

**THEOLOGY 195-06 W RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD: Islam**  
**TTh 11:30-12:45**

**Spring Semester 2008**  
**DU-118**

**This is a Writing Intensive Section**

**This course fulfills the following components of the Loyola Core (only 1 per course)**

Knowledge Area: Theology and Religious Studies Knowledge

Values: Understanding Diversity in the United States/the World, or Understanding Spirituality, or Faith and Action in the World

**Instructor:** Dr. Marcia Hermansen

**Office:** Crown Center 441

**Phone:** 508-2345

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 2:30-3:30 or by appointment

**E-mail** mherman@luc.edu

### **Course Outline and Requirements:**

Textbooks: Available at Campus Barnes and Noble and Becks

Fred Denny  
 Michael Sells  
 Fadiman and Frager

Introduction to Islam  
Approaching the Qur'an  
Essential Sufism

### **Website**

This class will be supported by images, sounds, and texts available through the class Website. You must log on in order to be part of the course. Consult the Website in order to prepare for every class. Assignments and materials are available there, e-mail instructor if you cannot locate an item.

**Course Content:** This course constitutes an introduction to the religion of Islam through the study of major religious ideas, movements, and figures prominent in the development of the tradition. The course will move through three major phases: basic teachings of Islam, the articulation of the classical tradition, and contemporary developments. Discussion of major issues such as unity and diversity within Islam, Islamic government, the role of women, Muslims in America, and Islamic movements in the contemporary world will also be featured.

### **Course Objectives:**

- \* To familiarize students with basic beliefs and practices of Muslims.
- \* To acquaint students with the diversity of Muslims in regional, sectarian, and interpretive contexts.
- \* To give a basic understanding of the history and geography of the Muslim World.
- \* To enable students to comprehend and evaluate contemporary political and intellectual developments in Islam.
- \* As a writing intensive course, a further objective is to increase student's level of writing skills in terms of style, content, and argumentation through varied and frequent writing exercises. Students are allowed to resubmit improved and corrected versions of their written work for potentially higher grades after receiving critical input from the instructor.

## Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Specific guidelines will be provided for each assignment as well as study guides and term lists for the exams.

- 20 **Mid-term Exam**
- 25 **Final Exam** (semi-comprehensive)
- 20 **2 paper assignments** 10% @ = 20 (These are relatively short, about 4 pages each).
- 18 **3 Brief writing assignments** based on the class readings and guidelines set out by the instructor. These will be evaluated out of 10 points each and will each count for 6% of the final class grade.
- 12 4 one page summary papers/quizzes graded out of 10 @ 3 points each
- 5 **Attendance and participation** will also be assessed here. More than three unexcused absences will significantly lower your grade.
- 100 TOTAL**

## **Grading Scale**

I compute grades based on a point system. Each paper and exam is assigned a certain number of points. For each exercise you will receive a number out of the total points possible based on your performance. These will be totaled up at the end of the semester and a number grade out of 100 points will be the result. This will be converted to the final letter grade according to the scale below. Assignments will lose a point for every day they are late.

A	93-100	C	72-74.5
A-	89-92.5	C-	69-71.5
B+	86-88.5	D+	66-68.5
B	81-84.5	D	58-65.5
B-	78-80.5	F	Below 58
C+	75-77.5		

## Readings and Assignment Schedule

Note\* This schedule is tentative. The pace of a class is affected by the quality of student preparation and involvement with the material. Classes that ask more questions and discuss more will proceed through the material more slowly, but gather depth along the way.

## **Part 1 of the Course: The Basics of Islam**

Tues. Jan 15

Introduction to Course/Syllabus.  
Introduction to the Academic Study of Islam

Th. Jan. 17

Film: Smithsonian World: Islam  
Discuss Issues Facing Muslims Today

Ali Asani article on  
class web site

Tues. Jan. 22	Pre-Islamic Arabia	Denny 29-43, Sells 1-10
<b>Turn in 1 page summary of issues facing Muslims</b>		Readings: "Ode of Labid" on web site
Th. Jan. 24	The Life of Muhammad	Denny 47-71
<b>Discuss Assignment 1</b>	Companions of the Prophet	Reading from Ibn Ishaq on Web site
<b>Ode of Labid</b>		
Tues. Jan. 29	Life of Muhammad (con't)	Start Reading Sells 11-
	Role of the Prophet in Muslim	31, 145-155
	Piety	Denny 61-71
Thurs. Jan. 31	Major Teachings of the Qur'an	Denny 128-148
<b>Writing # 1</b>	Qur'an: Introduction	Sells 11-31, 42-47
<b>Ode of Labid--Due</b>	Revelation and the Role of the Qur'an in Muslim Life and Piety	
Tues. Feb. 5	Themes of the Qur'an: Allah	Sells 42, 94-141
	The Human Condition	
Thurs. Feb. 7	Themes of the Qur'an:	Qur'an (on Jews and
	Prophecy	Christians) see website
	Other Religions and Pluralism	
<b>Writing Assignment #2</b>	"Tawhid"	<b>Handout</b> (Chittick)
<b>Discussion</b>		
Tues. Feb. 12	Five Pillars (Slides/film)	Denny 97-127
Thurs. Feb. 14	Introduction to Hadith	Denny 149-163
<b>Writing Assignment #2</b>	<b>Due</b>	
Tues. Feb. 19	Hadith Discussion and exercise	Hadiths on web site
<b>Writing Assignment #3</b>	<b>Interpretation of a hadith</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>		

