

Course Outline: Islamic Traditions

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

Course Code

AP/HUMA 1845 6.0

Course Description

This course examines the beliefs, doctrines and institutions that have constituted the Islamic tradition from its inception until the present. While analyzing some of the most important primary sources that have emerged within the Islamic tradition, particular attention is placed on the variety of interpretive strategies used by Muslim exegetes, theologians, legal scholars, Sufis, feminists, etc. in their approach to issues related to the sacred texts, the Qur'an and the Hadith.

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: **ONCA**

HUMA 1845 6.0 Islamic Traditions is a fully online, full-year course that runs from September to April of the 2026-2027 academic year. Weekly lectures, submission of individual and group assignments, and participation/discussions (i.e. tutorial activities) take place **asynchronously** on the Course's eClass (Moodle) website. Zoom office hours for tutorials and both on-campus midterm and final exams are **synchronous**, scheduled in advance. While students have flexibility in completing their weekly lessons, they are expected to keep up with course discussions and assignments by set due dates.

Every Monday at noon, one lesson will be released on the Course's eClass website. Each lesson will include a narrated video lecture, a transcript, and, if applicable, instructions for completing assignments for that week. Students are expected to complete one lesson per week and scheduled assignments. Importantly, **there are no weekly synchronous tutorial meetings in this Course**. Instead, students engage in **asynchronous** online group discussions and collaborate on group projects. Each Tutorial will be divided into 5 groups, each including five students.

The course also offers students several experiential learning opportunities, including virtual visits to museums, and the recording and/or production of short audio/video pieces for group projects.

Course Materials

Required textbook (to be purchased):

1. Denny, Frederic Mathewson. *An Introduction to Islam*. 4th edition (Routledge, 2016)

https://www.amazon.ca/Introduction-Islam-Frederick-Denny-dp-013814477X/dp/013814477X/ref=dp_ob_title_bk

Kindle edition: https://www.amazon.ca/Introduction-Islam-Frederick-Denny-ebook/dp/B0B36PWGBT/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

All other required texts and visual sources will be provided on the Course's eClass website.

Required texts and films include:

1. "Poem of the Week — *al-Mu'allaqa by Imru al-Qays*." *YouTube*, uploaded by Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center, October 23, 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHhnLUBGzkI>

2. "Ibn Abbas on Heavenly Ascension" in *Classical Islam: a sourcebook of religious literature*, edited and translated by Norman Calder, Jawid Mojaddedi and Andrew Rippin. Routledge, 2003, pp. 19-25. York University Library, E-Book

<https://www-taylorfrancis-com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/books/classical-islam-norman-calder-jawid-mojaddedi-andrew-rippin/10.4324/9780203634158>

3. **Video clip:** *The Life of Muhammad: Holly Wars*, Directed by Faris Kermani, PBS, 2013. From 00:02:28 to 00:20:41 minutes.

4. Toshihiko Izutsu. Ch. VI: "The Basic Moral Dichotomy" in *Ethico-religious Concepts in the Quran*, McGill-Queen's University Press, c2002, Ebook, pp. 105–116.

https://books-scholarsportal-info.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/en/read?id=/ebooks/ebooks0/gibson_crkn/2009-12-01/1/400731#page=122

5. **Audio podcast:** Yahya Michot, (Professor at Hartford Seminary), *The Creation as told in the Qu'ran*, University of Oxford Podcasts, uploaded by Oxford Univeristy, 0:8:49 min.

<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/creation-told-quran>

6. **Online exhibition:** *Hajj & The Art Of Pilgrimage (700-2000)*. The Khalili Collection. Objects from the exhibition “Longing for Mecca” at Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam. The Khalili Collections. Org.,

<https://www.khalilicollections.org/all-collections/hajj-and-the-arts-of-pilgrimage/>

7. Martin, Richard C. “Islamic Expressions of Form and Beauty” in *Islamic studies: A History of Religions Approach*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1996, 141-151. (eClass)

8. **Video exhibition:** The Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Islamic Art*

<http://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/curatorial-departments/islamic-art>

9. Malcolm X. “Mecca” in *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, (Ballantine Books, New York, NY, 1992), E-book, pp. 348-374.

<http://solomon.bltc.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/cgi-bin/asp/philobltc/getvolume.pl?S8116#DIV21>

10. Karim, H. “Crescent Dawn in the Great White North: Muslim Participation in the Canadian Public Sphere” in *Muslims in the West: From Sojourners to Citizens*, Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad (editor), pp. 263-275. York University Library, E-Book.

Samples of course materials assigned weekly:

Example 1:

1. Lesson 4: Video Lecture

2. Denny, F.M. “Muhammad and the Early Muslim Community,” pp. 58-59, “Hijra,” pp. 63-64.

3. “Ibn Abbas on Heavenly Ascension” in *Classical Islam: a sourcebook of religious literature*, edited and translated by Norman Calder, Jawid Mojaddedi and Andrew Rippin. Routledge, 2003, pp. 19-25. York University Library, E-Book

<https://www-taylorfrancis-com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/books/classical-islam-norman-calder-jawid-mojaddedi-andrew-rippin/10.4324/9780203634158>

4. Video clip: *The Life of Muhammad: Holly Wars*, Directed by Faris Kermani, PBS, 2013. From 00:02:28 to 00:20:41 minutes.

<https://yorku.kanopy.com/video/life-muhammad-holy-wars>

Example 2:

1. Lesson 22: Video Lecture

2. Karim, H. “Crescent Dawn in the Great White North: Muslim Participation in the Canadian Public Sphere” in *Muslims in the West: From Sojourners to Citizens*, Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad (editor), pp. 263-275. York University Library, E-Book

<https://books-scholarsportal-info.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/en/xml/chapter?id=/ebooks/ebooks2/oso/2012-10-01/1/9780195148053&chapterId=acprof-9780195148053-chapter-18>

3. *Me & the Mosque*. National Film Board of Canada. Directed by Zarqa Nawaz, producer Joe MacDonald. [Montréal]: National Film Board of Canada, c2005. 52 minutes. (York University Online Source)

http://www.nfb.ca.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/film/me_and_mosque/

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

[Provide a breakdown of course components into individual assessments, including the weight of each assessment and anticipated date held or due date. Include whether assessments are held in-person or online or if they might be held outside of class time (e.g. evenings or weekends)]

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Participation in Group Discussion Forums and completion of individual contributions to the Group Project and editorial tasks.	10%	Online, through the tutorial discussion forum links provided on the Course’s eClass website; Asynchronous.	January – March 25, 2027

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Critical skills in context: Individual assignments that test students' comprehension of the assigned texts and visual materials and their mastery of critical academic skills.	15%	Online, through the assignment submission links provided on the Course's eClass website; Asynchronous.	September – January 2027, total of 5
Midterm Exam	20%	In-person, on-campus	TBA, December Exam Period
Group Project: Ramadan Cookbook	20%	Online, through the assignment submission links provided on the Course's eClass website; Asynchronous.	Due: March 10, 2027
Individual Project: Islamic Art in the Museum	15%	Online, through the assignment submission links provided on the Course's eClass website; Asynchronous.	Due: March 25, 2027
Final Exam	20%	In-person, on-campus	TBA, April Exam Period
	100%		