

## **IN 203W ISLAM: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

Instructor: Gulsum Kuchuksari, Fall 2022

1 credit; Credit/No-Credit Grading

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course explores main theological concepts of Islam as an Abrahamic monotheism. It surveys the rise of Islam in the 6<sup>th</sup> century and the history of Islamic civilization until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Other two elements of the course are: juristic & mystical reflections of Islam, as well as interpretations developed in the modern period. The last part surveys fundamentalist and nationalist interpretations of Islam, including Black American Islam, and the concept of jihad as a response to European colonization and white supremacy. The course offers a preliminary knowledge of Islamic theology and history for students of ministry at a time of increased Islamophobia.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To be able to locate Islamic theology within the broader concept of Abrahamic monotheism.
- 2) To establish a foundational knowledge on the history of religion of Islam.
- 3) To critically engage in subjects of much controversy like jihad, Islamic law, Muslim women and veil.
- 4) To explore the impact of Western colonization of the Middle East on modern Muslim identity and how it reflects in modern Qur'anic interpretations.
- 5) To engage in discussion for the implications of Islamic studies for ministry at a time of Islamophobia.

**PROCEDURE:** This course is an asynchronous online course with **NO** mandatory web conference meetings at specific times on a regular basis. The primary format will be assignments submitted online and online discussion forums.

**EVALUATION:** Students will be primarily evaluated on their timely submissions of assignments and active participation in discussion forums. A research paper or a project at the end of the semester to demonstrate the learning done in the semester

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Articles and book chapters in the assigned readings will be made available to students online

### **COURSE CALENDAR**

Reading Schedule—All assigned readings will be available online before the week of the class for which they were assigned.

Schedule subject to change; keeping track of changes is students' responsibility

#### **Week 1**

Orientalism

#### **Week 2**

Arabia before Islam

**Week 3**

The Message of Islam

**Week 4**

Quran and its Origins

**Week 5**

Prophet Muhammad and Jihad

**Week 6**

Partition after the Prophet: Shiism

**Week 7**

Islamic law

**Week 8**

Sufism

**Week 9**

Golden Age of Islamic Civilization

**Week 10**

Expansion of Ottomans Western Colonization of the Middle East

**Week 11**

Colonial Feminism and Gender Issues

**Week 12**

Post-Colonial and Political Islamic Literature

**Week 13**

Post-Colonial and Political Islamic Literature

**Week 14**

Violent Secularism in Europe and in the Muslim World

Note that there might be overlaps in the reading schedule during the weeks.

The reading week is not included in this calendar.

Book Reviews due the last day of class