

# Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.

# NELC 3501 *Introduction to Islam*

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

*This course provides an introduction to field of Islamic Studies and surveys the central beliefs, institutions, and practices of Islam from a historical perspective and in light of the methodological approaches of religious studies. The course focuses, in particular, on the historical development of Islam's scripture and sacred traditions, the development of its major schools of thought and institutions, Muslim spirituality and practice, and the place of Islam in the modern global world.*

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## INSTRUCTOR:

*office:*

*office hours:*

*email:*

## REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

**Texts for Purchase** (available at the campus bookstore):

### *Required*

Carole Hillenbrand. *Introduction to Islam: Beliefs and Practices in Historical Perspective*. London: Thames & Hudson, 2015. ISBN: 978-0500291580

### *Recommended*

M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, translator. *The Qur'an (Oxford World's Classics)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0199535958

## **Readings, Assignments, and Class Participation**

Please consult this syllabus frequently throughout the quarter. It will serve as your guide for the readings and assignments necessary for you to participate in and benefit from class time to maximum extent possible. As the semester progresses, I will continue to update the content of the syllabus when needs dictate, particularly the class schedule.

### *Readings*

Much of the basic work you will be doing outside of class will focus on your readings. For most days, there are two types of readings present on the syllabus: primary source readings and

supplemental readings. It is particularly important in this class to focus on the *primary source readings*—when you come to class at the beginning of the week, I expect that you will have read and taken notes for in-class discussion and questions on these assigned texts. Before each session, you must email to [anthony.288@osu.edu](mailto:anthony.288@osu.edu) at least **3 questions** about the primary source reading assignment.

### *Assignments*

The bulk of your grade for this course will be evaluated based on four components: 1) a mid-term exam, 2) a final exam, 3) a textual-analysis papers/presentation, and 4) a term paper written in response to prompts based off class lectures and readings or an instructor-approved paper topic.

Your textual-analysis paper is designed to teach you how to analyze *primary sources readings* in translation, and the assignment consists of two components. The first is the completion of the **Textual Analysis Handout** due the day of your in-class presentation and handed in to me. The second is a 15-20 minute, in-class presentation that will lead the class discussion of the source and its historical significance.

Your final essay will be assigned from a prompt and will be due during the second half of the semester. This essay will ask you to carefully adjudicate a historiographical debate and will serve as your attempt to express your own ideas in a medium-length essay (5 to 7 pages in length, 1.5 spaced, standard font such as Times New Roman or Garamond) on an assigned topic. These topics will require you to draw extensively upon the assigned readings and the ideas discussed in class and will be scrutinized and evaluated on the basis of the criteria of academic writing. **Essays should be handed in to me as a printed copy by 3:00pm Eastern Standard Time on the due date.**

Developing and mastering the ability to write critically and to engage historical events and persons with critical acumen is a difficult, but worthwhile, task. Even if you never revisit the topic of this course again, the skills you acquire in writing and improving your essays will serve you well for the rest of your life. I therefore beseech you to take time to write your essays well. Further instructions on class paper assignments can be found on the assignment handouts and course **Grading Rubric**.

### *Class Participation*

“80% of success is showing up.”

-Woody Allen

This class depends on you to function fully. If you do not participate in class discussions, do not present assigned articles, and fail to communicate to me any indication that you’ve read the texts (and such indications could be in the form of insightful observations or cantankerous bewilderment), then I will be compelled to give you a low-grade.

### *Grading Scheme*

Map Assignment	5%
Attendance (Questions)	10%
Analysis Paper	20%
Mid-Term	20%
Term Paper	25%
Final Exam	20%

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>).

### **Disability policy**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

FOR YOUR SAFETY, the OSU Student Safety/Escort Service is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.

## CLASS SCHEDULE<sup>1</sup>

<i>Week 1</i>	PRELIMINARIES
Wed (Aug 26)	Class Introduction: Why Islamic Studies?
Fri (Aug 28)	The Near East and the Arabian Peninsula before Islam
	<i>Read:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hillenbrand, 23-29.</li><li>• Donner, 1-38.</li></ul>
<i>Week 2</i>	
Mon (Aug 31)	The Life of Muḥammad
	<i>Read:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hillenbrand, 29-57</li><li>• Donner, 39-89.</li></ul>
Wed (Sept 2)	The Conquests and the Caliphates
	<i>Read:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Donner, 90-144</li></ul>
Fri (Sept 4)	<i>Discussion</i> (selections from the Sira Literature):
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Muhammad's first Revelation; from A. Guillaume, tr., <i>The Life of Muhammad: A Translation of Ibn Ishaq's Sirat Rasul Allah</i> (Oxford, 1955), 104-112. [Khaled Affaneh]</li><li>• 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb on the Succession to the Prophet; from S. Anthony, tr., <i>The Expeditions</i> (New York, 2015), 109-28. [Abdul Saleh]</li></ul>
<i>Week 3</i>	THE QUR'AN
Mon (Sept 7)	<b>NO CLASSES – LABOUR DAY</b>
Wed (Sept 9)	Structure and Themes of the Qur'an
	<i>Read:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hillenbrand, 58-88.</li></ul>
Fri (Sept 11)	<i>Discussion</i> (Meccan and Medinan Suras)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suras 7, 14, 18, 90-97, 100-114 (Meccan)</li><li>• Suras 2 (Medinan)</li></ul>

