Hartford Seminary Fall 2019
DI-501: Introduction to Islam for Non-Muslims

Instructor: Nicolas Mumejian
Office Hours: the instructor will be available for a phone call or virtual meeting
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Course Description:
This online course will explore the Islamic religion from a variety of viewpoints: thematically, historically, and culturally by investigating Islam’s founding principles, major figures, seminal writings, observed practices, structural institutions, social impacts, and modern developments.

Course Objectives: By the end of the term, successful students will be able to demonstrate 1) foundational and critical knowledge of Islam, and 2) ability to relate theory and practice in the social contexts in which Islamic communities exist. In the end, students ought possess the foundation and basic “language” necessary to continue engaging with the study of Islam.

This course meets the following Program Outcomes: MARS - To demonstrate the knowledge, capacities, and willingness to respectfully engage other religions and world views, DMin - To demonstrate the knowledge, capacities, and willingness to respectfully engage the religious pluralism of contemporary American society through exposure to the teachings of other faiths and those who practice those faiths.

Course Assignments:

- Weekly Discussions: In each module, you will usually find two kinds of discussion-forum prompts:
  - Discussion Starters: these are due by Tuesday evening and invite a one-paragraph post discussing a significant question or specific topic for discussion. The question(s) should stem from that particular week’s themes and readings. Responses to at least two classmates’ question-post per module will be expected. 10% of your grade
  - Reflections: these are due by Thursday evening and are to be at least 500 words in length. In weeks that Brown’s A New Introduction to Islam is assigned, the study questions at end of the chapter must be incorporated. These reflections are to not merely a retelling of what has been assigned, but a demonstration that you both understand and can interact with the material. Additionally, these reflections are to interact with classmates posts, responses to at least two classmates’ posts (from that week) will be expected. 30% of your grade
- Reaction Papers/Mosque visit: these papers, due the Friday November 8th, will consist of two elements. In addition to the weekly assignments, the students are
to read Bruce Lawrence’s *Who is Allah?* and write a reaction paper of 2,000 words that discusses his book and your visit to a mosque. The mosque visit must be one made during the course of the semester and not a previous one. **20% of Semester Grade.**

- **Term Paper: due December 15**, your term paper will need to be at least 4,000 words. Paper topics are to be discussed with and approved by the instructor by week 11. **40% of Semester Grade.**

**Required Texts:**

  (*It is imperative you have the third edition as it contains study questions required for weekly discussion/reflections the previous editions do not*)
- Lawrence, Bruce B. *Who is Allah.* ISBN: 9781469654676

**Recommended**


**Course Expectations and Classroom Policies:**

**Attendance Policy:** Active attendance and participation in class is required. 3 or more weeks without posts equal 3 class absences and without a serious reason for missing should be an automatic failure or withdraw.

**Written assignment policy:**

The student handbook states: A paper submitted for credit in one course cannot be submitted for credit in another course without the prior permission of both instructors. Hartford Seminary strictly adheres to the Plagiarism Policy. Written papers and theses must be typed and should conform to the styles and format for footnotes and acknowledgments announced by the course instructor. For additional information on format, proper footnotes, acknowledgments, etc., students are directed to consult the Hartford Seminary General Guidelines for a Research Paper. These guidelines can be picked up in the student forms center or downloaded from our website at: [http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-writing-resources/](http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-writing-resources/). Students may also consult Kate L.

**Seminary Grading Scale**

A (95-100) Demonstrates excellent mastery of the subject matter, a superior ability to articulate this, and provides helpful connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.

A- (90-94) Demonstrates mastery of the subject matter, ability to articulate this well, and makes connections to daily life or contemporary issues. Exceeds expectations of the course.

B+ (87-89) Demonstrates a very good understanding of the subject matter, able to articulate lessons learned in the assignment well. Meets expectations of the course.

B (83-86) Demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter and the ability to articulate lessons learned. Meets expectations of the course.

B-(80-82) Demonstrates an understanding of the material at hand, has some difficulty articulating this, and basic connection of the material to daily life or contemporary issues/life. Meets basic expectations for the course.

C+ (77-79) Demonstrates a basic comprehension of the subject matter, weak articulation and connections. Does not meet expectations for the course.

C (70-76) Demonstrates a minimal comprehension of the subject matter and has difficulty making connections. Does not meet expectations of the course.

F (below 70) Unable to meet the basic requirements of the course

Any DMin student will be graded on fail, low-pass, pass, high-pass. High Pass (95-100), Pass (83- 94), Low Pass (70-82), and Fail (below 70). DMin Students are also expected to do additional work, see the course instructor.
**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:**

Academic honesty and integrity are expected of all students. Plagiarism exists when: a) the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by anyone other than the one submitting the work, b) parts of the work, whether direct quotations, ideas, or data, are taken from another source without acknowledgement, c) the whole work is copied from another source [especially a web based source], or d) significant portions of one’s own previous work used in another course. See “Plagiarism” at [http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/](http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/).

**Inclusive Language:**

Hartford Seminary is committed to a policy of inclusion in its academic life and mission. All members of the community are expected to communicate in language that reflects the equality of genders, openness to diverse cultural and theological perspectives, and sensitivity to one another’s images of God.

**Course Outline:**

Week 1 (Sept 3): “Islam”, Pre-Islam, Origins and History
Brown *New Introduction to Islam* chs 1 – 3 pp 1-54, Ayoub *Islam: Faith and History* ch 1 pp 8-29

Week 2 (Sept 10): **Muhammad and His Message (part 1)**
Brown *New Introduction to Islam* ch 4 pp 55 – 75, Ayoub *Islam: Faith and History* ch 2 pp 30 - 50

Week 3 (Sept 17): **Muhammad and His Message (part 2)**
Ali *The Lives of Muhammad* chs 1 & 2 pp 6-78
Q. 53:4-9; Q. 96: 1-5; Q. 10:1-10

Week 4 (Sept 24): **Muhammad and His Message (part 3)**
Ali *The Lives of Muhammad* chs 4 & 5 pp 114 – 199

Week 4 (Oct 1): **Muhammad and His Message (part 4)**
Ali *The Lives of Muhammad* chs 6 & Conclusion pp 200 - 242

Week 6 (Oct 8): **The Formative Period of Muslim History**

Week 7 (Oct 15): **The Qur’ān and Islamic Literature**

Week 8 (Oct 22): **Sharia and Islamic Jurisprudence**  
Brown *New Introduction to Islam* ch 10 pp 173 - 194

Week 9 (Oct 29): **Theology and Philosophy**  

Week 10 (Nov 5): **Sufism**  
(Reaction Papers are due by Friday November 8th)  

Week 11 (Nov 12): **Revival, Reform, and Islam in the West**  
Brown *New Introduction to Islam* chs 14 & 15 pp 263 - 290

Week 12 (Nov 19): **Islam in the 21st Century**  
Brown *New Introduction to Islam* ch 18 pp 335 - 352

Week 13 (Dec 3): **Women and Gender in Islam**  
Juliane Hammer, “Gender Matters: Normativity, Positionality, and the Politics of Islamic Studies” and Fatima Seedat, “When Islam and Feminism Converge” (both online)

Week 14 (Dec 10): **Studiosum Scriptor Solsilium**  
(Book Reviews for DMin students are due Dec 15)  
The students will discuss with the course instructor topics they wish to address in relation to the study of Islam and the Muslim faith