

California State University Fullerton
Comparative Religion Department

CPRL 401T – Qur'an and Hadith

Unit: 3.0

Term: Spring 2014

Professor: Zakyi Ibrahim

Day and Time: MW 2:30 –3:45pm

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Room: H 128

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Office hrs: MW 1-2; Online MW 2-2:30 pm; or by appointment Phone: 278-8241

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Study of selected basic texts of Islam: The Qur'an and Hadith. Introduction to history and compilation of Qur'an and Hadith, methods of interpretation, classical and modern critical analysis, as well as issues related to the authenticity of these texts.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the Qur'an and the Hadith as the basic sources of Islam. As the primary texts of Islam, the Qur'an and the Hadith enjoy unparalleled authority and unrivaled respect among Muslims (with the exception of a minority who insists that Muslims will do better depending on the Qur'an alone). Their lives (religious, social, political and economic) have been, and continue to be, shaped by the teachings of these texts. Yet, for several reasons, the wisdom and the spirit behind their contents seem to have eluded many people (Muslims and non-Muslims alike). This course is designed to introduce students to the Qur'an and the Hadith as the basic texts of Islam. The topics will include their formation, compilation, authenticity, structure and interpretation. Major themes that have religious and social significance are interpreted. Themes include the idea of God, family, community, social relations, peace and war, the people of the book, and selected hadith on diverse religio-political topics.

SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to the basic texts of Islam, including their major themes, history, authority and methods of interpretation.
- To expose students to the intellectual debate engaged in by Muslims regarding several topics of the basic texts.
- To ascertain how the uses and interpretations of Islamic texts have come to, and continue to, serve the aspirations of Muslims.
- To contextualize some major themes in the basic texts for a clearer understanding on the part of students.
- To prepare the students methodologically and provide them with more intellectual tools for further research into the content of Islamic texts.

Department of Comparative Religion Student Learning Goals & Outcomes:

All students majoring in Religious Studies shall achieve competence in the following domains of skill and knowledge:

A. Skills

Learning Goal: Students possess the ability to perform research and interpret materials related to the study of religion.

Outcome 1: Students can analyze written materials related to the study of religion.

Outcome 2: Students have acquired information literacy in the study of religion.

Learning Goal: Students can effectively communicate in written and spoken mediums.

Outcome 3: Students are able to write well-organized critical and analytical research papers related to the study of religion.

Outcome 4: Students are able to speak clearly and effectively using relevant and adequate supporting evidence.

B. Knowledge

Learning Goal: Students can demonstrate an understanding of the beliefs, rituals, texts, and figures related to a variety of religious traditions.

Outcome 5: Students can describe the basic teachings and practices of major religious traditions and can compare and contrast the principal similarities and differences between them.

Outcome 6: Students are able to identify the history and development of specific religions and their contemporary relevance.

Outcome 7: Students can compare key theories and theorists in the study of religion.

Outcome 8: Students can interpret key thinkers and figures within religious traditions.

PERSONAL PROMISES (The 7 Ps):

In addition to the GE learning goals and the specific learning objectives, I will aspire to meeting these personal teaching goals and promises, based on which I hope to be evaluated:

- - I will prepare well for every class

- - I will always begin class on time
- - I will organize the class well
- - I will communicate the material clearly
- - I will answer any question effectively
- - I will be helpful to all student
- - I will be the Professor but friendly to all.

READINGS:

Required: (Books available at Little Professor Book Center (714) 996-3133; address: 725 N. Placentia Avenue)

1. *The Qur'an: A New Translation* by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem. Oxford & NY: Oxford University Press, 2005.
2. Mattson, Ingrid. *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life*. Malden, MA,: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.

Required: (Articles On TITANium)

1. Adams, Charles. "Qur'an" Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an.
2. Chande, Abdin, "A Critical Evaluation of Some Problematic Hadith Narratives," *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, 27: 1 (2010) 25- 54.
3. Ibrahim, M. Zakyi "A Socio-Political Analysis of the Verses of Peace, Qur'an 8: 62-3." *International Journal on World Peace* XXX: 1 (2013) 89- 113.
4. http://ahadith.co.uk/downloads/Commentary_of_Forty_Hadiths_of_An-Nawawi.pdf

Recommended:

1. Rahman, Fazlur. *Major Themes of the Qur'an*. Srinagar, (J&K): Alfa Publishers, 2004.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. As an advanced class, students are required and expected to do their readings before every class. Students are also advised to participate very actively in all class discussions.

2. There will be **THREE (3) sets** of major Reading Responses: **Two (2) pages each**

1st: Due in class on Feb. 5, 2014.

