University of Florida
Center for African Studies
&
Department of Religion
Islam in Africa

AFS 4935 section 1384
AFS 6905 section 139A
REL 4936 section 023F
REL 5365 section 11C0

Instructor: Dr. Terje Ostebo

Course Description:
Islam in Africa provides an overview over the development of Muslim societies in Africa from early history (7th century) to the present with a regional focus on North Africa, the Sahara, sub-Saharan West Africa, the Horn of Africa, and East Africa. The course will examine processes of Islamization and the emergence of local Muslim cultures, contemporary issues, and will expose students to the diversity of Islam in Africa. At the same time, the course will focus on current issues in contemporary African Islam, and aims at providing students with skills to assess issues common to many African Muslim societies, such as dynamics of religious reform, Islam and the state, Islam and socio-economical developments, and questions related to ethnic and religious identities.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course you should have an:
- Overview over the history of Islam in Africa
- Understanding of the Islamization processes in Africa
- Understanding of the variety found within Islam in Africa
- Understanding of the intersection of African Islam with social, political, and cultural issues
- Understanding of interrelations between Islam and other religions in Africa
- Understanding of the main currents within contemporary African Islam

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria
The final grade will be determined by the total scored for:
- Attendance (10 %). We will circulate an attendance sheet, which you should sign. Signing for others is considered Academic dishonesty.
- Participation / In-class presentations (15 %)
- 3 Response papers (25 % each)

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<th>A-</th>
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<th>C+</th>
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Active Participation and In-class presentations: Students are expected to attend ALL classes and participate actively in class discussions. Active and informed participation demands that students read the material carefully before coming to class. In-class presentations mean that you do 10-min presentations on selected topics + acting as discussants for other’s presentations.

3 Response Papers (5-6 pp): These response papers will address key issues and methodological and theoretical questions raised in the readings, lectures and class discussions. The objective of these papers is to encourage students to read the materials closely and articulate their own informed and analytically nuanced positions. The more you engage the reading, the more likely you will receive a high mark. The format for the papers is double space / font size 12.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria – Graduate Section
The graduate students will follow the lectures for the course, do the readings for each lecture and submit the assigned papers. In order to get the course registered as a graduate course, there are, however, some additional work as listed below.

In addition to the 3 response papers and the presentation, you will have 3 assignments which we will decide upon together. The assignment is to write a review\(^1\) of book(s) and articles/chapters – organized under different segments. The review of the books shall be 5-6 pages (for each book) and the review of articles/chapters shall be 2-3 pages (for each article/chapter). The format for the papers is double space / font size 12. You will also meet with me 3 times (1/2 hour) during the semester to discuss the readings and assignments. These meetings will be during my office hours, and you should email me in advance with your questions and/or the texts which you would like me to comment on.

The final grade will be determined by the total scored for:
- Attendance (10 %). We will circulate an attendance sheet, which you should sign. Signing for others is considered Academic dishonesty.
- Participation / In-class presentations (15 %)
- 5 papers (15 % each)

Make-ups and Attendance:
Make-up exams and tests will only be allowed in unavoidable circumstances or for compelling reasons that can be convincingly documented. Similarly, absence(s) will detract points except unavoidable ones proven with satisfactory explanation/documentation.

Student Honor Code:
As a UF student, you have agreed to follow the university’s Honor Code, meaning you will not give or receive unauthorized assistance in completing assignments. Violations can result in failing an exam, paper or the course. For more information, see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php. On all work submitted for credit by University of Florida students, the following pledge is implied, “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” Please note that acts of plagiarism include:

\(^1\) A review is more than a synopsis; it entails giving your (argued) opinions on the text
• Turning in a paper or assignment that was written by someone else.
• Copying verbatim a sentence or paragraph of text from the work of another author without proper citation and quotation marks.
• Paraphrasing or restating in your own words, text or ideas written by someone else without proper citation.

For more info, see http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html

Disabilities:
“If you are a student with a disability and would like to request disability-related accommodations, you are encouraged to contact me and the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565.”

