University of Florida
Department of Religion
Class: Islam in Europe

Instructor: Jep Stockmans
Office: 008 Anderson Hall
Phone: (352)-281 7000
Email: Stockmansjep@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Monday 1pm to 3 pm

Meeting & Location:
Monday per. 5 Tur. 2356
Wednesday per. 5 Tur. 2356
Friday per. 5 Tur. 2356

Course Description
The course Islam in Europe is an introductory course that aims to provide the students with a basic knowledge on the presence of Muslims in Europe and all the issues that surround this presence. The course starts out with a thorough historical background, looking at early encounters and the early presence of Islam in Europe. Hereafter the course moves on to discuss more contemporary issues such as: marginalization, secularism, clash of civilizations, and orientalism. The emphasis
will be on depicting the obstacles with which Muslims in the West are confronted. However, the socio-political situation of Europe will also be discussed in order to frame these obstacles within the broader European context. The student will be presented with both perspectives and how these issues create polemical and practical divides in Europe as well as the practical consequences of these divides.

**Course objectives**

By the end of the course the student should have:

- An overview of the history of Islam in Europe.
- An idea of how this history has played into present day issues.
- An understanding of the position of Muslims in European society.
- An understanding of European sentiments towards Islam and how they are generated.
- An overview of the current issues regarding Islam in Europe.
- An understanding of how these issues have developed in the past 20 years.

**Course requirements & Grading Criteria**

- **Two Response papers:** These response papers will be 5 pages (12p font, Double Spaced) and should address key issues and methodological and theoretical questions raised in the readings, lectures and class discussions. The objective of these papers is to encourage students to read the materials closely and articulate their own informed and analytically nuanced positions. The more you engage the reading, the more likely you will receive a high mark. You are asked to discuss – which means that you should not only describe, but provide arguments and substantiated opinions on the topic you are writing on. To discuss also means to read the literature critically and use it actively when writing. Each paper will be 25% of your total grade.
- **In-class Presentation:** The presentation should be ca 15 minutes and made available to the instructor in writing before the presentation day (word or ppt format). It should include: a short summary of the context, the main objectives/arguments forwarded in the literature, and your own opinions/view of the literature. In the discussion section of the presentation the presenter should select a couple of points from the reading/presentation that s/he finds interesting and relevant, and lead the class-discussion. The in-class presentation will be 15% of your total grade.
- **Attendance and participation:** Class attendance and quality of participation are required from students throughout the course of the semester. The instructor reserves the right to give pop quizzes if participation is not to expectation. A student with five unexcused absences will automatically fail the course. Attendance and participation will be 10% of your total grade.
- **Take-home exam:** This exam will contain an essay question the addressing key issues raised in the readings, lectures, and class discussions. The goal of these exams is to test how well students handle concepts, theories, and methods at hand. Since students will have one week to complete the assignments, I expect essays to be not only well-developed, with
good grammar, spelling, and syntax, but also analytically substantive, making explicit references to the readings. The exam will be worth 25% of your final grade.

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Make up & Attendance

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.”

Literature

*Books (Selected readings will be provided by the instructor)*


Article


Class Calendar & Reading Schedule

Week 1 01/08: Introduction

Week 1 01/10-01/12: Intro to Islam & Intro to Europe

Week 2 01/17-01/19: al-Andalus & Historic Trade relations between West and East (Monday holiday)

Week 3 01/22-01/26: Ottomans in Europe, Colonialism, World War I and II

Week 4 01/29-02/02: Orientalism

***First response paper 02/03***

Week 5 02/05-02/09: Nationalism and Culture
Week 6 02/12-02/16: Muslim Voices & Counter Narratives

- Chapter Omid or Ahmet from book progressive Muslims

Week 7 02/19-02/23: Islam and European Media


Week 8 02/26-03/02: Social Philosophy


***Second response paper 03/03***

Week 9 03/3-03/11: Spring break

Week 10 03/12-03/16: (Work)-Migration and its Issues


Week 11 03/19-03/23: Diasporas and Transnationalism


Week 12 03/26-03/30: Islam and the European Public space

**Week 13 04/02-04/06: Islam and Secular Europe**


**Week 14 04/09-04/13: Syrian refugee crisis in Europe**

*** Week 16 04/16-04/20: Take-home exam***

**Week 15 04/23: Evaluation classes**