Instructor: Elysia Guzik  
Email: eguzik@uwaterloo.ca  
Office hours: By appointment  
Office location: PAS 1058  

Classroom: HH 334  
Class Time: Mondays 6:30 PM – 9:20 PM

Land Acknowledgement

This course takes place on the University of Waterloo campus, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Haudenosaunee of the Six Nations of the Grand River, and on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. I acknowledge Indigenous peoples who live and work on this land. I appreciate the opportunity to study and work here, and I seek to continue to understand my place in this land’s history and strive towards reconciliation.

Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to Islamic beliefs and practices. It will review the development, contributions, and influence of Muslim communities during the classical and modern periods. The course will discuss the life of the Prophet Muhammad, foundational teachings of the Qur'an (in English translation), the early Muslim community, and Muslim empires. The course will also review developments in Islamic theology, philosophy, and spirituality. Throughout the course, students will explore the diversity within one of the major world religions.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:  
• Describe key events, people, and theological principles throughout Islamic history.  
• Analyze how Islam is presented in documentary films.  
• Develop skills to read and write critically about religion.  
• Apply critical reading techniques to prepare for and participate in group discussions.  
• Research a topic with reference to peer-reviewed scholarly sources, and write an 8-page (double-spaced) paper using a consistent citation style.

Assessment
Assessment is based on participation in class discussions, four short writing responses, and a final paper (including its associated outline, draft bibliography, and in-class presentation).

Writing responses, the paper outline and draft bibliography, and the final paper are to be submitted via the Dropbox tool on LEARN.

1. Participation (10%)
2. Four Writing Responses (10% each)
3. Paper Outline and Draft Bibliography (15%)
4. Final Paper and Presentation (35%)

1. Participation is based on regular attendance and engagement with class readings and discussions. Attendance will be recorded. In addition to attending class, positive expressions of participation include prompt arrival, actively listening to lectures and class discussions, respectfully contributing questions/comments to class discussions, silencing mobile devices during class time, and refraining from unnecessary laptop/technology use during class time. To help measure these behaviours, a technique known as “ticket-out-the-door” will be used. At four unannounced classes throughout the term, a “ticket” will be distributed. This “ticket” will provide an opportunity to briefly review your understanding of a topic or theme covered in class. You will complete the “ticket” and submit it to the course instructor upon departure from class.

If you expect to be absent from class, please notify the course instructor in advance. In cases of absence, you are responsible for finding out about material covered in class. You are also responsible for reading assigned materials for each class. Each class will include a lecture and discussions of weekly readings. A documentary film series about Islamic history and culture will also be presented.

2. Each 250-word Writing Response should critically engage with at least one course reading and/or documentary film (with the exception of Writing Response 1, which is based solely on your personal reflections). Due dates are outlined in the Course Schedule. A list of topics will be provided in class.

3. In preparation for the Final Paper, you are required to submit an Outline and Draft Bibliography. The due date is listed in the Course Schedule. Further details will be provided in class.

4. The Final Paper will review research on a topic of your choice (approved in advance by the course instructor). During the last week of class, you will also give a 10-minute Presentation on this paper.

**Required Textbooks**

(Available on Reserve at Dana Porter Library. These books are also available for purchase through the University of Waterloo Book Store for students who wish to have their own copy.)


**Required Chapters and Articles**


Shaikh, S. (2003). Transforming feminisms: Islam, women, and gender justice. In O. Safi (Ed.), *Progressive Muslims: on justice, gender and pluralism*. London: Oneworld. [Available online via library catalogue at: https://primo.tug-libraries.on.ca/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?fn=search&ct=search&initialSearch=true&mode=Basic&tab=default_tab&index=1&dum=true&srt=rank&vid=WATERLOO&frbg=&tb=t&vl%28freeText0%29=Progressive+Muslims%3A+on+justice%2C+gender+and+pluralism&scp.scps=scope%3A%28CENTRAL%22%29%2Cscope%3A%28GUELPH%29%2Cscope%3A%28LAURIER%29%2Cscope%3A%28WATERLOO%29%2Cscope%3A%28WATERLOOALL%29%2Cscope%3A%28GUELPHALL%29%2Cscope%3A%28TUGPROCESSALL%29&vl%28631150464UI1%29=all_items&vl%28281UIStartWith0%29=contains&vl%28397444793UI0%29=any&vl%28397444793UI0%29=any&vl%28397444793UI0%29=any&vl%28397444793UI0%29=any]


In-class Documentary Film


Supplementary Readings, Reference Materials, and Films

(Available at Dana Porter Library and/or Wilfrid Laurier University Library. These readings are listed as recommendations for students who wish to write research papers on these themes, and for students who wish to pursue further studies of Islam.)


