

## Reli 100. Introduction to Islam: Formation and Expansion

Fall 2018  
OM 02, MWF 12:00-1:00

Professor John W. Kim  
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### Description:

This will be an introductory course on Islam. We will study a variety of Islamic traditions (Shari'ah law, Sufism, Shi'i piety, kingship) in the classical period and early modern world, with some attention given to the legacies of these traditions in the contemporary world. We will pay close attention to the quest for unity and a singular Islam in the face of the great variety of Muslim practices and perspectives in the world past and present.

You should do the appropriate reading in advance of class. We will discuss readings and sketch out critical issues for the topic at hand, both in terms of the subject matter and debates about interpretation. In these sessions we will determine together the sorts of questions that will appear on the final exam.

In early October, you will settle on a topic for your review essay (due 11/5). These essays can be on any topic in Islamics, and will involve reviewing critical literature (3-4 books) on that topic. See *Religious Studies Review* for models of the collective book review. You have a wide choice of topics (see p. 4).

### Books for purchase:

Carl W. Ernst. *Following Muhammad*. University of North Carolina, 2003

*The Islamic World*. Eds. William H. McNeill and Marilyn R. Waldman.

The University of Chicago Press. Any edition.

Amin Maalouf. *Leo Africanus*. Trans. Sluglett. New Amsterdam. 1992

Alex Haley and Malcolm X. *Autobiography of Malcolm X*. any edition

...other  
readings  
on Moodle

### Evaluation

35% review essay (topic due Oct 5; review due Nov 5)

35% final exam

10% class participation

10% class presentation

10% review of *Autobiography of Malcolm X* (due Sept. 10)

Accommodations are available for students with documented

disabilities. Contact [disabilityservices@macalester.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@macalester.edu) to make an appointment.

Students are encouraged to address any learning needs or accommodations with me as soon as possible. Additional information :

<https://www.macalester.edu/disabilityservices/information-for-students/>

## Schedule

### Introductions (9/5-9/12)

What is “Islam/ *islam*”? Who is a “Muslim/ *muslim*”?

Malcolm X

**Read:** *Autobiography of Malcolm X*, cc 10-19

Ernst, xiii-69

Visiting Lecturer: Professor Bill Hart 9/10

### Pre-Islamic World (9/14-9/21)

Byzantines vs. Persians

Pre-Islamic Arabia

Abyssinia, Yemen

**Read:** F. Donner, *Muhammad and the Believers*

G. Fowden, *Empire to Commonwealth: Consequences of Monotheism in Late Antiquity*

### The Prophet Muhammad and his times (9/24-26)

**NO CLASS 9/28**

**Read:** Ernst, 71-92

### The Qur'an (10/1-10/5)

**Read:** Ernst, 93-105

*The Islamic World*, 27-67

Topics for Review Essays due 10/5

### The Early Caliphate and the Origins of Shi'ism (10/8-10/10)

**NO CLASS 10/12**

**Read:** Ernst, 108-162

M.G.S. Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam*, I:187-279

### Shari'ah, Fiqh (10/15-17)

**Read:** Islamic World, 135-142

Kecia Ali, *Sexual Ethics and Islam*, introduction

Hodgson, I: 315-358

### Sexual Ethics (10/19-22)

Read: Kecia Ali, tbd.

Visiting Lecturer: Professor Susanna Drake

### Sufism (10/24-29) FALL BREAK 10/26)

Al Ghazali and Rumi

Read: Ernst, 164-197

*Islamic World*, 206-247

### Review: Styles of Muslim Piety (10/31-11/2)

Student Reviews Due; class presentations (11/5-11/9)

Read: Begin *Leo Africanus*

The Islamic World, 1000-1500 C.E. (11/12-16)

Read: Finish *Leo Africanus*

**\*\*\*Thanksgiving Week (NO classes 11/19-23)\*\*\***

The Islamic World, 1500-1700 C.E. (11/26-11/30)

Ottomans, Safavids, Mughals

Read: Islamic World, 309-391

Reflections on the Legacies of the Classical Islamic World (12/3-12/7)

Read: Ernst, 200-213

Review and Final Exam in class (12/10-12/12)

Possible Review Essay Topics:

Saladin

Rabi'a

Rumi and Persian Sufi poets

Al Hallaj

"Hagarism" (P. Crone)

Pre-Islamic Arabia: pagans, poets, Christians, Jews

Mughal emperors: Akbar to Aurangzeb

Ottoman millets (policy toward Christians and Jews)

Muslim philosophers and the Greek tradition (Platonists, Aristotelians)

The Fatimids and the Druze

Shari'ah Law

The Prophet's Wives

The Qur'an

Baghdad's Golden Age

Jerusalem

Islamic Spain

Islamic Concept of the 'People of the Book'

Persian kingship

Music

Sufi Orders

Conversion to Islam (R. Bulliet)

Ibn Arabi, Ibn Khaldun, Ibn Battuta, al Khwarizmi, *et al.*

