

THE QUR'AN (IN TRANSLATION)

2d Summer 2011

MTWThF 1:00PM- 2:30PM – SAC 5.102

Prof. Samer M. Ali

Middle Eastern Studies and

Comparative Literature

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Office hours: TTh 2:30-3:30 or by appt.

Description:

The Qur'an/Quran/Koran is *the* foundational text of Islam, the religion of 1.6 billion Muslims around the world. It is believed to be revealed to the Prophet Muhammad between 610 and 632 in Arabia.

However, what do we really know about the Qur'an? What is it about? What ideas, values and behaviors does the Qur'an promote? How does this text shape or reflect its culture? How does it compare with other literature of the time period?



Outcomes:

This course introduces students to the primary text of the Qur'an. We will read and discuss the Qur'an as a humanistic text of world civilization. In the end, students will have read the book in its entirety and discussed the major themes of the Qur'an and gained a firm sense of how the Qur'an compares and differs from the Bible.

Grading:

Daily Email Disc'n Questions	30%
4 Response Papers	40%
Final Paper	30%

Penalties for Late Assignments:

3% penalty on papers for every 24 hours late

Grading Scheme:

	100-94=A	<94=A-
<90=B+	<87=B	<84=B-
<80=C+	<77=C	<74=C-
<70=D+	<67=D	<64=D-
<60=F		

Requirements:

Regular readings (50-80pp./day), submit discussion questions daily, five short response papers (1-2pp), final paper (3-4pp.), vigorous participation in discussion.

Learning Resources:*Writing Help:*

Undergraduate Writing Center (Flawn Academic Center 211): 471-6222

Reading Help, Study Skills, Time Management:

UT Learning Center (Jester A332A) 471-3614

Policy on Attendance:

Several studies have shown that students who miss class tend to learn less, and receive lower grades on assignments. Conversely, students who remain diligent about attending class tend to remain engaged, learn more and receive higher grades on assignments. The lessons of this course are cumulative, so missing class will naturally hurt your grade in the end.

Policy on Religious Holidays:

A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergencies:

For family or personal emergencies, such death of anyone you know, fire, assault, violence, any physical or mental trauma on or off campus, you can get help from Student Emergency Services:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

471-5017 (8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday)

They will then contact ALL your professors. In this class, as in the workplace, all excused absences must be properly documented.

Of course, for a crime in progress, you'll need to call UT Police (471-4441) or 911.

In-Class Gadget Policy:

Please do not use laptops and other gadgets in class. They are distracting.

Policy on Academic Honesty:

UT students are members of a community gathered for the purpose of learning. New students should take the time to become familiar with the community's standards of academic integrity. Since ignorance is not an excuse, students are responsible for making sure they do indeed understand what constitutes "plagiarism," "cheating," and "unauthorized collaboration." Plagiarism for example includes using without citation someone else's words or ideas. If you quote or paraphrase something, cite it. If you get swept up in something wrong, ignorance is not a defense. For clarification, they may consult Student Judicial Services at the URL listed below. Those who break rules on scholastic honesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failing the course and/or dismissal from the University. For further information, please visit the Student Judicial Services website at

http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.

Policy on Student Disabilities:

Any student who requires academic accommodations because of a documented disability (physical or learning) should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining the authorized accommodations. I will be happy to offer the accommodations SSD requires.

Required Textbooks to be Purchased (Univ Co-op Bookstores):

Dawood, N. J. Trans. *The Koran with Parallel Arabic Text*. Penguin Classics, 2000.
ISBN: 9780140445428

Optional (Amazon.com or Bookfinder.com):

Armstrong, Karen. *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*. New Haven, Conn. Phoenix Press, 2001. ISBN: 1842126083

Sells, Michael. *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*. White Cloud Press, 1999.
ISBN: 188399126

Protocol for Each Class/Discussions:

1. Readings: Students are expected to read the qur'anic text assigned for each class meeting beforehand.
2. Discussion Questions: Every day we meet, we will discuss the twists and the turns in text of the Qur'an assigned for that day. In order to encourage reading, thinking and discussion, students are required to submit questions before each class discussion. Discussion questions are due via email by 11am the day of the discussion.

Topics and Readings (Subject to Change – CHECK YOUR E-MAIL):**WEEK ONE**

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|----|------|--|
| M | 7/11 | Introduction to the course methods, themes and issues, Ch. 1 (The Opening) |
| T | 7/12 | Discuss Ch. 74-114 |
| W | 7/13 | Discuss Ch. 60-73, begin email disc. questions, by 11am |
| Th | 7/14 | Discuss Ch. 51-59 |
| F | 7/15 | Discuss Ch. 44-50
RP1: Due, 5pm via BB |

WEEK TWO

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|----|------|-------------------|
| M | 7/18 | Discuss Ch. 40-43 |
| T | 7/19 | Discuss Ch. 36-39 |
| W | 7/20 | Discuss Ch. 31-35 |
| Th | 7/21 | Discuss Ch. 28-30 |

F 7/22 Discuss Ch. 25-27
RP2: Due, 5pm via BB

WEEK THREE

M 7/25 Discuss Ch. 22-24

T 7/26 Discuss Ch. 19-21

W 7/27 Discuss Ch. 17-18

Th 7/28 Discuss Ch. 14-16

F 7/29 Discuss Ch. 11-13
RP3: Due, 5pm via BB

WEEK FOUR

M 8/1 Discuss Ch. 10

T 8/2 Discuss Ch. 8-9

W 8/3 Discuss Ch. 7

Th 8/4 Discuss Ch. 6

F 8/5 Discuss Ch. 5
RP4: Due, 5pm via BB

WEEK FIVE

M 8/8 Discuss Ch. 4

T 8/9 Discuss Ch. 3

W 8/10 Discuss Ch. 2:1-176

Th 8/11 Discuss Ch. 2:177-286 (end)

F 8/12 Closing Discussion
Final Paper: Due 5pm via BB