

Introduction to Islamic Spirituality

Summer 2007

Sunday, 6/17/2007 at 3:30-5:30 PM

Monday-Friday on 6/18-6/23/2007 at 9:00-4:00 PM

Instructor: **Imam Yahya Hendi**

(202) 277-7258

ymh@georgetown.edu

Course description:

This course covers the various aspects of Islam as a religion, a culture, and a civilization. After a survey of the basic beliefs, which constitute the essence of the religion, the focus shifts to the various manifestations, which embody them: ethics, law, and jurisprudence; family, social, and political structures; philosophy, mysticism, and the arts. Some of the contemporary issues that face the Muslim world in modern times will be reviewed.

This course explores the situation of Islam and the Muslim world through the nineteenth and the twentieth century. After a brief historical introduction, we will investigate the political changes that took place in the Muslim world through that period, their impact and the emergence of competing political theories. The state of Muslim culture and Islamic law before and after colonialism will be explored. The course is meant to give a brief picture of the Muslim world and the issues that face the Muslims today. Some knowledge of Islamic theology is advisable.

Course objectives:

1. To obtain basic knowledge of the religion of Islam.
2. To gain knowledge of the Muslim culture.
3. To learn about the sources of Islamic theology, history and ethics.
4. To understand the Qur'an, the Muslim holy scripture.
5. To become acquainted with Islamic rituals and creed.
6. To discuss issues of concern like (Jihad, women, terrorism)
7. To discuss how Islam related to both Judaism and Christianity.

Text books:

Required for weekly classes:

1. Dirks, Jerald F.

Understanding Islam: A guide for the Judea-Christian Reader

Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications, 2004.

2. Naser, Seyyed Hossein

The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity (Hardcover)

Required for research:

1. Naser, Seyyed Hossein

Science and Civilization in Islam

Cambridge, UK: Islamic Texts Society, 1987.

2. Yehiya Emerick,

The Complete idiot's Guide to understanding Islam,

Alpha publications, USA 2002.

3 Sachiko Murata and William Chittick,

The Vision of Islam,

Paragon House, USA 1994.

4. Muhammad Abdel Haleem,

Understanding the Qur'an,

I.B.Tauris Publishers, USA, 1999.

5. Michael Wolfe,

Taking back Islam,

Rodale Inc., USA, 2002.

6. Khaled Abou El-Fadl,

The Place of Tolerance in Islam

Course requirements:

1. 25%: Attendance and class participation.
2. 20%: Typed (double-spaced) answers to three homework questions.
3. 35%: One (15 pages) paper.
4. 20%: two book reviews.

Extra credit will be given if the student does any of the followings:

1. Write extra essays. (2.5%)
2. Read extra books. (2.5%)
3. Write reviews of Muslim Magazines or web-sites on Islam. (2.5%)

Course Schedule:

June 17: General Introduction to the class. (Video)

June 18: The core beliefs of Islam. (video)

June 19: Pillars of Islam, Islamic rituals and spirituality. (video)

June 20: The Qur'an

June 21: Life of Muhammad (video)

Islamic Family and women in Islam Islamic Ethics.

June 22: Islamic history Message film and Modern Islamic history.