American University of Ras Al Khaimah

AURAK Syllabus

Course & Instructor Information

Course Title: Introduction to Islam in World Culture

Course Code: MEST 100

Credit Hours: 3.0

Methods of Instruction *(See Syllabus Guide for additional information that should be added here):*

This course uses the face-to-face method of instruction. Students attend weekly lectures. Prepare the reading assignment before coming to class. Students also take required exams as mentioned in the syllabus.

Prerequisite course(s) and/or co-requisite courses, if applicable:

Faculty Name: Ilham Mebrouk

Contact Information and Office Hours:

email: t.ilhammebeouk@aurak.ac.ae /Office Hours: Mond/Wedn 12: 00 am-01: pm

Course Description:

MEST 100 is the introductory course on Islamic Studies that is required for all majors. The course provides an introduction to the basic sources and historical contexts for the origins of Islam.

Additional Information about the course:

This course is not an online course. It will illustrate the concept of Islamic studies through a global, interdisciplinary and comparative approach and examine contemporary global and local issues that impact and are impacted by Islamic culture. Some of the basic spiritual principles

expressed in those sources; the contexts and practices that exemplify the spiritual principles; contributions Islam has made to civilization and to the political, social and cultural identity of the UAE.

Course Textbooks and Materials:

Denny, F. M. (2011). *An Introduction to Islam (4th ed.).* Prentice Hall.

Esposito, J. L. (2004). Islam the Straight Path (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press

Hayes, J. R. (ed.) (1978). *The Genius of Arab Civilization, Source of Renaissance.* **MIT Press.**

Other Resources:

Selected readings available through AURAK Blackboard or sent by email or handed out in class.

Saliba, G/ (2007). *Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance*. MIT Press.

Menocal, M. (2003). *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. Bach Bay Books.

Jayyusi, S. (ed.) (1994). *The Legacy of Muslim Spain: Handbook of Oriental Studies. (Vol 1 & 2).* Brill Academic Publishers

Bearman, P., Bianquis, T., Bosworth, C. E., van Donzel, E. & Heinrichs, W. P. (eds). (2006). *Encyclopedia of Islam* (2nd ed.). Brill Academic Publishers

Web Resources:

Online access to AURAK library databases http://www.aurak.ac.ae/library/library.html

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Course Learning Outcomes At the end of this course, students should be able to:	
CLO 1	Demonstrate comprehensive, factual knowledge of the history, culture and practices of Islam; identifying key Islamic scholars, thinkers and their contributions.
CLO 2	Evaluate the contribution of Islamic civilization to other civilizations with expressing a personal world view, reflecting engagement in society at large.
CLO 3	Apply advanced composition, communication, and technology skills to present, explain and/or critique complex issues in Islamic world within a global context.
CLO 4	Examine different approaches to jurisprudence, religion, and human rights within the Middle Eastern & Islamic world by critiquing interdependent complex matters from a comparative and multicultural perspective while observing ethical standards.
CLO 5	Analyze conceptual dilemmas relating to the East-West differences and challenges of construction and implementation of "universal values," develop an East-West dialogue on contemporary conflicts through examination of moral and ethical implications.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Mapping Course to Program Outcomes

Please see the APPENDIX for the Course to Program Learning Outcomes Mapping.

Assessment Activities

The dates for quizzes, exams, and submission of assignments are specified in the schedule. You will be graded in this class based on the number of points you earn for quizzes, exams written assignments, or other activities, including your class participation. Keep track of your scores in Blackboard.

