REL13000 - Islam: History, Theology and Culture
Course Outline

Semester: Semester 1 - 2008
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture/Tutorial

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Colin Wilks
Room: MC107
Ph: 4921 5192
Email: Colin.Wilks@newcastle.edu.au

Lecturer: Mehmet Ozalp
Ph: 9702 0789
Email: mozalp@affinity.org.au

Brief Course Description

Examines the theological and socio-political history of Islam (from its emergence in the 7th Century to its 19th century encounter with modern western society) and focuses, in particular, upon the emergence of the Qur’an, Hadith and basic teachings of Islam; the problems arising from Islam’s rapid geo-political expansion during the and 7th and 8th centuries, its political institutions (the Caliphate), internal differentiation (the Sunni-Shia divide and Sufism); its synergistic encounter with Greek philosophy and science; the development of Sharia law and its system of jurisprudence (Fiqh); and the rich diversity of its theological traditions and cultural expressions.

Course Objectives

The course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of Islam and its interwoven socio-political and theological histories, and, in particular, the socio-political ramifications of its rapid geo-political expansion during the 7th and 8th centuries, the theological ramifications of the ‘exotic’ ideas it absorbed in the course of this expansion, and the theological means by which these ramifications were subsequently reconciled with the fundamental tenets of Islamic orthodoxy.

Course Content

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2008
CTS Download Date: 7 February 2008
The theological and socio-political history of Islam (from its emergence in the 7th Century to its 19th century encounter with modern, as opposed to medieval, western society); the Qur'an, Hadith, basic teachings and practices of Islam; problems arising from Islam's geo-political expansion, political institutions (the Caliphate), internal differentiation (the Sunni-Shia divide and Sufism); its encounter with Greek philosophy and science; the development of its systems of law (Sharia) and jurisprudence (Fiqh); and the rich and complex diversity of its theological traditions and multi-cultural expressions.

Assumed Knowledge
Nil

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Further Information

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students

Timetable

Lecture: Thursday 11:00 – 1:00pm in V107
Tutorial: Thursday 1:00 – 2:00pm in MC102
Summary of Assessment Items, Word Lengths, Weightings and Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Word Length</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Essay</td>
<td>1500 words</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>April 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Take-Home Exam</td>
<td>2500 words</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Tutorial Presentation and Paper</td>
<td>1000 words</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>To be scheduled throughout the term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Essay**

The essay covers the history component of the course (weeks 1-5). The questions are as follows:

1. Outline the extent of the Muslim conquests in the first 100 years (until 750 CE) of Islamic History. Discuss the main factors for the permanence of these conquests and how they shaped world history.

2. What are the impact of the Crusades and Mongol invasion on the Muslim world and Islamic history? (What has happened? Why did it happen? What were the important immediate and long-term outcomes?)

3. What were the main internal and external factors that led to the decline of the Muslim world in the post 16th century era?

**Take Home Exam**

The take-home exam covers the course content for weeks 5-13 and requires students to answer one question dealing with the content for weeks 6-10 and one question dealing with the content for weeks 11-14. More specific details about the manner and style in which these questions are to be answered will be made available in Week 13 of semester.

**Tutorial Presentation and Paper**

Students will present a tutorial paper on a topic chosen from a list of topics that will be made available in the first tutorial in Week 2 of the course. The tutorial presentation-paper grade will be based on evidence of reading and research effort; answering the question; evidence of critical thinking; presentation and delivery; points of discussion and time management. The presentation paper will be submitted the week following the week in which the presentation is delivered. The following table gives more detailed information regarding the assessment criteria for presentations.
Criteria | Description | Mark Allocation
--- | --- | ---
Evidence of Reading/Research Effort | Was there evidence that you at least read the required reading, that is put some effort into getting the information necessary to answer the question(s)? (Four (4) marks also include evidence of preparation and research in the form of a 1,000 word written paper) | 6 marks
Answering the Question(s) | Did you answer the question(s)? Did you identify clear arguments? Did you reach conclusions on the arguments? | 2 marks
Evidence of Critical Thinking | Was there evidence that you tried to examine the underlying assumptions and evidence in support of the authors make. Or did you just merely give a summary of the points made in the readings? | 4 marks
Presentation and Delivery | Did your presentation flow well? Was it structured in a logical order? Was it clear and not confusing? Did it engage the audience? | 3 marks
Points of Discussion | Did you identify at least two specific points for discussion. | 3 marks
Time | The tutorial Presentation should be for 10-13 minutes. | 2 marks
--- | --- | ---
TOTAL | 20 marks

Course Reading

There are four initial readings for Weeks 1-3 that can be accessed electronically through Short Loans. Further weekly readings will be made electronically available as the course progresses. A collection of more general references (some of which have been placed on Short or 3-Day Loan) is listed below:


## RELI3000, 2008: Schedule of Lecture Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Feb 21</td>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Armstrong, K., Chapter 1 of <em>Islam: A Short History</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Feb 28</td>
<td><strong>THE RISE OF ISLAM 620-700</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Lapidus, I., ‘The Arab Conquests and the Socio-Economic Basis of Empire’ and ‘The Caliphate’, Chs. 3 and 4 of <em>A History of Islamic Societies</em>&lt;br&gt;Kennedy, Hugh, Ch. 1 of <em>The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Mar 6</td>
<td><strong>THE RISE OF ISLAM 700-1000</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Lapidus, I. Chapters 5 – 8 of <em>A History of Islamic Societies</em>&lt;br&gt;Ahmed, A. S., ‘A Theory of Islamic History’, Ch. 3 of <em>Discovering Islam</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Mar 13</td>
<td><strong>THE FLOWERING OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD, 1000-1500</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Mar 20</td>
<td><strong>THE ISLAMIC WORLD IN THE AGE OF EUROPEAN EXPANSION, 1500-1800</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Mar 27</td>
<td><strong>REVELATION, THE QUR’AN, PROPHETHOOD &amp; PROPHET MUHAMMAD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Apr 3</td>
<td><strong>THEOLOGY OF GOD IN ISLAM &amp; EXISTENTIAL PERSPECTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Apr 10</td>
<td><strong>THE ISLAMIC WORLDVIEW: HUMAN NATURE, DIVINE WILL, SUFFERING, GOOD &amp; EVIL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MID-SEMESTER BREAK April 11 – April 28**

<p>| 9 May 1 | <strong>DEATH, RESURRECTION &amp; AFTERLIFE; ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY</strong> |
| 10 May 8 | <strong>PROPHETIC NARRATIVES, ISLAMIC LAW AND ITS DEVELOPMENT</strong> |
| 11 May 15 | <strong>ECONOMY IN MUSLIM SOCIETIES</strong> |
| 12 May 22 | <strong>THE ORDERING OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES</strong> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>KNOWLEDGE, ITS TRANSMISSION/THE MAKING OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jun 5</td>
<td>ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>