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<i>Week 4</i>	FAITH & RITUAL
Mon (Sept 14)	<p><i>Discussion:</i> The Performance of Faith, or: What is Ritual?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catherine Bell, <i>Ritual: Perspectives and Dimensions</i> (New York 1997), 1-60</li> </ul>
Wed (Sept 16)	<p>The Five Pillars (1): Shahadah, Salat, Zakat, Ramadan</p> <p><i>Read:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hillenbrand, 89-114.</li> <li>• Marion Katz, <i>Prayer in Islamic Thought and Practice</i> (Cambridge, 2013), 1-43.</li> </ul>
Fri (Sept 18)	<p>The Five Pillars (2): Hajj</p> <p><i>Read:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert R. Bianchi, <i>Guests of God: Pilgrimage and Politics in the Islamic World</i> (Oxford, 2004), 7-48</li> </ul>
<i>Week 5</i>	JURISPRUDENCE
Mon (Sept 21)	<p>The Hadith Corpus</p> <p><i>Read:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan A.C. Brown, <i>Hadith: Muhammad's Legacy in Medieval and Modern World</i> (Oxford, 2009), 1-66.</li> </ul>
Wed (Sept 23)	<p>Shari'ah and the Formation of Classical Fiqh</p> <p><i>Read:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hillenbrand, 114-37</li> </ul>
Fri (Sept 25)	<p><i>Discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph Lowery, <i>The Epistle on Legal Theory: A Translation of al-Shāfi'ī's Risālah</i> (New York, 2013), 68-81, 128-79 [Katie Cook]</li> </ul>
<i>Week 6</i>	DIVERSITY
Mon (Sept 28)	The Roots of Muslim Sectarianism
Wed (Sept 30)	<p>Shi'ism in History</p> <p><i>Read:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hillenbrand, 138-68.</li> </ul>
Fri (Oct 2)	<i>Discussion:</i>

- The wisdom of ‘Alī from al-Qāḍī al-Qudā‘ī, *A Treasury of Virtues: Sayings, Sermons, and Teaching of ‘Alī*, ed. and tr. Tahera Qutbuddin (New York, 2013), 108-37. [Jenna Leva]
- A Sermon attributed to ‘Alī, tr. S. W. Anthony, *The Caliph & the Heretic* (Leiden, 2012), 231-40. [Kyle Barger]

Week 7

ISLAMIC THOUGHT

Mon (Oct 5)

**MID-TERM**

Wed (Oct 7)

Early Theological Debates: Predestination and the Created Qur’an

*Read:*

- A. Knysh, “Islamic Scholarship under the ‘Abbāsids: Theological Debate and Schools of Thought”

Fri (Oct 9)

*Discussion:*

- The Execution of Ghaylan al-Dimashqī, from S. Anthony, *Crucifixion and Death as Spectacle: Umayyad Crucifixion in its Late Antique Context* (New Haven, Conn., 2014), 76-82.
- The Trials of Ahmad ibn Hanbal, from Ibn al-Jawzī, *Virtues of the Imam Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal*, ed. and tr. Michael Cooperson (New York, 2013-2015), 2: 72-149. [Sami Ibrahim]

Week 8

Mon (Oct 12)

Islamic Political Thought until 1258

*Read:*

- Excerpts from Ibn Khaldūn’s *al-Muqaddima*, tr. F. Rosenthal

Wed (Oct 14)

Islamic Political Thought after 1258

*Read:*

- Excerpts from Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī’s *Akhlāq-e Naṣīrī*, tr. G.M. Wickens

Fri (Oct 16)

**NO CLASSES – AUTUMN BREAK**

Week 9

Mon (Oct 19)

Philosophy and Hellenism

*Read:*

- A. Knysh, “Intellectual Struggles in Premodern Islam: Philosophy versus Theology”

Wed (Oct 21) Transmission of Knowledge

- A. Knysh, “Transmission and Conservation of Knowledge: ‘Ulamā’, Madrasas, and Sufi Lodges”

Fri (Oct 23)

*Discussion:*

- Abū ’l-Rayḥān al-Bīrūnī on Faith and Science, tr. Jamil Ali [Julia Saleh]
- Excerpts from Abū ‘Ubayd al-Jūzjānī, *Life of Ibn Sina*, tr. W. E. Gohlmann

Week 10

SUFISM

Mon (Oct 26) The Formation of Islamic Mysticism

*Read:*

- Hillenbrand, 189-218.