Assessment Activities and Grading Weight	Presentation 10%	Class Activities/Discussions 30%	Mid-term Exam 30%	Final Exam 30%
CLO 1	X	X	X	X
CLO 2	X	X	X	X
CLO 3		X	X	X
CLO 4		X		X
CLO 5		X		

Grading Scale

The grading system and scale for AURAK, as established by the Board of Trustees, is as follows:

AURAK Grading System and Scale		
Grade	Percentage Scores	Grade Points
A	95-100	4.00
A-	90-94	3.70
B+	86-89	3.30
B	83-85	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
C+	76-79	2.30
C	73-75	2.00
C-	70-72	1.70

D+	66-69	1.30
D	60-65	1.00
F	0-59	0.00

An "S" grade reflects satisfactory, or passing, work in a course (i.e., equivalent to grade of C or higher for graduate students. A "U" grade reflects unsatisfactory, or failing, work in a course. S/U will have no effect on the GPA.

Weekly Course Information

Schedule of Course Topics, Required Reading, and Assignments and Assessments (Including scheduling of laboratory, studio, external visit, and other non-classroom meeting sessions, as appropriate)				
Week	Topic	Required Readings	Assessment (with grade weighting) & Due Date	Mapping of CLSLO's to Assessment
1	Introduction to the Study of Islam, Review of Syllabus, course Outline.	N/A	N/A	
2	Religion and Common Life in the Pre-Islamic Near East Early Civilizations and the Origins of Judaism and Christianity.	Denny, Chapter. 1, pp. 5- 27 Pre-Islamic Arabia: Beliefs, Values, Way of Life. Denny, Chapter. 2, pp. 32-36	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
3	Basic Concepts and definitions	Discussion of Readings & Film on Islam Denny, Chapter. 1, pp. 5- 27 Denny, Chapter. 2, pp. 32-36	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
4	The Coming of Islam: The Prophet, His People, and God's Religion Muhammad and the Early Muslim Community	Denny, Chapter 3, pp. 49 -73 Documentary *ISLAM: Empire of Faith* w/discussion	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
5	Muhammad and the Qur'an	Esposito, Chapter 1, Messenger and Message" (pp.1-31) from *Islam The Straight Path*, by John L. Esposito, 3rd ed.	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5

6	"The Muslim Community in History"	Esposito Chapter 2 "The Muslim community In History", (pp. 32-67)	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
7	"The Muslim Community in History"	Esposito Chapter 2 "The Muslim Community in History", (pp. 32-67)	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
8	Midterm Exam	No Readings	**Midterm Exam** Oct 17, 9:00 am (30% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3
9	Philosophy & Theology	"Philosophy and History," *The Genius of Arab Civilization*, pp. 55-76.	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
10	Part Three – The Islamic Religious System	Basic Beliefs and Worship Practices of Islam, Denny, Chapter 5, (pp. 97- 129)	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
11	The Islamic Religious System II	The Prophet's Sunnah as Preserved in the Hadith, Denny, Chapter 7, (pp. 150-163).	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
12	Objectives of Islamic Law	Muslim Creeds and Theologies: Their Purposes and Varieties,	In Class Assignments (30% of total	CLO 1 CLO 2

11-17		Denny Chapter 8, pp. 164-186	grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
13	The Five Ruling Values Al Ahkam al Khamsah	Five Rulings of Shari'a PP. 253-262	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
14	Social Systems of Islam	The Islamic Life Cycle and the Familypan> Deenny's chapter 12	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
15	Contemporary issues	TBA	In Class Assignments (30% of total grade) Presentations (10% of total grade)	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 5
16	Final Examination Period	No Class/Readings	Final Exam (TBA) 30% of total grade	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 4

Attendance Policy

Regular student attendance and class participation are essential for students to meet course expectations and to succeed in their studies. The following are benefits associated with attending classes:

- Opportunity to participate in active learning
- Opportunity to demonstrate preparation for class
- Opportunity to engage with the faculty member teaching the course, classmates, and the course material

The following are requirements of the university's attendance policy:

- Students must provide a satisfactory reason for being absent from class, to the course instructor, in advance of missing a class.

- Students must observe protocols for online course attendance (e.g., having camera turned on).

- Students must arrive on time for class and must not depart early from the class. Persistent late arrival at, or early departure from, class meetings may result in being counted as absent from class.