In the first two weeks, each student must read an article in the Encyclopaedia of Religion on the “Qur’an” by Charles Adams. In the third week, students are required to provide two (2) pages of report consisting of, at least, three (3) detailed and interesting points that have been learned (refer to their pages). (Article will be put on TITANium).

2nd: Due in class on March 5, 2014.

Students are required to read an article on “Peace in the Qur’an” by Zakyi Ibrahim, and provide two (2) pages of report consisting of, at least, three (3) detailed and interesting points that have been learned (refer to their pages). (Article will be put on TITANium).

3rd : Due in class on April 16, 2014.

Students are required to read an article on “A Critical Evaluation of Some Problematic Hadith Narratives” by Abdin Chande, and provide two (2) pages of report consisting of, at least, three (3) detailed and interesting points that have been learned (refer to their pages). (Article will be put on TITANium).

3. There will be a mid-term exam on **March 12, 2014.**

4. There will be a final essay in lieu of final exams due on **Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at 2:30 PM.**

There is no extra credit.

DUE DATES:

THREE (3) sets of Reading Responses (60 points: 30%)

1st: Due on Feb 5 (20 points: 10%)

2nd: Due on March 5 (20 points: 10%)

3rd : Due on Apr. 16 (20 points: 10%)

Mid-Term Exam (40 points: 20%) **Due on March 12.**

Class Participation (20 points: 10% **Each class meeting**

Paper Topics presentation (20 points: 10%) **Due on May 5; & 7.**

Final Exam (Essay) (60 points: 30%) **Due May 14, 2014 at 3: 30 PM**

GRADING SCALE (using plus-minus +/- style)

A+	97.0-100%	194- 200 points
A	93.0-96.9%	186- 193 points
A-	90.0-92.9%	180- 185 points
B+	87.0-89.9%	174- 179 points
B	83.0-86.9%	166- 173 points
B-	80.0-82.9%	160- 165 points
C+	77.0-79.9%	154- 159 points
C	73.0-76.9%	146- 153 points
C-	70.0-72.9%	140- 145 points
D+	67.0-69.9%	134- 139 points
D	60.0-66.9%	120- 133 points (no D-)
F	0-59.9%	0- 119 points

NOTES:

1. Students are advised to:

a. be punctual and regular in class attendance;

- Attendance is part of class participation.

- Two or more Absences may lower the final grade.

b. avoid being late and leaving early (grades may be affected).

c. avoid any type of disturbance and stop making any form of noise during class (cell phone should be turned off);

d. only use LAPTOPS strictly for taking notes, so there is ABSOLUTELY NO web surfing.

- e. submit HARDCOPIES of any assignment to me on time; and upload it to Turnitin on the TITANium by 9: 00 pm of the due date. (this is to ensure that your paper is free of plagiarism). Failure to submit papers to “Turnitin” will result in zero (0) marks.
2. It is the student’s responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the event of lost or theft, a duplicate copy is required.
3. Students are advised to read the 2013/2014 *Catalog* for the rules and policies regarding **registration, Voluntary Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.** Make sure you pay special attention to them and understand them well.
4. Please note that registering in this course commits you to the date and time of the course final examination. If you are aware of possible conflicts with that date, please see me immediately during the first week of the course, in case you need to register in another course to accommodate the conflict. For appeals for deferred exams, please see the Calendar.
5. Late assignment and exams penalties: Except with a legitimate excuse, a day late equals a letter grade lower (eg., from A to A-; or from B+ to B). No make-up exam will be given except on 24 hours notice for a legitimate excuse.
6. **SPECIAL NEEDS:** During the first week of classes, inform me of any disabilities or special needs that you have that may require special arrangements. Students with disabilities need to document their disability at the Disability Support Services office in UH 101. <http://www.fullerton.edu/disabledservices>

7. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

<http://www.fullerton.edu/senate/documents/PDF/300/UPS3000021.pdf>

“Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism, and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty” (UPS 300.021).

Cheating: “Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: using notes or aides or the help of other students on tests and examinations in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor” (UPS 300.021).

Plagiarism: “Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking the work of another and offering it as one’s own without giving credit to that source. When sources are used in a paper, acknowledgement of the original author or source must be made through appropriate references and, if directly quoted, quotation marks or indentations must be used” (UPS 300.021).

