**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE**

**ISLAM (RS 365)**

(Class Number: 13513)

**SPRING 2015**

**Instructor:** Mustafa Ruzgar, Ph.D.

**E-mail:** mustafa.ruzgar@csun.edu

**Telephone:** (818) 677-7779

**Class hours & Classroom:** TuTh 9:30 am—10:45 am & SH 192

**Office hours & Place:** Tu: 11:00 am—12:00 pm; 2:00 pm—3:00 pm

Th: 11:00 am—12:00 pm & SN 234 or by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the academic study of Islam. Main features of Islam including its central concepts, history, articles of faith, and practices will be the focus of the first half of the semester. Islamic intellectual heritage as expressed in Islamic theology, philosophy, and mysticism will be analyzed with special attention to the epistemological sources of Islam. In the second half of the semester, more thematic issues will be studied, including gender relations, tolerance/or violence, scriptural interpretation, Muslims in America, Islamic religious pluralism, and Islamic movements within the context of Westernization. Each topic, when applicable, will be analyzed both in its traditional and contemporary setting.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to demonstrate efficiency in all of Student Learning Objectives and majority of GE SLO’s outlined below.

\*Since this is an Upper-Division General Education Course, please be advised that it requires completion of writing assignments totaling a minimum of 2,500 words. For specific information, please refer to Course Requirements and Assignments.

**Student Learning Objectives**

Students will show

1. Familiarity with main Islamic terms, rituals, beliefs, customs, symbols, and figures.
2. Knowledge of the emergence and development of Islam as a historical religion in its socio-economic and political context.
3. Knowledge of the Islamic intellectual heritage as manifested in Islamic philosophy, theology, law, and mysticism.
4. An understanding of the events that led to the separation of Sunni and Shi’a Islam and to identify the theological and ritualistic differences between the two.
5. Ability to analyze and critically reflect upon contemporary issues that relate to the image of Islam in the mass media.
6. Recognition of the cultural and interpretational diversity within Muslim communities.

**GE SLO’s**

Goal: Students will understand the diversity and multiplicity of cultural forces that shape the world through the study of cultures, gender, sexuality, race, religion, class, ethnicities and languages with special focus on the contributions, differences, and global perspectives of diverse cultures and societies.

Student learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Describe and compare different cultures;
2. Explain how various cultures contribute to the development of our multicultural world;
3. Describe and explain how race, ethnicity, class, gender, religion, sexuality and other markers of social identity impact life experiences and social relations;
4. Analyze and explain the deleterious impact and the privileges sustained by racism, sexism, ethnocentrism, classism, homophobia, religious intolerance or stereotyping on all sectors of society;

**Required Texts:**

-- *Islam: The Straight Path (4th Edition)*, John L. Esposito (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010). ISBN: 978-0195396003. (From here on, referred as Esposito).

--*The Qur’an: A New Translation (Reissue Edition)*, M. A. S. Abdel Haleem (Oxford University Press, 2008). ISBN: 978-0199535958.

--There will be some additional material to be distributed in the classroom.

**Course Requirements and Assignments:**

**1-Attendance and Participation:** Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and ready to participate in class discussions. **Regular attendance and effective participation** will yield 100 points. Attending all the class sessions does not mean that you will get 100 points unless you actively and effectively participate in class discussions.

**2-Book Report:** Each student must write a three-page/or 750 words book report for a book of their own choice. As long as the book is relevant to Islam, there is no book/topic limitation. You may search the Oviatt Library for examples of books on Islam. The book you choose must be in English and must be more than 100 pages. Your report must accomplish two goals—give as accurate and concise information about the book as possible, and engage in a critical/analytic evaluation of the book.

**3- Midterm Examination:** The midterm examination will include short essays, definitions, true or false questions, and multiple-choice questions from the topics discussed prior to the exam.

**4- Final Examination:** Thefinal examination will include short essays, definitions, true or false questions, and multiple-choice questions, and will be **cumulative**.

**5- Research Paper:** Your research paper should be at least **SEVEN full pages/or 1,750 words**, typed, double-spaced, with an introduction, conclusion, a thesis, an organized body, and a bibliography. You may consult with the instructor for the topic of your paper in advance.

**Grading & Rubrics:**

Attendance and Participation: 100 points

Book Report: 100 points

Midterm Examination: 200 points

Final Examination: 400 points

Research Paper: 200 points

**Grading Scale:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Percentage | Grade |
| 1000 - 960 points | A |
| 959 - 900 points | A- |
| 899 - 870 points | B+ |
| 869 - 830 points | B |
| 829 - 800 points | B- |
| 799 - 770 points | C+ |
| 769 - 730 points | C |
| 729 - 700 points | C- |
| 699 - 670 points | D+ |
| 669 - 630 points | D |
| 629 - 600 points | D- |
| 599 points or below | F |

**Policy Assignment Due Dates:**

All the assignments must be submitted on the specified due dates. **No electronic submissions** will be accepted. No computer excuses for late submission will be accepted (system crash, lack of lab seating, lost files or passwords, etc.).

**Test and Exam Policy:**

Make-ups will be granted for the midterm and final exams only in the cases of severe emergencies, which include severe illness requiring doctor’s visit or hospitalization, death in the family, and college-excused events (which must be approved ahead of time). All emergencies must be documented in writing.

**Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any form of cheating or plagiarizing will result in a failing grade for the course and be reported to the university for appropriate disciplinary action.

**Special Needs:**

If you have any special needs, please see me after the class to discuss your options.

**Provisions for Possible Syllabus Addenda or Revisions:**

There may be some changes in the syllabus. Students are required to comply with any changes made by the instructor.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

Week 1 (January 20, 22)

Introduction; Getting to know each other; Basic Islamic Terms

Week 2 (January 27, 29)

Pre-Islamic Arabia and Its Significance; Muhammad’s Life (Meccan Period)

Readings: Esposito: 1-10

Week 3 (February 3, 5)

Muhammad’s Life (Medinan Period); After Muhammad

Readings: Esposito: 10-19; 36-83

Week 4 (February 10, 12)

Articles of Faith

Readings: Esposito: 19-34

Week 5 (February 17, 19)

Worship and Five Pillars

Readings: Esposito: 106-113

Week 6 (February 24, 26)

Islamic Law, The Qur’an, Hadith, Ijma, and Qiyas; Classification of Actions-I

Readings: Esposito: 92-106

Week 7 (March 3, 5)

Islamic Law, The Qur’an, Hadith, Ijma, Qiyas; Classification of Actions-II

Week 8 (March 10, 12)**—*MIDTERM EXAMINATION ON MARCH 12***

Shi’a Islam

Readings: Esposito: 134-139

Week 9 (March 17, 19)

Sufism

Readings: Esposito: 124-134

Week 10 (March 24, 26)

Theology and Philosophy

Readings: Esposito: 85-92

Week 11 (April 2)***—BOOK REPORTS ARE DUE ON APRIL 2***

Gender Issues

Readings: Esposito: 116-124

Week 12 (April 14, 16)

Revivalism, Modernist Islam, and Neo-revivalism

Readings: Esposito: 141-184; 250-294

Week 13 (April 21, 23)

Jihad; Violence/Tolerance; Religious Minorities

Readings: Esposito: 235-247

Week 14 (April 28, 30)

Religious Pluralism

Readings: An article will be provided by the instructor

Week 15 (May 5, 7)***—RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE ON MAY 7***

Catch Up and Review

***FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, May 12, 2015, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at SH 192***