Required Reading:
(Additional readings are found at the end of the syllabus)

Books (for purchase; also on course reserve):

Articles/book-chapters (on course reserve):


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**Class Calendar and Reading Schedule:**

*Note: This document is subject to change, students are responsible for all changes announced in class.*

**Week 1 (1/7-11): Introduction and Course Preview**

Readings: Loimeier 2009

**Week 2 (1/14-18): Understanding Islam & Africa**

Readings: Robinson 2004 (pp 3-23)

**Week 3 (1/21-25): African Islam & Islam in Africa: Perspectives and Issues**

Readings: Robinson 2004 (pp 27-59); Seesemann 2006 (pp 229-250); Hanretta 2005


Readings: Cruise O’Brien 1988 (pp 1-31); Levitzion/Pouwels 2000 (pp 441-476); Brenner 2000 (pp. 324-349)

Additional readings: Constantin 1988 (pp 67-90); Martin 1976; Hiskett 1984 (pp 244-260); Lewis 1998 (pp 1-45)

**Graduate section: 1st paper due 2/1 (5pm)**

**Week 5 (2/4-8): Practicing Islam: African Traditional Religions**

Readings: Levitzion/Pouwels 2000 (pp 477-517); Masquelier 2008; Handloff 1982
1st response paper due: 2/8 (5pm)

**Week 6 (2/11-15): Islam in North Africa**
Readings: Levitzion/Pouwels 2000 (pp 21-36); Robinson 2004 (pp 91-107)
Additional readings: Abun-Nasr 1987 (pp 11-25); Waterbury 1970 (pp15-32); Hiskett 1994 (pp 53-66)

**Week 7 (2/18-22): Islam in West Africa**
Readings: Levitzion/Pouwels 2000 (pp 63-91, 117-167); Robinson 2004 (pp 124-152)
Additional readings: Hiskett 1984; Levzion 1973; Curtin 1971; Hiskett 1994 (pp 93-134); Levzion 1979 (207-216)

**Week 8 (2/25-3/1): Islam in the Horn of Africa**
Readings: Levitzion/Pouwels 2000 (pp 227-250); Abbink 1998; Robinson 2004 (pp 108-23)
Additional readings: Hiskett 1994 (pp 135-150); Hussein Ahmed 1993; Martin 1976 (pp 177-201)

Graduate section: 2nd paper due 3/1 (5pm)

Spring-break

**Week 9 (3/11-15): Islam in East Africa**
Readings: Levitzion/Pouwels 2000 (pp 37-59, 251-302); Robinson 2004 (pp 153-168)
Additional readings: Bang 2003; Hiskett 1994 (pp 151-174); Pouwels 1987

**Week 10 (3/18-22): Christian-Muslim Relations**
Readings: Haafkens 1995 (pp 300-313); Ostebo (2008); Chesworth 2006 (pp. 159-186)
Additional readings: Griswold (2010)

2nd response paper due: 3/22 (5pm)


**Week 12 (4/1-5): Islam and Islamic Reform in Africa**
Readings: Loimeier 2003; Soares/Otayek 2007 (pp 1-24); Rosander 1997 (pp 1-27); Ostebo 2012
Additional readings: Niezen 1990

**Week 13 (4/8-12): Cases of Islamic Reform: East Africa**
Readings: Turner 2009; Levitzion/Pouwels 2000 (pp 349-369); Soares/Otayek 2007 (pp 137-176)

Graduate section: 3rd paper due 4/5 (5pm)

**Week 14 (4/15-19): Cases of Islamic Reform: Horn of Africa**
Readings: Ostebo 2008; Ostebo 2013; Abbink 2011; Marchal 2009
Additional readings: Ostebo 2010; Somalia's Islamists (ICG Report 2005)
Week 15 (4/23): Conclusions
(Classes end December 7)

3rd response paper due: 4/26 (5pm)

Reference/Additional Reading:
Griswold, E. (2010): The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault line between Christianity and Islam, Farar, Straus and Giroux