

ISLAM AND MODERNITY (HIS-REL 295-02)
F

GRINNELL COLLEGE

Course Readings and Learning Goals

I have kept the readings at a manageable level. In return, I expect that you will come to class each day having completed them. You will see that I make extensive use of reserve readings (any reading that is not from a required text). Please treat these as you would treat readings from required texts. They appear in the syllabus with an (R) beside them. You can find them (1) via P-Web or, in some cases, on the course site itself.

Required Texts:

Esack, *On Being Muslim*

Hallaq, *An Introduction to Islamic Law*

Kadri, *Heaven on Earth*

Tripp, *Islam and the Moral Economy*

Zaman, *The Ulama in Contemporary Islam*

The readings from the first half of the course are largely scholarly in nature and will provide us with a strong foundation for the second half of the course, which includes much more engagement with primary sources. What follows is a general reading guide that will help you prepare for class and for writing assignments.

As you complete the reading for each secondary text, please always read for argument. You can do so with a few questions in mind:

Can you identify a sentence or sentences that constitute the thesis statement?

Can you state the author's thesis – even regarding a single chapter or article – succinctly in your own words?

If part of a larger work, how does a particular chapter fit into the bigger picture?

If a stand-alone piece, can you relate this reading to another that we have completed in the course?

Can you identify at least two examples the author uses to support their argument?

From a skill-building perspective, then, the **first and second learning goals** of this course are (1) reading scholarly sources for argument and presenting that argument and exemplary evidence in succinct terms and (2) cultivating the ability to offer contextually sensitive readings of primary source documents of different kinds.

Course Grading and Policies

Participation: 20%

As the weighty percentage indicates, I consider your participation in this course to be an essential component of its success. Participation includes regular attendance. In this vein, anything beyond two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your participation grade. (I realize that things come up – the key to managing your various responsibilities is open communication.) Chronic tardiness will not help your cause, either. However, participation includes much more than attendance. Your participation grade is a reflection of your _____ with the course. I understand that not everyone chooses to speak in

of your

Thursday, September 6: Working with the concept of religion

Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World*, 325-365 (R)

Tayob, *Religion in Modern Islamic Discourse*, 1-16 (R)

FOUNDATIONS: ISLAM AND COLLECTIVE LIFE

Tuesday, September 11

Kadri, *Heaven on Earth*, 3-52

Thursday, September 13: **Short Assignment Due (in class)**

Kadri, *Heaven on Earth*, 53-70

Hallaq, *An Introduction to Islamic Law*, 1-37

Tuesday, September 18

Kadri, *Heaven and Earth*, 71-106

Hallaq, *An Introduction to Islamic Law*, 38-56

Thursday, September 20

Hallaq, *An Introduction to Islamic Law*, 57-82

THEORIZING TRADITION AND MODERNITY

Tuesday, September 25

Salvatore and Masud, *Islam and Modernity*, pp. 3-56 (R)

Thursday, September 27

Asad, "The Idea of an Anthropology of Islam" (R)

Tuesday, October 2: **In-class exam**

S

Thursday, November 8

Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, 161-192 (“‘Abduh’s Egyptian Disciples: Islam and Modern Civilization”) (R)

‘Ali ‘abd al-Raziq, “The Problem of Caliphate” (R)

Tuesday, November 13

Hallaq, *An Introduction to Islamic Law*, 115-162

ON CREATING A TRULY MUSLIM SOCIETY

Thursday, November 15

Thursday, December 6

Farid Esack, *On Being a Muslim: Finding a Religious Path in the World Today*

Tuesday, December 11

Farid Esack, *On Being a Muslim: Finding a Religious Path in the World Today*

Thursday, December 13

Wrap-up