Penalties: The minimum penalty for cheating on an examination or for plagiarism will be an “F” on the assignment (zero points), without the possibility to re-do the work. In addition, the final course grade will be no higher than a “C” regardless of the final point total. Depending upon the severity of the offense, a final course grade of “F” may be

assigned. In all cases the Dean of Students Office, Judicial Affairs will be notified. Plagiarism is a serious issue. It is the student's responsibility to be clear of the meaning of plagiarism. See the "Student Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism" at <http://www.fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/judicial/Plagiarism.htm>

Emergency Procedures:

http://www.fullerton.edu/emergencypreparedness/ep_students.html;
<http://prepare.fullerton.edu>

COURSE OUTLINE (NB: All topics and videos may not be covered)

Week 1. Jan. 20- 22 (Jan. 20: MLKJ Day; NO Classes)

- Introductory Remarks
- Introduction to the Qur'an,
 - Historical background,
 - The Revelation of the Qur'an,
 - The Compilation of the Qur'an,
 - The Structure of the Qur'an: Suras and Ayas
 - Stylistic Features,
 - Issues of Interpretation

(Abdel Haleem, pp. ix-xxvi)

Week 2. Jan. 27- 29

- God Speaks to Humanity
 - God Hears and Responds,
 - Defining the Qur'an,
 - Ancient Origins of the Meccan Sanctuary,
 - The Arabian ContextThe Arabic Language,
 - The Jahiliyya,
 - Muhammad as the Messenger of God

(Mattson, pp. 1-24)

Video

Week 3. Feb. 3- 5

- The Prophet Conveys the Message
 - Historicizing the Qur'an,
 - The Medium and the Message,

- God is One,
- Moral Conduct and its Ultimate Consequences,

(Mattson, pp. 25-48)

1st Reading Response: Due in class on Feb. 5, 2014.
Discussion

Week 4. Feb. 10- 12

The Prophet Conveys the Message (continue)

- Servants of God,
- Persecution of Believers Past and Present,
- Establishing a Viable State and a Just Political Order,
- Building a Community
- A door to Heaven is Closed

(Mattson, pp. 48- 75)

Week 5. Feb. 17- 19 (Feb. 17: Presidents' Day; No classes)

The Voice and the Pen

- A Sacred Pedigree,
- The Word of God,
- The Prophet and the First Collection of the Qur'an
- The Early Generations of Recitation and Elaboration,
- Standardizing the Curriculum

(Mattson, 76- 106)

Week 6. Feb. 24- 26

What God Really Means: Interpreting the Qur'an

- Exegesis Before Hermeneutics,
- Epistemological Challenge,
- Intertextuality: The Isra'iliyyat
- Providing Context: The Sunna, Hadith and Occasions of Revelation,
- Deriving Norms from the Qur'an
- Constructiong Authority,
- Modernity: Making the Words "Reasonable"

(Mattson, pp. 175- 219)

Video

Week 7. March 3- 5

Major Themes from the Qur'an:
- God in the Qur'an

(Qur'an 112; etc)

2nd Reading Response: Due in class on March 5, 2014.

Week 8. March 10- 12

Major Themes from the Qur'an:
Family/ Community/ Social Relations

(Qur'an 33; 49; etc)

March 12: Mid-term Exam

Week 9. March 17- 19

Major Themes from the Qur'an:
Family/ Community/ Social Relations
Jihad/ Peace

(Qur'an 33; 49; etc)

Week 10. March 24- 26

Major Themes from the Qur'an:
Ancient Stories
People of the Book

(Qur'an 2; 3; etc)

March 31: Cesar Chavez Day: No Classes

April 1- 6; Spring Recess: NO CLASSES

Week 11. April 7- 9

Introduction to Hadith:

Significance

History

Collection

Authenticity

Criticism

Modern Attitudes

Shi'i Hadith

(Encyclopedia of Religion, v. 6, 143-151)

Video

Week 12. April 14- 16

Methodology of Hadith Criticism

Some Problematic Hadith

(Chande's Paper)

"A Critical Evaluation of Some Problematic Hadith Narratives"

3rd Reading Response: Due in class on April 16, 2014.

Discussion

Week 13. April 21- 23

Selected Hadith:

- Actions are judged by intentions
- Being concerned with beneficial matters
- The obligation of loving all Muslims
- Good manners in speech; behaviour of Muslims towards neighbours/guests

http://ahadith.co.uk/downloads/Commentary_of_Forty_Hadiths_of_An-Nawawi.pdf

Week 14. April 28- 30

Selected Hadith:

- Allah's Protection
- Prohibition of injustice and oppression; seeking Allah's Guidance
- The significance of fulfilling the needs of a Muslim
- The Muslim's attitude towards the worldly life

http://ahadith.co.uk/downloads/Commentary_of_Forty_Hadiths_of_An-Nawawi.pdf

Video

Week 15. May 5- 7

Brief Presentations of Essay Topics

FINAL EXAMS: MAY 14, 2014 (2: 30 pm)