University of Florida
Department of Religion

Global Islam

RLG 5361 – Section 025G
REL 4936 – Section 3D41

Meeting & Location:
Tuesday, per. 5-6 – AND 101
Thursday, per. 6 – AND 101

Instructor: Dr. Terje Ostebo
Office: 107E Anderson Hall
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Office Hours: Thursday 8:30-10:30

Course Description:
As one of the world’s largest and fastest growing religions, Islam exerts significant global influence in politics, culture, and society. This course addresses the urgent need for a deeper understanding of the diversity of Muslim cultures and societies in the contemporary global context. With a focus on lived Islam in the contemporary world, the course will provide knowledge about the diversity and complexity of Global Islam, and provide a unique opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the richness of Muslim cultures and societies in the global context. The course will have a combined topical and geographical approach, and study Islam as it intersects with broader social, cultural, political and economic dynamics, and focus on areas such as America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and North-Africa/Middle East. The course will be of an interdisciplinary character, drawing from perspectives from the social sciences and the humanities.

Course Objectives
A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:
• Analyze the current discourses and dynamics in the study of Global Islam
• Identify and analyze both the commonalities and the diversity within Global Islam
• Apply relevant theoretical perspectives and analyze the intersection of Islam with social, political, and cultural issues in different parts of the world
• Critically analyze Islam and trans-nationalism, migration, and global interconnectivity
• Analyze the various perspectives on gender and feminism found within Global Islam
• Map out and identify the interrelations between Islam and other religions in a global context
• Understand and analyze the main currents with regard to Islam and politics in a global context
Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

The final grade will be determined by the total scored for:

- Attendance (5 %). We will circulate an attendance sheet, which you should sign. Signing for others is considered Academic dishonesty.
- Participation in classroom discussions (5%)
- In-class presentations (15 %)
- 3 Response papers (25 % each: 3 x 25% = 75%)

Additional information about UF’s grading policy can be found here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Classroom Participation: Students are expected to attend ALL classes and participate actively in class discussions. Active and informed participation demands that students read the material carefully before coming to class. The instructor will seek to engage all students in discussions by asking direct questions to the students, and by for comments to the readings. The instructor will keep a log for each week, noting the degree of engagement and level of insights demonstrated.

In-class presentations: Each student will give an in-class presentations on a topic related to the assigned readings. The presentation will be 10-15 minutes, and the student presenting will lead the subsequent classroom discussion. The presentation will be evaluated based on the student’s comprehension of the material, degree of independent and critical thinking, and ability to communicate the material clearly.

3 Response Papers (5-6 pp): These response papers will address key issues and methodological and theoretical questions raised in the readings, lectures and class discussions. The objective of these papers is to encourage you to read the materials closely and articulate your own informed and analytically nuanced positions. The more you engage the reading, the more likely you will receive a high mark. The format for the papers is double space / font size 12.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria – Graduate Section

The graduate students will follow the lectures for the course, do the readings for each lecture, do in-class presentations, and submit the assigned papers. In order to get the course registered as a graduate course, there is, however, some additional work as listed below.

2 Review Papers (7-8 pp): In addition to the 3 response papers and the presentation, you will have 2 assignments which we will decide upon together. The assignment is to write a review of different books. The reviews shall be 7-8 pages (for each book). The format for the papers is double space / font size 12. You will also meet with me 2 times (1/2 hour) during the semester to discuss the readings and assignments. These meetings will be during my office.

1 A review is more than a synopsis; it entails giving your (argued) opinions on the text
hours, and you should email me in advance with your questions and/or the texts which you would like me to comment on.

**Make-ups and Attendance:**
Make-ups will only be allowed in unavoidable circumstances or for compelling reasons that can be convincingly documented. Similarly, absence(s) means that 1 point per absence will be detracted – except unavoidable ones proven with satisfactory explanation/documentation. This is in consistence with university policies that can be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)

**Class Demeanor:**
Students are allowed to use laptops in class, but only for purposes related to class (i.e. taking notes). The use of cell phones is prohibited during class. Tardiness will not be accepted, and arrival 10 minutes late will count as an absence.

**Student Honor Code:**
As a UF student, you have agreed to follow the university’s Honor Code, meaning you will not give or receive unauthorized assistance in completing assignments. Violations can result in failing an exam, paper or the course. For more information, see: [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php). On all work submitted for credit by University of Florida students, the following pledge is implied, “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” Please note that acts of plagiarism include:

- Turning in a paper or assignment that was written by someone else.
- Copying verbatim a sentence or paragraph of text from the work of another author without proper citation and quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing or restating in your own words, text or ideas written by someone else without proper citation.

For more info, see [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html)

**Disabilities:**
“If you are a student with a disability and would like to request disability-related accommodations, you are encouraged to contact me and the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565.” Contact info for the Counselling and Wellness Center: [http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/) Phone: 352-392-1575; and the University Police Department: 352-392-1111 or 911 for emergencies.

**Course Evaluations:**
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these evaluations are available at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/)
Required Reading:
See Class Calendar for details about required and supplementary readings. Most of the readings will be available as pdf-files on Canvas, while required readings marked with an ‘*’ should be purchased – but will also be available through Course-reserve (for in-library loans)

Class Calendar and Reading Schedule:
Note: This document is subject to change, students are responsible for all changes announced in class.

Week 1 (January 7-11): Introduction and Course Preview

Readings:

Week 2 (January 14-18): Islam – The Main Concepts

Readings:

Supplementary readings:

Week 3 (January 21-25): Islam and the Local

Readings:

Supplementary readings:

Week 4 January 28-February 1): Islam and the Global

Readings:

Supplementary readings:

Week 5 (February 4-8): Transnationalism, Migration, and Muslim Minorities

Readings:

Supplementary readings:

1st response paper due: February 8 @ 5pm

Week 6 (February 11-15): Transnationalism, Migration, and Muslim Minorities

Readings:

Supplementary readings:

Week 7 (February 18-22): Purity, Piety, and Religious Reform

Readings:

Supplementary readings:
Lauzière, Henri, “The Construction of Salafiyya: Reconsidering Salafism from the Perspective


**1st Graduate paper due: February 22 @ 5pm**

**Week 8 (February 25-March 1): Purity, Piety, and Religious Reform**

*Readings:*


*Supplementary readings:*


**Spring-break**

**Week 9 (March 11-15): Global Islam and the Religious “Other”**

*Readings:*


**2nd response paper due: March 15 @ 5pm**
Week 10 (March 18-22): Global Islam and the Religious “Other”

Readings:

Supplementary readings:

Week 11 (March 25-29): Islam, Politics, and the State

Readings:

Supplementary readings:

2nd Graduate paper due: March 29 @ 5pm

Week 12 (April 1-5): Islam, Politics, and the State

Readings:

Supplementary readings:


**3rd response paper due: April 12 @ 5pm**

**Week 13 (April 8-12): Violence and Global Jihad**

*Readings:*


**Supplementary readings:**


**Week 14 (April 15-19): Media, Old and New**

*Readings:*


**Supplementary readings:**


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**Week 15 (April 22-24): Conclusions**