

University of New York / Tirana
Other Civilizations: Islam

Instructor: Dr. Dritan EGRO
Class Times: Monday: 17.00 – 20.00
Office Hours: Monday 16.30 - 17.00
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It is the intention of this course to introduce to you a complex and important subject: *Islamic Civilization*. You will learn about the origin, development and spread over centuries of Islam. The history and content of Islam as a religion and a culture, how it has changed over time and what internal and external factors have brought about this change and the contributions Islamic culture has made to the world, as a whole.

You will need this type of background to understand the status and relevance of Islam in the world today. Many actions taken and decisions made in the Muslim world are misunderstood in the West precisely because of a lack of this type of knowledge. Thus, this source will give you insights, which allow you better to interpret the news that you see, read and hear as well as to study further topics relating to Islam and Muslim countries.

The course also poses the following questions: what distinguishes Muslim countries from the world's other cultural areas? What is the connection between Islam and distinctively Arab traditions? What are the roles of women and men in Islam and how is this reflected in Muslim societies today? What are Islamic Laws and punishments?

Bibliography

We use the standart textbook for ISLAM:

Esposito, J. L., *Islam – the Straight Path*, Revised Third Edition, Oxford University Press, 1998

Copies of the textbook are available in the *Bookshop*, and there is also a copy *on 'reserve' in the university's library* .

In addition, a bibliography of the most important works on Islam is supplied below: this will include the relevant pages or chapter-references for each ‘topic’, and relevant texts from authentic historical sources.

Course Requirements and Assessment

The academic assessment of this course will be divided into *four* parts:

- *Presentation*

Students will be required to submit a presentation during the course of the semester. This presentation should be prepared in groups of 4-5 students; The schedule of presentations is provided in Course Outline (last page). It will account for 20 % of the total final-grade.

Warning: *Presentations must not be postponed. Presentations coming later will not be accepted.*

- *Mid-term exam*

During the semester there will be two mid-term exams (Mid-term & In Class Test). Mid-terms will account for 30% (15 x 2) of the final total grade.

- *End of the Term Exam*

At the end of the semester, there will be a final examination. This will be a 3-hour ‘in class’ exam. This final exam will account for 30% of the total final – grade.

- *Attendance*

In addition to these *academic* requirements, the student’s final grade will also be assessed according to his or her attendance of class participation in class-based discussion.

Attendance and participation will account for 20% of the total final-grade.

- *Grades*

In this course will use the catalogue grade scale below:

| | | | |
|----|--------|----|--------|
| A | 96-100 | C | 73-76 |
| A- | 90-95 | C- | 70-72 |
| B+ | 87-89 | D+ | 67-69 |
| B | 83-86 | D | 63-66 |
| B- | 80-82 | D- | 60-62 |
| C+ | 77-79 | F | 0 - 59 |

Course Outline

Classes

Topic

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 st class | Introduction to civilization/s and Islam |
| 2 nd “ | Pre-Islamic Arabia |
| 3 rd “ | Mohammed |
| 4 th “ | Qur’an |
| 5 th “ | The Four Righteously Guided Caliphs |
| 6 th “ | Spread of Islam (Islamic Empires and the Crusades) |
| 7 th “ | <i>Mid-Term Exam</i> |
| 8 th “ | Shari’a – Islamic Law The Five Pillars of Islam |
| 9 th “ | The Islamic Doctrine on War and Peace |
| 10 th “ | Women in Islam / <i>Presentation</i> |
| 11 th “ | <i>In-Class Test</i> |
| 12 th “ | Political Systems in Islamic Countries, Islam Today (in Europe and USA) <i>Presentation</i> |
| 13 th “ | Islamic Contribution to World Civilization <i>Presentation</i> |
| 14 th “ | Review for Final Examination <i>Presentations</i> |
| 15 th “ | <i>Final Examination</i> |