - By learning about the lives and views of many practicing Muslims.
  - By reading and discussing texts from a variety of perspectives.
  - By widening our worldview and subverting stereotypes.
3. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
  - By bringing into question assumptions about Muslims and Islam.
  - By engaging in online discussions and debates where ideas must be substantiated.
  - By forming solid arguments in short answer assignments, as well as the midterm and the final.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

- Syllabus Quiz (1%). This is a simple, multiple choice quiz on the syllabus, with multiple attempts possible.
- Weekly Short Answer (33%). Short answer essays should be 200 words long. There will be five throughout the term, but only the three highest grades will count (the two lowest will be dropped). This is in order to encourage you to take risks and make insightful arguments.
- Discussion (12%) Three graded, participation in all others, which includes credit simply for participating in other non-graded discussions and being active online.
- Midterm (25%) The midterm will consist of two questions, which the instructor will select from three, given in advance. The total written should be 700 words. Emphasis is on the ability to analyze materials covered in class.
- Final = (29%) The final will consist of two questions, which the instructor will select from three, given in advance. The total written should be 1,000 words. Again, emphasis is on analysis, as well as familiarity with readings and topics discussed.

### *Important notes:*

- WORD COUNTS MUST BE TYPED AT THE TOP OF EACH DOCUMENT
- WORD COUNTS MAY BE WITHIN 10% of THE ASSIGNED MINIMUM/LIMIT, that is, a 700-word midterm should be no less than 630 and no more than 770 words long.
- Short answer essays may be as long as 350 words.
- All essays and tests will expect you to be familiar with readings and lectures.

**Grading Scale:**

The following scale determines your grade: 100-92.0% = A; 91.9-90.0% = A-; 89.9-87.0% = B+; 86.9-82.0% =

B; 81.9-80.0% = B-; 79.9-77.0% = C+; 76.9-70% = C; 69.9-60.0% = D; 59.9% to below = F

**Topics by Week:**

*Warning:*

Readings and assignments will change, depending on our pace and depth of discussion. It is up to you to keep up with changes, as they are announced. Also, pay attention to page numbers. Files have more pages than are required reading.

Week/Dates	Topic	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1 8/26-9/1	Roots and Branches: Thinking about Qur'anic Theology	<b>Roots and Branches</b>  Read: Q 14:24-27 and notes (Study Quran, pp. 634-5); Read: Q 2:163-7 (Study Quran, pp. 70-3).  <b>The Quran, Rituals, and Law</b>  Read: "The Qur'an as a Source of Islamic Law" (Study Quran, pp. 1695-1703). Up to the section "Implicitness of Rulings..."	Syllabus Quiz closes at 11:59pm on Friday
Week 2 9/2-9/8	Tawhid and Human Suffering	Read: "Tawhid al-Mufaddal" pp. 20-31  Read: Mutahhari, pp. 127-147	Short Answer #1, closes at 11:59pm on Friday
Week 3 9/9-9/15	Humanity and Ethics in the Qur'an	<b>From Tribal Code to Islamic Ethics</b>  Read: Adeel, "Moderation in Greek and Islamic Traditions, and a Virtue Ethics of the Qur'an"  <b>Creation, Adam &amp; Eve</b>  Read: Q 2:30-39 (Study Quran, pp. 21-25); include note #35 on pp. 23-4;  Read: Q 38:71-85 (pp. 1114-6);  Read: Q 7:10-28 (pp. 409-416); include note #12 on p. 410.	Short Answer #2 closes at 11:59pm on Friday