If students fail to attend 20% of the scheduled classes for the semester the following will be the consequence:

- Students will receive a notice that they have been withdrawn from the course, receiving a grade of either W or F (or U).
- W if the 20% absence is reached prior to the deadline for withdrawing from a course with a grade of W.
- F (or U) if the 20% absence is reached after the deadline for withdrawing from a course with a grade of W.

Accommodations for Students of Determination

Students of determination may find they require additional support, services, or considerations. AURAK will endeavor to support students of determination of those with special needs where

resources are available. Accommodations will be provided, for students with verified needs, allowing equal access to educational facilities, programs, services, and activities at AURAK. Accommodations are never applied retroactively – only students who have previously requested and have been approved for supporting accommodations can have them apply to a given academic semester/course. Students needing support must make the request from the Office of Support Services located in Building D.

Other Relevant Policies

A. Academic Integrity

<u>The Honor Code</u>

The American University of Ras Al Khaimah strongly supports the concept of academic integrity and expects students and all other members of the AURAK community to be honest in all academic endeavors. The AURAK Honor Code can be found in the AURAK Student Handbook.

The role of the Honor Code and associated Academic Integrity Policy is to protect the academic integrity of the university, encourage consistent ethical behavior among students, and foster a climate of honorable academic achievement. The Honor Code is an integral part of university life and students are responsible, therefore, for understanding and abiding by the code's provisions. While a student's commitment to honesty and personal integrity is assumed and expected, this Code and associated policy and procedures provides clarity of expectations.

<u>Expectations</u>

Cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms of academic fraud are unacceptable; they are serious violations of university policy. AURAK expects all students to be familiar with university policies on academic integrity. The university will not accept a claim of ignorance – either of the policy itself or of what constitutes academic fraud – as a valid defense against such a charge.

<u>Violations of Academic Integrity</u>

Violations of academic integrity constitute academic fraud. Academic fraud consists of any actions that serves to undermine the integrity of the academic process or that gives the student an unfair advantage, including:

- Inspecting, duplicating or distributing test materials without authorization.

- Cheating, attempting to cheat, or assisting others to cheat – relevant here is the prohibition on being in possession of a mobile telephone or similar electronic device during a test or examination. In case such devices are found with a student, the student will be deemed to have attempted to cheat and will be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

- Altering work after it has been submitted for a grade.

- Plagiarizing.

- Using or attempting to use anything that constitutes unauthorized assistance. ***PLEASE NOTE***: Faculty members may prohibit the use of generative AI, including though not limited to, generative AI such as Open AI ChatGPT and Canva, in completing assignments. When such prohibitions have been communicated by the faculty member, incorporating information from such sources into your assignment submission will be treated as a serious violation of academic integrity expectations.

- Fabricating, falsifying, distorting, or inventing any information, documentation, or citation.

Plagiarism

One of the most common violations of academic integrity is plagiarism. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. However, since each student is responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism, unintentional plagiarism is as unacceptable as intentional plagiarism and thus will bring the same penalties.

Plagiarism – submitting the work of others as one's own - is a serious offense. This includes submitting work obtained from AI writers such as Open AI Chat GPT, as well as other forms of generative AI. In the academic world, plagiarism is theft. Information from sources – whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized – must be given credit through specific citations. When a student paraphrases a work, it is still necessary to cite the original source, even when the information has been provided by generative AI writers and/or sources. Merely rearranging a sentence or changing a few words is not sufficient. The citation style should be appropriate for the discipline and should clearly indicate the beginning and ending of the referenced material. All sources used in the preparation of an academic paper must also be listed with full bibliographic details at the end of the paper, as appropriate in the discipline. ***PLEASE NOTE:*** Faculty members may prohibit the use of generative AI in completing assignments. When such prohibitions have been communicated by the faculty member, incorporating information from such sources into your assignment submission will be treated as a serious violation of academic integrity expectations.

