History and Practice of Islam Course Syllabus

Dr. Daniel J. Borsay

Instructor: Dr. Daniel J. Borsay

Office Hours: 10 to 11:15 a.m. TTH or by appointment

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REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. F. E. Peters, Muhammad and the Origins of Islam.
2. Hugh Kennedy, The Great Arab Conquests: How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In.
3. Bernard Lewis & Buntzie Ellis Churchill, Islam: The Religion and the People.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

 This course introduces students to the history and practice of Islam from an academic view. Following successful completion of this course, students will be able to: comprehend the history and development of Islam from its pagan origins in Arabia through the modern era, explain the development of various Islamic denominations such as Sunnis and Shi’ites, and identify the basic tenets of the faith including the Five Pillars of Islam. In addition, we will study some of the interactions that have taken place among Muslims and people of other religious traditions.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

 Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

* Comprehend the history and development of Islam from its pagan origins in Arabia through the modern era
* Explain the development of various Islamic denominations such as Sunnis and Shi’ites
* Identify the basic tenets of the faith including the Five Pillars of Islam

GEC GOALS:

 As a part of the WVU General Education Curriculum the course addresses the following important objective: objective 3, the past and its traditions and objective 9, non-western traditions. Students will also be expected to demonstrate critical thinking and effective communication.

COURSE POLICIES/REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance**. Students are expected to attend all sessions of this course. Roll will be taken at the beginning of class and you must be present to be counted. Failure to attend sessions will result in point deductions from one’s grade. One point will be deducted for each missed class, up to 5 points. Excused absences will be determined on an individual basis. All other absences will be considered “unexcused.” ANY STUDENT MISSING 6 OR MORE SESSIONS WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A GRADE OF “F” FOR THE COURSE.
2. **Tests**. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false, and essay questions. There are no make-up exams under ordinary circumstances. If extraordinary circumstances allow for a make-up exam, its format may differ from the original.
3. **Drop Policy**. Students missing more than one class session during the first week of the course will be dropped from the student roster.
4. **Conduct Policy**. All students are expected to act responsibly and respectfully in class. The use of cell phones, talking in class, playing on electronic devices or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.
5. **Honesty**. Cheating of any kind whatsoever will not be tolerated. Rigorous standards of academic integrity will be enforced. Students are expected to adhere to the Student Conduct Code at West Virginia University. This can be found online.

GRADES/GRADING

1. There will be five unit exams worth 100 points each. The final unit exam will NOT be cumulative and will be completed during the week of finals at the appropriate time.
2. Grades will be calculated based on one’s percentage of total points (total points=500).

A= 90—100 %

B=80—89.9%

C=70—79.9%

D=60—69.9%

F=below 60% (under 420 points) OR more than 6 class absences

 There is no grade curve nor are there any extra credit points.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

August 18: Introduction

August 23: Peters, pages 1-56

August 25: Peters, 57-104

August 30: Peters, 105-141

September 1: Peters, 141-179

**FIRST TEST September 6 (On the material covered to date, both in readings and lectures)**

September 8: Peters, 180-210

September 13: Peters, 210-249

September 15: Peters, 249-268

**SECOND TEST SEPTEMBER 20 (On the material covered, both in readings and lectures, since our last exam)**

September 22: Kennedy, 1-39

September 27: Kennedy, 40-77

September 29: Kennedy, 78-110

October 4: Kennedy, 111-150

October 6: Kennedy, 151-194

**THIRD TEST OCTOBER 11 (On the material covered, both in readings and lectures, since our last exam)**

October 13: Kennedy, 195-250

October 18: Kennedy, 251-288

October 20: Kennedy, 289-327

October 25: NO CLASS

October 27: Kennedy, 328-376

**FOURTH TEST NOVEMBER 1 (On the material covered, both in readings and lectures, since the last exam)**

November 3: Lewis, 1-31

November 8: NO CLASS – ELECTION DAY

November 10: Lewis, 32-60

November 15: Lewis, 61-90

November 17: Lewis, 91-126

THANKSGIVING RECESS

**FIFTH TEST NOVEMBER 29 (On the material covered, both in readings and lectures, since the last exam)**

December 1: Lewis, 127-164

December 6: Conclusion

**FINAL EXAMINATION (On the material covered, both in readings and lectures, since the last exam) The date and time of the final: Wednesday, December 14 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Statement of Non-Discrimination

 West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our university does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran’s status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestion as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

 If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (293—6700).