<p>Week 4 9/16-9/22</p>	<p>The Afterlife</p>	<p><b>Afterlife</b></p> <p>Read: "Death, Dying, and the Afterlife in the Quran" (Study Quran, pp. 1826-36).</p> <p><b>Prophetology</b></p> <p>Read: "The Quranic View of Sacred History and Other Religions" (Study Quran, pp. 1768-82)</p> <p>Read: Q 11:25-49 (pp. 571-576) and Genesis 6-9.</p>	<p>Discussion #1 closes at 11:59pm on Friday. Discussion and Response due.</p> <p>Midterm questions will be released on Monday of Week 5. Midterm is due Sunday night of Week 6.</p>
<p>Week 5 9/23-9/29</p>	<p>Prayer and Piety</p>	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>Read: Saba Mahmood, "Rehearsed Spontaneity and the Conventionality of Ritual: Disciplines of 'Ṣalāt'" pp. 827-834.</p> <p><b>Renunciation and Asceticism</b></p> <p>Read: "Rābi'a" from Sells, <i>Islamic Mysticism</i>, pp. 151-170.</p>	
<p>Week 6 9/30-10/6</p>	<p>Fasting</p>	<p><b>Fasting</b></p> <p>Read: "Virtues of Hunger," Zargar</p> <p><b>Mary and Jesus</b></p> <p>Read: Q 3:33-64 (Study Quran, pp. 141-8); include notes #37 and 38-9 on pp. 142-3.</p> <p>Read: Q 19: 1-35 (Study Quran, pp. 765-773).</p>	<p>Midterm due Sunday at 11:59pm</p>

Week 7 10/7-10/13	The Origins of Islam	<p><b>The Life of Muhammad</b></p> <p>Read: Safi, Memories of Muhammad, 97-162; Donner, 27-38</p> <p><b>The Female Ideal: Khadija, Fatima, and 'A'isha</b></p> <p>Read: Spellberg, Ch. 4</p>	
Week 8 10/14-10/20	Hadith	<p><b>Hadith</b></p> <p>Read: Brown, "Hadith" pp. 1-13</p> <p><b>Does Islam have a "culture"?</b></p> <p>Read: Michael Cooperson, "Culture," pp. 104-122.</p>	Short Answer #3 closes at 11:59pm on Friday
Week 9 10/21-10/27	The Umma	<p><b>Diversity within the Umma</b></p> <p>Read: Arjana, Pilgrimage in Islam, pp. 23-39.</p> <p><b>The Social Dimension of Ritual</b></p> <p>Read: "Autobiography of Malcolm X."</p>	Discussion #2 closes at 11:59pm on Friday. Discussion and Response due.
Week 10 10/28-11/3	Jihad	<p><b>Jihad</b></p> <p>Read: Shah-Kazemi, "From the Spirituality of Jihad to the Ideology of Jihadism," pp. 1-22.</p> <p><b>Myth of Religious Violence?</b></p> <p>Read: "Rule of law: Sharia panic and the US Constitution in the House of Representatives"</p> <p>Read: William Cavanaugh, The Myth of Religious Violence, Ch. 4</p>	Short Answer #4 closes at 11:59pm on Friday
Week 11 11/4-11/10	Muslims in America	<p>Read: Arjana, Muslims in the Western Imagination, pp. 132-164</p> <p>Read: Eboo Patel, Sacred Ground, pp. 23-40. (Skim pp. 78-87.)</p>	

Week 12 11/11-11/17	Pluralism	Read: Joseph Lombard, Pluralism in the Qur'an ( <i>The Study Qur'an</i> )  Read: Legenhausen, "Islam and Religious Pluralism," up to "The Non-Reductive Religious Pluralism of Islam" (the part btwn notes 26 and 27)	
Week 13 11/18-11/24	Women in Islam	<b>Global Muslim Women</b>  Read: "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?"  <b>Muslim Women's Voices (USA)</b>  "(Muslim) Women's Bodies, Islamophobia, and American Politics," Hammer	Short Answer #5 closes at 11:59pm on Friday
Week 14 11/25-12/4  THANKSGIVING	Review for Final	Special Online Meeting: Live Video Chat	Discussion #3 closes at 11:59pm on Friday. Discussion and Response due
FINALIS WEEK 12/5-12/12	Final	Final Due Wednesday at 11:59pm	

### **FINE PRINT: Academic Integrity**

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <<http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc>>.

According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.

5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity <<http://academicintegrity.org>>.

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" <<http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>>.

#### Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <<http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>> (Ferrell Commons 185, [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu), phone 407-823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

#### Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <<https://my.ucf.edu>> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should email their instructors.

#### Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <<http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.1MakeupAssignmentsForAuthorizedUniversityEventsOrCocurricularActivities.pdf>>

#### Religious Observances

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <<http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALOct17.pdf>>.

#### Deployed Active Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.