While plagiarism detection software can assist identifying plagiarism, there is no "percentage of matching content" threshold for determining that content in a written assignment has been plagiarized. Indeed, the presentation of a single striking phrase originally written by another without attribution to the original source can constitute plagiarism, even though the percentage of matching content found by plagiarism-checking software might be very small.

<u>Faculty and Student Expectations</u>

- Every student, faculty member, and administrator is responsible for upholding the highest standards of academic integrity. Every member of the AURAK community shall honor the spirit of this policy by refusing to tolerate academic fraud.

- It is the responsibility of the instructor to provide students with additional guidelines for what constitutes "authorized" and "unauthorized" assistance.

- It is the responsibility of every student to see clarification if in doubt about what constitutes 'authorized" and "unauthorized" assistance. In cases involving collaborative work, all students within the collaborative group may be help responsible for violating the code if any member of the group receives, accepts, or utilizes "unauthorized" assistance.

- Students are required to obtain permission prior to submitting work, any part of which was previously or will be submitted in another course. The instructor has the option of accepting, rejecting, or requiring modification of the content of previously or simultaneously submitted work.

A student who suspects that a violation of academic integrity has occurred should report the violation to the dean or to the Office of the Provost. In this report, the student should describe any action taken, such as talking with the person involved or with a faculty or staff member. Every effort will be made to preserve the anonymity of the student reporting the incident;

Possible penalties for academic fraud include: Formal warning, Reduction in grade for the assignment, Reduction in the grade for the course, A failing grade for the assignment, A failing grade (F) in the course, and/or Dismissal or Expulsion from the University.

Please refer to the relevant section in the *Student Handbook* and ensure a clear understanding of the provisions of the University Honor Code and the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

B. Concerns about grades or other course matters.

Students are responsible for their learning experiences. If you are concerned about a class matter, first discuss it with the instructor. If the matter is not resolved, the next step is to meet with the Chair of the department in which the course is taught. If you still have a concern, meet with the Dean of the school in which the course is taught. The matter is likely to be resolved before it reaches that point, but if it is not, then visit the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. Students who decide to "jump to the top" will be referred "back" to the appropriate next step.

C. Assignments

University policy is that assignments are due on the date indicated when the assignment is made. Instructors may refuse to accept late assignments or lower the grade that would be otherwise given.

D. Mobile Phones

All mobile phones and other communication devices should be turned off before entering the classroom. Students may NOT have mobile telephone or other electronic devices in their possession while completing examinations. Any violation will be deemed as having attempted to cheat.

E. Diversity and the Use of English

English is the common language of the AURAK campus for everyone. It is the only language to be used in the classroom. AURAK brings together students and faculty from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, which is one of the strengths of the university. This diversity provides an opportunity to share our different experiences and enlarge our understanding of the world.

APPENDIX

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) : General Education

Program Learning Outcomes At the completion of the program, students should be able to:	
PLO 1	PLO 1 Solve abstract, familiar and non-routine problems without assistance using appropriate information drawn from relevant fields of work or disciplines.
PLO 2	PLO 2 Present collaborative group analyses of topics that include complex ideas and integrate multiple points of view.
PLO 3	PLO 3 Analyze empirical data using appropriate information retrieval and analysis methods, tools and techniques to arrive at informed, verifiable solutions to abstract, familiar and non-routine problems.
PLO 4	PLO 4 Articulate the ethical and moral aspects of possible courses of action in particular situations and explain the consequences which might follow with reference to intercultural issues at regional, national and global levels.

Mapping Course to Program Learning Outcomes : General Education

The learning outcomes of this course contribute to meeting one or more of the program learning outcomes as shown below, with the contribution designated as "high", "medium", or "low":				
	PLO 1	**PLO 2**	**PLO 3**	**PLO 4**
CLO 1	low			medium
CLO 2			low	high
CLO 3	medium	low		low
CLO 4	medium	medium		high
CLO 5		medium	low	high