

# Islam: Past and Present

**COURSE DESIGNATOR:** MRCO 3013

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**NUMBER OF CREDITS:** 3

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine Islam and its influence in Morocco. Students will study Islam's historical roots and contemporary manifestations through a discussion of historical works, literature, and film. The course will provide a perspective on the different ways in which Islam is realized in Moroccan life including religion, customs, and politics. It will also deal with the Moroccan perception of Islam and its representation in the West. This course is taught in English.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Survey the core Islamic worldview
- Understand the socio-religious and socio-political issues shaping the Moroccan view of Islam
- Debate issues on Islamism and democracy in Morocco
- Understand the relationship between modernity and Islam

Topics Covered:

- Islam as a way of life
- Religious values and education
- History of Sufism
- Women and religion
- Political Islam
- French colonialism and Islam
- Postcolonial Moroccan literature and religion
- Secularism vs. Islamism in the contemporary political landscape
- Recent reforms in the religious sphere
- Moroccan youth and religion
- The new family code
- Parliamentary Islamism (PJD)
- Debating religious issues in Moroccan cinema
- Religious festivals and sacred music

## METHODOLOGY

The course will focus on some key chapters from the main references to introduce and discuss a number of topics on Islam as a way of life in Morocco. Students can also rely on their first-hand cultural experience to be able to understand how Moroccans view Islam. Media texts such as selected films and TV shows will be integrated in the course.

## REQUIRED READINGS/ MATERIALS

- Geertz, Clifford (1971) Islam Observed. The University of Chicago Press
- Salime, Zakia (2011) Between Feminism and Islam. University of Minnesota Press
- Bargash, Jamila (2002) Orphans of Islam. Rowman and Littlefield
- Waugh, Earle H. (2005) Memory, Music, and Religion. University of South Carolina Press
- Price, Daniel E. (1999) Islamic Political Culture, Democracy and Human Rights. Greenwood Press
- Gray, Doris (2007) Muslim Women on the Move. Lexington Books
- Rosen, Lawrence (2003) The Culture of Islam. University of Chicago Press
- Charrad, Mounira M. (2001) States and Women's Rights. University of California Press
- Sadiqi, Fatima and Ennaji, Moha (2010) Women in the Middle East and North Africa. Routledge
- Carter, Sandra G. (2009) What Moroccan Cinema. Lexington Books
- Orlando, Valerie K. (2011) Screening Morocco. Ohio University Center for International Studies
- Newcombe, Rachel (2008) Women of Fez. University of Pennsylvania Press

## GRADING

Grading Rubric		
A	93-100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

## SUMMARY OF HOW GRADES ARE WEIGHTED

Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Participation/oral presentations	30%
<b>Overall grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Your grade is based on how well you interact with readings, lectures, and audiovisual materials. A full engagement with the materials is highly required. Coming to class prepared to discuss the readings is essential.

## COURSE CONTENT

### UNIT 1

History of Moroccan Islam

### UNIT 2

Islam and Moroccan Resistance during the Colonial Period

### UNIT 3

Religion and Politics in Post-Independence Morocco

### UNIT 4

Debating New Family Laws

### UNIT 5

The Rise of Political Islam

### UNIT 6

Religion and Education

### UNIT 7

Reforming the Religious Sphere: Women as Spiritual Guides

## UNIT 8

Moroccan Writers and Religion

## UNIT 9

Moroccan Youth and Religious Values

## UNIT 10

Sufi Culture

## UNIT 11

Gendering Moroccan Cinema

## UNIT 12

Islamic Art and Architecture: Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Fez

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the onsite syllabus for specific class requirements.

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

#### SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized

collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

#### **STUDENT CONDUCT:**

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.