

**Ghent University**  
**The Faculty of Arts and Philosophy**  
**Department of Languages and Cultures**

Middle East Studies  
Spring Semester 2019-2020  
Lecturer: Ayang Utriza YAKIN

## **Introduction to Islam**

### **Course Description**

The course constitutes an introduction to the religion of Islam from its emergence to its development. It will focus on historical aspects and tenets: the Prophet Muhammad, the Qur'ân, the hadith, the kalâm, the fiqh, the siyâsa, the falsafa and other principal dogma in Islam. The course provides students with the nature and formation of Islam and of being Muslim. It gives students information on the diverse tenors of Islam and teaches them how to situate the current interpretations within a historical perspective.

### **Course Objective**

Students will understand the historical development of Islamic religious beliefs, traditions, and practices, so they will be able to discuss and to describe key concepts and significant trends and issues that shaped Islam and Muslims.

### **Course Assessment**

The assessment will be a weekly basis and end-of-term evaluation. The course will assess through attendance and active participation in the class, summary, individual essay, and final exam. The evaluation will be in writing for the final examination (100%).

### **Course Policies**

Students must attend all scheduled course. Absence is not allowed. No cellphone and laptop are allowed in the class. Any form of plagiarism is prohibited. Students must complete the reading assignment before the class. Summary must be printed and given in the class. All individual essay papers in PDF should be sent to [ayang.utriza.yakin@gmail.com](mailto:ayang.utriza.yakin@gmail.com) and turn in to hard copy in class.

### **Course Language:**

English

**Main References:**

Andrew Rippin, *Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*, London & New York: Routledge, 2012, 4th edition.

Carole Hillenbrand, *Introduction to Islam: Beliefs and Practices in Historical Perspective*, London: Thames & Hudson, 2015.

Fazlur Rahman, *Islam*, Chicago and London: Chicago University Press, 2002, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Nathana J. Delong-Bas, *Islam: A Living Faith*, Minnesota: Anselm Academic, 2018.

**Useful Websites:**

Qur'ân reference: <http://corpus.quran.com> and <http://tanzil.net>

Hadith reference: [http://www.searchtruth.com/hadith\\_books.php](http://www.searchtruth.com/hadith_books.php)

General resources on Islamic Studies: <http://islam.uga.edu>

**Further Readings:**

Amina Wadud, *Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective* (Oxford University Press, 1999)

Angelika Neuwirth, Nicolai Sinai, and Michael Marx (eds.), *The Qur'ân in Context: Historical and Literary Investigations into the Quranic Milieu*, Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2010.

Annemarie Schimmel, *Islam: An Introduction* (State University of New York Press, 1992)

Barbara Freyer Stowasser, *Women in the Qur'an, Traditions, and Interpretation* (Oxford University Press, 1994)

Carl W. Ernst, *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (2003)

Donner, Fred, *Muhammad and the Believers* (Harvard University Press, 2010)

Farid Esack, *The Qur'an: A User's Guide* (Oneworld Publications, 2005)

Frederick Mathewson Denny, *An Introduction to Islam*, (Prentice Hall, 2011)

Hallaq, Wael B., *An Introduction to Islamic Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)

Ingrid Mattson, *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life* (Blackwell Publishing, 2008)

John L. Esposito, *Islam: the Straight Path*, (Oxford University Press, 2004)

John O. Voll, *Islam: Continuity and Change in the Modern World* (Syracuse University Press, 1994)

Jonathan A.C. Brown, *Hadith: Muhammad's Legacy in the Medieval and Modern World* (Oneworld Publications, 2009)

Jonathan P. Berkey, *The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East, 600-1800* (Cambridge University Press, 2003)

Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam* (Yale University Press, 1992)

Michael Sells, *Approaching the Qur'an: the Early Revelations*, (White Cloud Press, 2007)

Reynolds, Gabriel Said, *The Emergence of Islam* (Fortress Press, 2012)

Sells, Michael, *Early Islamic Mysticism* (Paulist Press, 1996)

Shahab Ahmed, *What is Islam?* (Princeton University Press, 2016)

