

Islam in the Modern World
Religious Studies 3C03
Winter 2017
McMaster University

Professor Liyakat Takim
Office: University Hall 115

Office hours: Mondays 3:30 - 5:30
or by appointment

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THE COURSE

The course will initially discuss the background to Islam's encounter with the West. It will also examine the impact of modernization on the Muslim world. In particular, we will study the thoughts of diverse Muslim thinkers and reformers ranging from those who called for complete assimilation with the west to those who preferred a more isolationist approach.

The course will also trace the genesis and subsequent rise of "Islamic Fundamentalism". Whether through dialogue or confrontation, Muslims are beginning to make significant contributions to shaping North American society. The course will tackle issues such as how do Muslims maintain their values and cultures in non-Muslim countries? How do they maintain their identity and express themselves to the "other"? No prior knowledge of Islam is required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular attendance and active participation in the class are mandatory. Please ensure that the readings assigned for each course are done before the class.

Reading assignments:

Hourani: Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age

Takim: Shi'ism in America

Esposito: The Islamic Threat

Smith: Islam in Modern History (Reserve)

Attendance

Attendance at every class and tutorial is mandatory. If you are not able to attend a class, please let me know beforehand.

Composition of Final Grades:

Tutorial & Participation	10%
Three Quizzes	30%
Midterm	20%
Guest Lecture	10%
Final Examinations	30%

Classes & Readings:

Monday January 9: Introduction to Islam;

Islamic Heritage in the Modern World

Readings: Smith: Islam in Modern History, pgs 3-40; 93-113;

Esposito: Islamic Threat, 25-46

Monday January 16: Colonialism and the Muslim Response: Jam al-Din Afghani

Readings: Hourani: Arabic Thought, 103-60

Esposito: Islamic Threat, 47-62

Monday January 23: Wahhabism

Readings: Omid Safi (ed.) Progressive Islam; 33-77

Hourani: Arabic Thought, 324-373

The Thoughts of Muhammad ‘Abduh

Readings: Hourani: Arabic Thought, 130 - 160

Monday January 30: Secularization - The Turkish Response

Readings: Smith: Islam, 161-205

Rahman: Islam and Modernity, 46-58 (Reserve)

The Muslim Brotherhood

Readings: Ibrahim Abu-Rabi‘, *Intellectual Origins of Islamic Resurgence in the Modern Arab World*, 62-91

Monday February 6: Quiz 1

Militancy and the Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism

Readings: Esposito: Islamic Threat, Chapters 5 and 6

Monday February 13: Twentieth Century Thinker: Sayyid Qutb

Readings : Sayyid Qutb: *Milestones*, Chpts 4-10

The Shi’i response: Khomeini and Islamic State

Readings: Takim: Shi’ism 1-8

Esposito: Islamic Threat, 101-118

Monday February 20th – Reading Week – No Class

Monday February 27 Mid-Term Exams

Monday March 6: Reformation in Islamic Law: The Thoughts of Fadlallah

Readings: Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', *Intellectual Origins of Islamic Resurgence in the Modern Arab World*,
Takim: Shi'ism in America Chapter 4

The Thoughts of Mawlana Mawdudi

Readings: Nasr: Mawdudi and the Making of Islamic Revivalism
Chapters 3 -7

Monday March 13: Quiz 2

Muslims in North America or North American Muslims?

Readings: Omid Safi (ed.) Progressive Islam Introduction, Chapt 1
Takim: Shi'ism 211-229

Muslim Women in the West

Omid Safi (ed.) Progressive Islam Introduction, 147-190

Monday March 20: Sunnism in America – Migration and Growth

Lecture Notes

Sectarian Groups: The Shi'i Presence in America

Readings: Takim: Shi'ism 11-47; 97-143

Monday March 27:

Globalization and Its Impact on the Islamic World

Oliver Roy: Globalized Islam, 18-26; 100-143

The Growth of Fundamentalism in America

Readings: Olivier Roy., Globalized Islam Chapter 5

Esposito: Islamic Threat, Chapters 5 and 6

April 3: Quiz 3

Course Review

Academic policies:

DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC

Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will not date-stamp or receive papers and other assignments.

UNIVERSITY MANDATED

1. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity
The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

3. LANGUAGE FOR AVENUE TO LEARN OR OTHER ON-LINE COMPONENTS

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

4. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

5. POLICY FOR MODIFYING A COURSE:

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check her/his McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

6. E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY:

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account.

This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion. Email Forwarding in MUGSI: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>
*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link.

7. MCMASTER STUDENT ABSENCE FORM:

The McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report MEDICAL absences that last up to 5 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work (that is less than 30% of the course grade). Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period. You may submit a maximum of ONE Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation. If you are absent for more than 5 days, exceed one request per term, are absent for a reason other than medical, or have missed work worth 30% or more of the final grade, you MUST visit your Faculty Office. You may be required to provide supporting documentation. This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.