Khatun, N. (2016). Imagining Muslims as the ‘Other’ in Muslim political films. *Journal of Arab & Muslim Media Research, 9*(1), 41-60.


Cambridge, UK: Islamic Texts Society.


**Course Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required readings</th>
<th>Supplementary readings</th>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>Muslim Empires Part I: Umayyads, ‘Abbasids, and Fatimids</td>
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<td>Armstrong 2002 pp. 41-65, 81-111</td>
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<td>Makdisi 1961</td>
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<td>Shepard 2014 pp. 47-52</td>
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<td>Bloom &amp; Blair 2002</td>
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<td>Hawting 2000</td>
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<td>Hodgson 1974</td>
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<td>Khalidi 1985</td>
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<td>Lapidus 2002 pp. 56-74</td>
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<td>Grunebaum 1970</td>
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<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td>Writing Response 3 DUE</td>
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<td>Muslim Empires Part II: Mongols, Safavids, Ottomans, and Mughals</td>
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<td>Armstrong 2002 pp. 115-138</td>
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<td>Islam: Empire of Faith (“Part 3: The Ottomans”) film screening in class</td>
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<td>Hodgson 1974</td>
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<td>Lapidus 2002 pp. 234-241</td>
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<td>Schimmel 2004</td>
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*NOTE: No class on Monday, February 18 (Family Day).

Have a restful Reading Week!
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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>Final Paper DUE</td>
<td>Student Paper Presentations</td>
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**Policy on Late Assignments**

If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting an assignment on time, please consult with the course instructor before the due date. Extensions for assignments are at the course instructor’s discretion. Late assignments that have not been granted an extension in advance will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day.

**Email Policy**

You are welcome to contact the course instructor via email regarding course material. Messages should include your full name. The subject line should include the course number. Please allow two business days for replies.
Academic Integrity

As members of the University of Waterloo community, you are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility to help maintain a culture of academic integrity. Students are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to take responsibility for one’s actions, work fairly in groups, and avoid committing an offence (e.g. plagiarism, cheating). Please refer to the university’s policy at: www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity.

For further guidance on academic integrity, please contact the course instructor, academic advisor, or Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies.

For information about categories of offences and types of penalties, please refer to Policy 71 – Student Discipline at: www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm.

For information on typical penalties, please check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties at: www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances or Policy 71 – Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes she/he/they has grounds for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 – Student Appeals: www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

Students Requiring Accommodations

AccessAbility Services, located in Ira G. Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require accommodations to support successful learning, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term: http://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/.

Resources on academic advising, writing support, and mental health

Your well-being and safety are important. For mental health resources and services, please refer to Campus Wellness Counselling Services at: http://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/counselling-services/. Counselling Services is located at Ira G. Needles Hall addition, 2nd floor or by calling 519-888-4567 ext. 32655. Resources and tips are also available at: http://uwaterloo.ca/mental-health-research/clinical-services-resources/resources-and-links and at: http://uwaterloo.ca/watsafe/support-resources.

Health Services is located at the Health Services building across from the Student Life Centre (SLC) or by calling 519-888-4096.
If you are in crisis or feel unsafe, please refer to emergency contacts at:
http://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/urgent-help-and-emergency-contacts
UW Police 519-888-4567 ext. 22222 (Emergency services on campus 24/7)
After-hours contacts:
Grand River Hospital 519-749-4300
St. Mary’s Hospital 519-744-3311
Good2Talk 1-866-925-5454
Here 24/7 1-844-437-3247
Kitchener-Waterloo Sexual Assault Support Centre 519-741-8633
Telecare Cambridge Distress Line 519-658-5455

For writing support, please visit the Writing and Communication Centre’s website at:
http://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/ Here, you will find writing resources and
information about workshops, English speaking and writing practice, and booking appointments.

Your undergraduate faculty advisors are here to help facilitate an enriching academic experience.
Please visit the Registrar’s Office website for links to academic advisors from each faculty:
http://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/current-students/advisors.

Shuttle Service

University of Waterloo Shuttle Service is a complimentary shuttle service funded by the
University through undergraduate and graduate student ancillary fees. It operates seven nights a
week, all year round, from 7:00pm to 2:00am.

Two 7 passenger vehicles are used for the on campus shuttle service. Each on campus shuttle has
a route with designated stops. One will circle Ring Road and go to Columbia Lake Village and
the affiliated colleges. The other will circle Ring Road and go to University of Waterloo Place.
The routes include stopping at all bus stops on Ring Road. The boundaries for the on campus
shuttle service is as follows: Lester/Columbia, Lester/University, Albert/Seagram and
Westcourt Place and Westmount.

The off campus shuttle is temporarily suspended until further notice.

Please direct comments or concerns about shuttle service to:
University of Waterloo Police Service
uwpolice@uwaterloo.ca
(519) 888-4911 or on-campus at ext. 22222