DI-501 Introduction to Islam for Non-Muslims
Hartford Seminary
Winter/Spring 2020/2021
Online/Asynchronous

Instructor: Hans A. Harmakaputra, Ph.D.
Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays 10.00-12.00 am (Eastern Standard Time/EST); or by appointment
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Course Description
This course is an introduction for non-Muslims to Islamic beliefs, practices, scriptures, and Muslim communities, especially in the US. The course is designed to address the significant need for basic information about Islam in the contemporary context. Through a combination of lectures, readings, virtual site visits, and discussions, the course will cover Muslim beliefs and practices, various issues faced by Muslims living in the United States, the vital roles that women play in Muslim communities, and the current interfaith efforts.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
(1) Recognize various aspects of Islam as a religious tradition
(2) Explain the basic knowledge of Islam
(3) Refrain from any uncritical, narrow perception of Islam
Compare aspects and themes in Islam and the Muslim community with one’s own religious/non-religious tradition.

Develop an intellectual framework sufficient for any further study of Islam.

(This course meets the following learning goals of Hartford Seminary programs: MARS 2, 4, 5; ICP 1; DMin 1, 3; PhD 1, 2)

Teaching and Learning Strategies:
This asynchronous course will provide lectures, assigned readings, and links to websites and resources that build upon the week's theme. In addition to the presented material, students will engage with each other in asynchronous written, audio, or video group discussions. Students are encouraged to engage with written responses and video or audio tools available through the course Canvas site. Assignments will include an initial personal introduction, three reflection papers or audio/audio-visual presentations, and a final paper on a particular topic chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. There will be at least three “Happy Hour” times as voluntary course check-ins with Dr. Harmakaputra throughout the semester.

Classroom Netiquette
Be respectful in all written responses. Written communication cannot express human inflection, tone, or any accompanying body language. It can be tempting to express ourselves in ways we might not be prepared to do in a face-to-face conversation. Video communication does help, but it is not the same as embodied communication. Always choose words carefully and refrain from assuming another person’s attention. When in doubt, it is always better to ask for clarification. On the other hand, sarcasm is not a good way to communicate, and it is better not to utilize it. If needed, the instructor may contact students privately regarding classroom netiquette.

Texts
All required texts will be provided by the instructor downloadable in Canvas or accessible through Hartford Seminary Library’s DTL. However, it is recommended to read Mahmoud Ayoub’s book (Mahmoud Ayoub, Islam: Faith and History. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2004) prior to the class. It is also recommended for all students to own a new English translation of the Quran (The Study Quran: A New Translation and Commentary, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, ed.). To read the Quran in Arabic and various English translations, use www.tanzil.net. To get the best deal on used books, use www.bookfinder.com.

Academic Integrity
Plagiarism, the failure to give proper credit for another person's words and ideas, whether published or unpublished, is strictly prohibited. All written material submitted by students must be their own original work; where others’ words and ideas are used, they must be acknowledged. Additionally, if students receive editorial help with their writing, they should also acknowledge it appropriately. Check Hartford Seminary Academic Policies for Graduate Programs on “Plagiarism Policy” for detailed information (https://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/).
Expectations for Discussion Boards:
Class modules run from Wednesdays – Tuesdays each week. All students must respond to the discussion prompts (answer all questions, submit any required work, etc.) based on required readings and reply substantially to at least two other participant posts by Sundays at 11 pm. Each student must participate in class discussions for at least ten modules throughout the semester.

Students who miss posting deadlines will have their participation grade deducted for each module assignment unless due to exceptional circumstances, such as medical conditions or family emergencies, requiring prior permission from the instructor.

Assessment
Class participation: 30%
Reflection papers: 45% (3 @1000 words)
Final paper: 25% (2500-3500 words)

Assignments
Class participation (30%): Each student is expected to be involved in online discussions. It is not possible to participate in class discussions without first completing reading assignments. Each week students should:
- read the required reading assignment and the posted lecture (the instructor will pose the lecture every Wednesday)
- respond thoughtfully to the discussion questions posed
- respond substantially to at least two threads/responses posted by other students.
The discussion for each week will be closed on Tuesday at 11.59 pm. Each student must participate in class discussions for at least ten modules throughout the semester.

Reflection papers or presentations (45%): A short reflection paper or presentation comprises a reflection on the assigned topic in a written, video, or audio form. It is approximately 1000 words in length for a written form or 12-15 minutes for video or audio form. Reflection papers or presentations should be submitted at the end of module 3, 7, and 13, i.e., on Tuesday, 12 am EST.

a. Module 3 (15%) - Reflection on “Koran by Heart” documentary (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptHdmw57rzM)
b. Module 7 (15%) - Reflection on two documentaries of Islam in America (“Another America: The First American Muslims” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBVzTk3TNrA and “Islam in America | Rewind” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyS4oZR13Fs)
c. Module 13 (15%) - Reflection on the Ramadan through a mosque visit (if possible) or other visual/online means.

Final paper (25%): Write a paper (2500-3500 words; or 4500-5500 for doctoral students) on a topic or issue discussed in one of the modules. Required and recommended readings must be utilized in writing the paper, and students may add relevant readings as needed. At the end of the paper, conclude with a comparison between similar tradition, teaching, or practice in Islam and
one’s own religious (or non-religious) standpoint. The instructor should approve the topic before Module 11.

The paper should be uploaded to the Canvas site by May 9, 2021 (12 am EST)

“Coffee Hour”
The instructor will host three “Coffee hour” sessions for the class to meet synchronously. Each session is an opportunity to connect between students and instructor, discuss any lingering questions, and clarify expectations and assignments of the course. It is going to be held on Fridays 5 – 6 pm, during module 3 (February 5), module 10 (March 26), and module 14 (April 30).