Thurs. Feb. 21 <b>Assignment #3 Due</b>	Early Community/Expansion Beginnings of Shi'ism	Denny 72-88, 205 207, 307-311 Chart on Shi'i Imams (Web)
Tues. Feb. 26	Film on Shi'ism	
Thurs. Feb 28	Emergence of the Shari'a Applied Law/the Legal Schools	Denny 187-207 Web diagram on Shari'a
Tues. March 4 and March 6	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>No classes</b>
Tues. March 11	MID-Term Exam	Study Guide and term list On website

## **PART II of the Course Classical Islamic Civilization**

Thurs. March 13	Islamic Theology-- Kalam	Denny 164-186
Tues. March 18 <b>Paper #1 on Sufism</b>	Sufism-Ulema and Sufis Forms of Islamic Knowledge and Authority	Denny 211-235 Fadiman and Frager 1-31 35-56
Thurs. March 20	The Sufi Orders Film-The Inner Life	Denny 238-259 Fadiman and Frager 113-193
Tues. March 25	Islamic Art	Illustrated lecture

## **Part 3 of the Course Contemporary Developments**

Thurs. March 27 <b>Paper #1 Due</b>	Islam and The West: The Crusades/ Islamic Influence on Europe Pre-Modern Reform Movements	Denny 315-323
Tues. April 1	The West and Islam : Colonialism Film: Struggling with Modernity	

T. April 3 <b>Discuss Paper #2</b> <b>Contemporary Islam</b>	Types of Modern Islamic Thought Pan-Islamism vs. Nationalism	Paper#2 Guidelines on website Denny 323-339
Th. April 8 <b>Map Quiz</b>	Modernism vs. "Fundamentalism" Contemporary Islamic Thought And Movements	Denny 340-346, Denny 363-375
Tues. April 15	Issues Facing Muslims Today Muslim Societies in the Contemporary World: An Overview	Film: Muslims
Th. April 17	Women and Gender Issues Film: A Veiled Revolution	Denny 346-350, 375-378
T. April 22	Women and Gender Issues	"Women, Men, and Gender in Islam" (on website) M. K. Hermansen
Th. April 25	Muslims in America New Trends in Muslim America: Sufis and Progressives	Denny 350-362 Denny 363-380
<b>Paper #2 (Contemporary Muslim Thought) Due</b>		
<b>Tues. April 29</b>	<b>Final Exam Date 9:00-11:00 AM</b>	Study Guide on Web

**Note:**

All assignments must be completed on time. Late papers will be accepted but points may be deducted. Plagiarized or missing assignments receive a "0".

**Essays:** Each essay assignment is to be typed, double-spaced, and is to include paginated citations of texts used in support of each of your arguments and a bibliography of sources used. I am willing to review rough drafts with you, since criticism and revision will improve the quality of work submitted for a grade.

**Writing assignments and academic honesty.** It is your responsibility to ensure that work you submit as your own is in fact your own, and that you properly acknowledge any sources from which you have taken ideas or phrasing. I will comply with Loyola University policies regarding plagiarism as outlined in the statement on the University website.

[http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml)

This semester we will be using the Turnitin system to vet your assignments before you submit them

Student Instructions are at:

[http://www.turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii\\_student\\_gs.pdf](http://www.turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii_student_gs.pdf)

This class is #2135800 Password is bismillah

**Suggestions for Reading Assignments:**

Read the selections assigned for each class session before the actual class. At first you may wish to quickly review the material so as to isolate the main issues.

When you do your own preparatory reading, take notes, highlighting the ideas that you find most important. Note ideas with which you disagree. If you have any questions, if there are concepts or terms that you don't understand, note them down and bring your questions to class.

Bring these materials to class so that they will be available to you during the lectures and discussion.

Consult the class Website regularly for more information and updates.

I encourage any student needing to request accommodations for a disability to meet with me and contact **Services for Students With Disabilities** (Sullivan Center Suite 260) at your earliest convenience to ensure timely and appropriate accommodations.