RELI3000 - Islam: History, Theology and Culture

Course Outline

Semester: Semester 2 - 2007
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture/Tutorial

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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

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: Tuesday 11:00 – 1:00pm in V10

Tutorial: Tuesday 2:00 – 3:00pm in Mc102
### Essay

The essay will deal with the course content for weeks 1-5 of the course and the topics will include:

1. The impact of Islam on the Middle East in the formative years
2. The institution of Caliphate from the Prophet Muhammad to its abolition
3. The broad history of Islamic civilisation from its birth to 17th Century
4. The reason’s for the political success of Islam in the formative years
5. The scientific, philosophical and cultural contribution of Islam to the rise of European civilisation.
6. Factors contributing to the rise of Europe as a world power and the decline of the Islamic World

Essay questions will be made available in Week 2.

### Take Home Exam

The take-home exam covers the course content for weeks 5-13 and requires students to answer two question: one dealing with the course content for weeks 5-9 and one dealing with the content for weeks 9-13. More 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 grade awarded for the tutorial presentation-paper will be based on effectiveness of delivery and evidence of preparation, as well as the submitted paper itself (papers will be submitted the week following the week in which presentations are delivered). Further details concerning the presentation and submission of tutorial papers will be discussed in the first tutorial.

### Course Reading

There are four (4) specific readings for Weeks 1-5 of the course. These can be accessed electronically through Short Loans. Further readings will be made electronically available as the course progresses. A collection of more general references has also been placed on 3-Day Loan (see the list below).
Recommended General Reading


Moorish Spain, Richard Fletcher, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993 (946.02 FLET)

Islamic and Christian Spain in the early Middle Ages, T. F. Glick, Princeton University Press, c1979


The Venture of Islam Conscience and History in a World Civilization, M. G. S. Hodgson, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974 (in 3 Volumes)


A History of Islamic Societies, Ira M. Lapidus, Cambridge University Press, 2002


Averroes and his Philosophy, Oliver Leaman, Oxford University Press, 1988

The Muslim Discovery of Europe, Bernard Lewis, London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1982


Islamic Law: From Historical Foundations to Contemporary Practice, Mawil Izzi Dien, Edinburgh University Press, c2004

Islamic Mysticism Sufism T.C. Rastogi, New Delhi: Sterling Publishers Private, c1982


# RELI3000, 2007 Schedule of Lecture Topics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 July 17</td>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
<td>Reading: Armstrong, K., Chapter 1 of Islam: A Short History</td>
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<td>Kennedy, Hugh, Ch. 1 of The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates</td>
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<td>2 July 24</td>
<td><strong>THE RISE OF ISLAM 620-700</strong></td>
<td>Reading: Lapidus, I., ‘The Arab Conquests and the Socio-Economic Basis of Empire’ and ‘The Caliphate’, Chs. 3 and 4 of A History of Islamic Societies</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 July 31</td>
<td><strong>THE RISE OF ISLAM 700-1000</strong></td>
<td>Reading: Lapidus, I. Chapters 5 – 8 of A History of Islamic Societies</td>
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<td>Ahmed, A. S., ‘A Theory of Islamic History’, Ch. 3 of Discovering Islam</td>
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<td>4 Aug 7</td>
<td><strong>THE FLOWERING OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD, 1000-1500</strong></td>
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<td>5 Aug 14</td>
<td><strong>THE ISLAMIC WORLD IN THE AGE OF EUROPEAN EXPANSION, 1500-1800</strong></td>
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<td>6 Aug 21</td>
<td><strong>REVELATION, THE QUR’AN, PROPHETHOOD &amp; PROPHET MUHAMMAD</strong></td>
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<td>7 Aug 28</td>
<td><strong>THEOLOGY OF GOD IN ISLAM &amp; EXISTENTIAL PERSPECTIVE</strong></td>
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<td>8 Sept 4</td>
<td><strong>THE ISLAMIC WORLDVIEW: HUMAN NATURE, DIVINE WILL, SUFFERING, GOOD &amp; EVIL</strong></td>
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<td>9 Sept 11</td>
<td><strong>DEATH, RESURRECTION &amp; AFTERLIFE; ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY</strong></td>
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<td>10 Sept 18</td>
<td><strong>PROPHETIC NARRATIVES, ISLAMIC LAW AND ITS DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
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<td>11 Sept 25</td>
<td><strong>ECONOMY IN MUSLIM SOCIETIES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MID-SEMESTER BREAK October 1 - October 12</strong></td>
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<td>12 Oct 16</td>
<td><strong>THE ORDERING OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES</strong></td>
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<td>13 Oct 23</td>
<td><strong>KNOWLEDGE, ITS TRANSMISSION/THE MAKING OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES</strong></td>
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<td>14 Oct 30</td>
<td><strong>ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES</strong></td>
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