Policy and Miscellaneous
Written Assignment: All written assignments should follow the normal conventions as in Turabian 8th ed. The instructor reserves the right to have students re-submit an assignment for poor grammar, mistakes, or poorly written work. For those who would like assistance in writing a proper research paper, there are several good guides at http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-writing-resources/.

Late Assignments/Papers: As per the Student Handbook, late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade every two days. Extensions for papers will be given for illnesses or family emergencies only in consultation with the instructor.

Email Policy: The instructor will use the official Hartsem student email addresses for all communications. Please check your Hartsem email account regularly.

Non-Academic Resources: Please refrain from citing Wikipedia or other non-documented websites, such as Blogspot. When students are unsure, please consult the instructor.

Grading: The following evaluation process will be utilized as a guideline

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.

For all other questions you might have regarding policies or procedures, please see [http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-handbook/](http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/student-handbook/) and [http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/](http://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Learning Outcome(s) Fulfilled</th>
<th>Percentage of Course Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduce yourself to the class</td>
<td>Tuesday, February 2, 11 pm</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Responses to weekly modules and contribution in discussions</td>
<td>Each weekly session (students may opt to NOT participate in two week of discussion without penalty)</td>
<td>Learning outcomes #1, #2, and #3 (Throughout the sessions, students will learn basic knowledge of Islam, and various aspects of it as a religious tradition, which will help them to refrain from any uncritical, narrow understanding of Islam)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>3. 1st Reflection paper on “Koran by Heart” documentary</td>
<td>Tuesday, February 9, 11 pm</td>
<td>Learning outcomes #1, #2 (As a foundational aspect of Islam, the documentary will help students to understand various Muslim communities and the ways in which the Quran play a central role)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>4. 2nd Reflection paper on two documentaries about Islam in America (“Another America: The First American Muslims” and “Islam in America</td>
<td>Tuesday, March 9, 11 pm</td>
<td>Learning outcomes #1 and #3 (By learning from documentaries on Islam in America, students learn different aspects of Islam in the context of the USA, especially how race shapes both perceptions toward and within Muslim communities. It is also essential in deconstructing some stereotypes of Muslims)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>5. Submit a topic for final paper</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 6, 11 pm</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>6. 3rd Reflection paper on Ramadan</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 27, 11 pm</td>
<td>Learning outcomes #1 and #2 (Fasting during the month of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam, and it becomes the center of Muslim lives in many cultures.)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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By learning about it, students may also acquire some aspects of Muslim religious practices in a communal level)

| 7. Final paper | **Tuesday, May 9, 11 pm** | Learning outcomes #4 (Focusing on a specific topic will help students to learn how to conduct appropriate research related to Islam and Muslim communities by identifying good academic sources, incorporate them into her own thought, and write a short academic paper) | 25% |

Module 1, January 20-26, 2021 Why Studying Islam? An Introduction to the Course

**Required**
- Read one of the recommended readings

**Recommended**

Module 2, January 27-February 2, 2021 Muhammad: The Prophet of God

**Required**
- The Quran 53:4-9; 96: 1-5; 10:1-10.

**Recommended**
Module 3, February 3-9, 2021  The Qur’an: God’s Revelation  =>  Due date for reflection 1

Required
- Watch “Koran by Heart” documentary movie (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptHdmw57rzM – 80 minutes)

Recommended

Module 4, February 10-16, 2021  The Formative Period of Muslim History

Required
- Watch Sunni-Shia differences (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZF7KuP8VJl – 10 minutes)

Recommended

Module 5, February 17-23, 2021  The Hadiths: Prophetic Sayings

Required
- Forty Hadith of Al-Nawawi (http://www.40hadith.com/40hadith_en.htm)
- Excerpt of Hadith Qudsī from Ibn Arabi’s Mishkāt al-Anwār
Recommended

- Excerpt from Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim

Module 6, February 24-March 2, 2021 Shari'a and Islamic Jurisprudence

Required


Recommended


Module 7, March 3-9, 2021 Introduction to Sufism => Reflection 2

Required

- Read one of the poems listed on the recommended readings (Rumi, Attar, or Hafiz)

Recommended


Module 8, March 10-16, 2021  
**Colonialism and the Rise of Modernist Muslim**  
**Required**
- Read either “Muhammad Abduh” or “Rashid Rida” from the list of recommended readings

**Recommended**

Module 9, March 17-23, 2021  
**Islamism and Post-Islamism**  
**Required**
- Read one of the recommended readings

**Recommended**

Module 10, March 24-April 6, 2021  
**Wahhabism and Salafism**  
**Required**
Recommended

No Class on March 29-April 1, 2020 – Hartford Seminary Reading Day

Module 11, April 7-13, 2021 Muslims in America => Due date for reflection 2

Required

Recommended

Module 12, April 14-20, 2021 Women and Gender in Islam

Required


● Heaven and Hell: Indonesia’s Battle Over Polygamy (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3_hPhIX Js - 24 minutes)

**Recommended**


**Module 13, April 21-27, 2021 Religious Practices => Due Date for reflection 3**

**Required**


**Recommended**

● Watch a documentary on Hajj (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7q_LcqbvKI – 15 minutes)


Module 14, April 28-May 4, 2021 Muslim-Christian and Interreligious Relations

Required

Recommended
- “The Imam and the Pastor” ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFh85K4NFv0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFh85K4NFv0) - 40 minutes)