Wed (Oct 28) Tariqahs and Literary Traditions

*Read:*

- A. Knysh, “Institutional and Social Aspects of Later Sufism”

Fri (Oct 30)

*Discussion:*

- Al-Ghazālī, *Deliverance from Error* [Nidal Marouf]

Week 11

THE EXPANSION OF ISLAM

Mon (Nov 2)

**Class Canceled**

Wed (Nov 4)

Islamic Expansion in the Pre-Modern Period

*Read:*

- Hillenbrand, 219-46

Fri (Nov 6)

Travelers and Merchants

*Read:*

- Adam J. Sliverstein, “The Medieval Islamic Worldview: Arabic Geography in Its Historical Context,” in *Geography and*



*Ethnography: Perceptions of the World in Pre-Modern Societies*, ed. Kurt Raaflaub (Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), 273-90.

Week 12

Mon (Nov 9)

*Discussion:*

- Excerpts from Abū ‘Ubayd al-Qāsim ibn Sallām, *The Book of Revenue*, tr. A.K. Nyzee
- Excerpts from Abū Zayd al-Sirāfi, *Accounts of China and India*, tr. Tim Mackintosh-Smith (New York 2014), 20-133. [Steven Turner]

WOMEN AND GENDER

Wed (Nov 11)

**NO CLASSES – VETERAN’S DAY**

Fri (Nov 13)

Gender in the Modern Study of Religion

*Read:*

- Daniel Boyarin, “Gender,” in *Critical Terms for Religious Studies*, ed. Mark C. Taylor (Chicago, 1998), 117-35
- Catherine Bronson, “Eve in the Formative Period of Islamic Exegesis,” in *Tafsir and Islamic Intellectual History*, ed. A. Görke and J. Pink (Oxford, 2014), 27-61.

Week 13

Mon (Nov 16)

Women in Islamic Societies

*Read:*

- Hillenbrand, 247-273
- Susan Spectorsky, *Women in Classical Islamic Law: A Survey of the Sources* (Leiden, 2010), ch. 1

Wed (Nov 18)

*Discussion:*

- Tabari on Adam and Eve in the Garden [Huyen Truong]
- Ghazālī on the ideal marriage, excerpts from *Iḥyā’ ‘ulūm al-dīn* [Arleigh Martin]

Fri (Nov 20)

**NO CLASS – CONFERENCE TRAVEL**

Week 14

ISLAM TODAY & TOMORROW

Mon (Nov 23)

Islam and the Challenge of Modernity (**TERM PAPER DUE**)

*Read:*

- A. Knysh, “Renewal and Reform in Islam: The Emergence of Islamic Modernism and Reformism”
- Muḥammad ‘Abduh, *Laws Should Change in Accordance with the Conditions of Nations and The Theology of Unity* [Khaled Asad]

Wed (Nov 25) **NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Fri (Nov 27) **NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

*Week 15*

Mon (Nov 30) **NO CLASS – CONFERENCE TRAVEL**

Wed (Dec 2) **NO CLASS – CONFERENCE TRAVEL**

Fri (Dec 4) **NO CLASS – CONFERENCE TRAVEL**

*Week 16*

Mon (Dec 7) Genealogies of Political Islam

*Read:*

- Roxanne L. Euben, “Fundamentalism,” in Gerhard Böwering, *Islamic Political Thought: An Introduction* (Princeton, 2015)
- Excerpts from Sayyid Abu l-‘Ala’ al-Mawdudi, *The Islamic Law*, tr. Khurshid Ahmad
- Excerpts from Sayyid Qutb, *Signposts along the Road*, tr. R.L. Euben [Tim Ervin]

Wed (Dec 9) Contemporary Islamic Thought: Major Themes

*Read:*

- A. Knysh, “Islam Reinterpreted: Major Trends in Islamic Thought Today”
- J.A.C. Brown, *Misquoting Muhammad* (London, 2014), 161-215

**FINAL EXAM:** Friday, 11 December, 12:00 – 1:45PM