

Islam and the West
伊斯蘭與西方文化

This course introduces students to Islam in its basic themes and texts and its historical relation to the West. We will begin the course by investigating the core of Islam in its beliefs, values, traditions, institutions, and historical development. In particular, our study will focus on Muhammad, the Qur'an, Arabic language and civilization in historical context, and the formation of Islam in its early phases. After examining selections from the Qur'an and the Hadith in the first weeks of the semester, we will move on to historical and cultural relations between Islam and the West and examine the way art and literature deal with Islam as a global, multicultural, and multilingual phenomenon today. Readings from Edward Said's *Orientalism* and responses to it will inform our discussion of the politics of Islam for the West as well as Muslim perspectives themselves on Islam and the West.

N.B. This is a secular study of Islam and the West. If you think you already understand Islam and its texts, this is not a course for you. If you want to learn Islamic spirituality and improve yourself morally, this is not the course for you. You can contact an Islamic center in Taiwan and enroll in their classes for religious education. On the other hand, if you are looking to spread any of the hateful opinions regarding Islam or its perceived historical or political enemies in class, this is also not a course for you. This is a course of human knowledge, and hatred and racism have no place in it at all. Your instructor will not tolerate any practice or expression of hatred or racism in the class and will take measures to hold you responsible for lack of respect and honor in an academic setting. Antisemitism, Islamophobia (including but not exclusive to identifying Islam as terrorism), homophobia, sexism, racism, as well as other forms and expressions of hatred and violence will be interpreted as bullying, harassment, and defamation that violate academic respect and honor and will result in harsh grade penalties.

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Core Capabilities:

文學組大學部學生核心能力：

1. The ability to communicate and express oneself in English 溝通表達與語文能力 15%
2. The ability to analyze classic canons of literature 文學經典的分析與詮釋 20%

3. The ability to look for problems and conduct research 問題發掘與研究能力 15%
4. The ability to think creatively 創作與創新能力 20%
5. The ability to examine issues through global and multicultural perspectives 全球化與國際視野及多元文化認知能力 30%

Required text (on reserve for the course at the library):

- *Classical Islam: A Sourcebook of Religious Literature*, ed. and trans. Norman Calder, Jawid Mojaddedi and Andrew Rippin. Routledge, 2003.
- English Bible, King James Version: Hebrew Bible and Old Testament.
- M. A. S. Abdel Haleem, trans. *The Qur'an*. Oxford UP, 2008.
- A. L. Macfie, *Orientalism: A Reader*. New York UP, 2001.
- Michael Sells, *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*. White Cloud Press, 2007.

Assessment:

The following are the conditions you must fulfill to earn a passing grade in this course:

- Statement of academic honesty and integrity 5%
- Attendance and class participation 20%
- Presentation 15%
- Second midterm exam 30%
- Final exam 30%

In order to pass the course, you **must** fulfill all of the above requirements. If you omit any of the above, you will automatically fail the course. **No make-up** is available for any of the above in this course.

AI policy:

use of AI to prepare and complete any coursework submitted for credit and/or evaluation will likely result in a failing grade or an outright “0” for the exam or assignment. Suspected AI used will be penalized in grade.

Schedule of reading and discussion

You are required to read *all notes* (footnotes, glosses, etc.) for the literary works assigned in the textbooks

| Week | Reading and discussion |
|------|---|
| 1 | Islam: Introduction |
| 2 | Muhammad <i>Classical Islam</i> , Chapter 3, pp. 36–58 Sells, pp. 11–28, 35–40, 42–43 Haleem, trans., <i>The Qur'an</i> Sura 96 |
| 3 | People of the Book <i>Qur'an</i> (Haleem trans.) Sura 12 Genesis 37, 39–45, 47–48 |

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| 4 | <p>Qur'an: The Reading Haleem trans. Sura 1 Sura 2 Sura 7</p> |
| 5 | <p>Religious Difference Men and Women Haleem trans. Sura 9 Sura 4 Sura 5</p> |
| 6 | <p>Vision Haleem trans. Sura 17 Sura 33 Sura 36 Sura 53</p> |
| 7 | Midterm exam |
| 8 | Preparation for presentation |
| 9 | <p>Orientalism Macfie, ed., pp. 89–107, 111–114</p> |
| 10 | <p>Responses to Orientalism Macfie, ed., pp. 208–238</p> |
| 11 | <p>Islam and the West: Political and Global Perspectives Macfie, pp. 285–297, 345–361</p> |
| 12 | Presentations |
| 13 | Presentations |
| 14 | Review and discussion |
| 15 | Review and discussion |
| 16 | Final exam |