Vocabulary

*Introduction to Religious Studies*

Fall 2020

# Abrahamic: Islam

Allah

Arabic word for God

caliph

The civil and religious ruler of a Muslim state

hadith

a collection of traditions containing sayings of the prophet Muhammad which, with accounts of his daily practice (the Sunna), constitute the major source of guidance for Muslims apart from the Koran.

Hagar

an Ancient Egyptian servant of Sarah, who gave her to Abraham to bear a child.

Hajj

an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest city for Muslims.

Hegira

Muhammad’s departure from Mecca to Medina in AD 622, prompted by the opposition of the merchants of Mecca and marking the consolidation of the first Muslim community

Ishmael

is the figure known in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as Abraham’s (Ibrahim) son, born to Hagar (Hajar). In Islam, Ishmael is regarded as a prophet (nabi) and an ancestor to Muhammad

Islam

A religion based on the teachings of the prophet Muhammad

Kaaba

Square building in Mecca believed by Muslims to be the house Ibrahim erected for God and the - focus of Muslim worship

mosque

A place of Muslim worship

muezzin

a man who calls Muslims to prayer from the minaret of a mosque

Muhammad

Muhammad the great prophet and founder of Islam.

Muslim

A believer in Islam

nafs

Arabic word occurring in the Quran, literally meaning “self”, and has been translated as “psyche”, “ego” or “soul”

pilgrimage

A journey to a sacred place or shrine - Zakat :: is a form of alms-giving treated in Islam as a religious obligation or tax, which, by Quranic ranking, is next after prayer (salat) in importance

Salah

meaning “prayer”, “supplicationj”, “blessing” and “commendation”

Sawm

fasting from dawn until dusk during Ramadan, one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

Shiite

adherent of one of the two main branches of Islam, followed especially in Iran, that rejects the first three Sunni caliphs and regards Ali, the fourth caliph, as Muhammad’s first true successor

Sufi

a form of Islamic mysticism that emphasizes introspection and spiritual closeness with God

Sunna

Customary procedures of living, specifically the ways and customs of Muhammad

Sunni

the larger of the two main branches of Islam, which differs from Shia in its understanding of the Sunna, its conception of religious leadership, and its acceptance of the first three caliphs.