William Shepard, *Introducing Islam* (Routledge, 2014)

Winter, Tim (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Classical Islamic Theology* (Cambridge University Press, 2008)

## SCHEDULE

Date	Theme	Assignment	
		Reading	Watching
11.02.2020	Introduction: What Is Islam ?	Rippin, pp. 316-330 Hillenbrand, pp. 274-285 & chapters 9-10. Delong-Bas, chapters 7-9.	Documentary: <i>Islam: the Untold Story</i>
18.02.2020	Arabia in Late Antiquity	Finster, pp. 61-107, in Neuwirth, Sinai, & Marx.	Documentary: <i>The Story of Islam</i> , MPI Media Group, 1983.
25.02.2020	Muhammad	Rahman, pp. 11-29. Rippin, pp. 42-55. Hillenbrand, pp. 23-57. Delong-Bas, pp. 38-63.	Movie: <i>Muhammad: the Messenger of God</i>
03.03.2020	The Qur'ân: God's Speech	Rahman, pp. 30-42. Rippin, pp. 20-40. Hillenbrand, pp. 58-88. Delong-Bas, pp. 64-92.	Documentary: <i>Secrets of the Koran</i> , the History Channel, 2006.
10.03.2020	The Hadith: Origins and Development of the Tradition	Rahman, pp. 43-67.	Documentary: <i>Muhammad: Legacy of A Prophet</i> , Kikim Media & Unity Productions Foundation, 2002.
17.03.2020	The Kalâm: Dialectical Theology and Development of Dogma	Rahman, pp. 85-99. Rippin, pp. 72-87. Hillenbrand, pp. 138-144 & pp. 170-177.	Documentary: <i>Islam: Empire of Faith</i> , PBS, 2000.
24.03.2020	Sectarian Developments, The Sunni, and The Shî'a	Rahman, pp. 167-180. Delong-Bas, pp. 93-118. Rippin, pp. 121-134. Hillenbrand, pp. 145-168.	Documentary <i>Inside Mecca</i> , National Geographic, 2003.
31.03.2020	The Sharia & Fiqh: Law and Legal Developments	Rahman, pp. 68-84 & pp. 100-116. Rippin, pp. 88-101. Hillenbrand, pp. 114-137. Delong-Bas, pp. 119-161.	Movie: <i>Separation</i>
07.04.2020 and 14.04.2020 = Easter Recess			

<b>21.04.2020</b>	The Siyâsa and the Falsafa: Political and Philosophical Mouvement in Theory and Action	Rahman, pp. 117-127. Rippin, pp. 59-70. Hillenbrand, pp. 177-188.	Documentary: <i>Science and Islam</i>
<b>28.04.2020</b>	Sufi Doctrine, Practice, and Organizations	Rahman, pp. 128-149 & pp. 150-166. Rippin, pp. 136-148. Hillenbrand, pp. 189-218. DeLong-Bas, pp. 162-186.	Movie: <i>Lion of the Desert</i>
<b>05.05.2020</b>	Faith and Ritual Practices	Rippin, pp. 104-117. Hillenbrand, pp. 89-113. DeLong-Bas, pp. 13-37.	Movie <i>Journey to Mecca</i>
<b>12.05.2020</b>	Individual Essay Presentation Q&A		<i>Inside Islam</i> , the History Channel, 2002.

**Individual Essay's Themes:**

Islam, Women/Men, and Modesty/Shame  
 Islam and LGBTQ (gay and lesbian)  
 Islamophobia and Misunderstanding about Islam  
 Islam, Jihad, and Terrorism  
 Violence, Radicalism, and Hatred Speech  
 Other topics related to Islam and Muslims.

**Paper Guidelines** for Individual Essay: the paper must be typed, double-spaced, with 12-point Times New Roman font, and 3cm margin (top, bottom, left, and right) which includes (1) introduction, (2) body of paper, and (3) conclusion, that use footnotes following the Chicago standards, and refer at least to 5 sources (book, article, book-chapter), and the transcript of interviews should be annexed, if any.