



American University of Ras Al Khaimah

I. Instructor Information:

Name: Dr. Omar Fajjawi

Dr. Nowar Nizar Al-ani

Office Hours: Dr. Omar Fajjawi **From Sun - Thu (12:00-1:00)**

omar.shehadeh@aurak.ae

Dr. Nowar Nizar Al-ani **Sun, Tue and Thu (10:00-11:00)**

Mon, Wed (9:30-11:00)

nowar.alani@aurak.ae

Please observe these office hours or make an appointment for a different time.

II. Course: Introduction to Islam in World Culture

Course Credit Hours: 3

Co-requisites: None

Final Exam Date: January 14, 2015 (5:00-7:00)

III. Course Description:

The course provides an introduction to the basic sources and historical contexts for the origins of Islam; some of the basic spiritual principles expressed in those sources; the contexts and practices that exemplify the spiritual principles; contributions Islam has made to civilization and to the political, social and cultural identity of the UAE. It will illustrate the concept of Islamic studies through a global, interdisciplinary and comparative approach and examine contemporary global and local issues that impact and are impacted by Islamic culture.

IV. Course Materials and Basic Resources:

Textbooks: Carl W. Ernst. *Following Muhammed: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World*. The University of North Carolina Press 2004. ISBN: 978-0807855775

Ahmad Von Denffer. *Ulum al Qur'an: An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'an*. The Islamic Foundation; Revised edition. ISBN 978-0860372486.

Werner Ende and Udo Steinbach. Eds. *Islam in the World Today: A Handbook of Politics, Religion, Culture, and Society*. N.Y.: Cornell UP. 2010. ISBN: 978-0801445712

Reference Books:

Kenneth Cragg. *The Event of the Quran*. 2006.

George Saliba. *Islamic Science and the making of the European Renaissance*. 2009.

Farid Esack. *The Quran: A User's Guide*. 2005.

Other materials and supplies:

Web resources:

1- [www. Islamonline.com](http://www.Islamonline.com).

2- [www. Discoverislam.net](http://www.Discoverislam.net).

3- [www. Fatwaonline.com](http://www.Fatwaonline.com)

V. Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

Goals:

The course enables the student to:

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course the student should be able to:

SLO 1	Recognize the history, culture and practices of Islam, and identify key Islamic scholars, thinkers and their contributions and apply all the Islamic teachings in their daily life.
SLO 2	Identify the contribution of Islamic civilization to other civilizations, Also to Understand all the basic principles and concepts of Islam.
SLO 3	Analyze critical and analytical frameworks and comparative approaches across a wide variety of issues relating to the Middle East & Islamic world within a global context
SLO 4	Communicate effectively with different approaches to jurisprudence, religion, economic issues and human rights within the Middle Eastern & Islamic world from a comparative, international and multicultural perspective
SLO 5	Demonstrate the conceptual dilemmas relating to the East-West differences and problems of construction and implementation of "universal values" and develop an East-West dialogue on contemporary conflicts

VI. Weekly Topics and Assignments

Tentative Schedule

Week/Date	Chapter No./ Title	Topics/In-Class Activities	Assignment Due Dates	SLO
1	Sources of Islam			1
2	The World of Islam: A Brief Historical Survey			2
3,4	The Islamic Belief 1. The pillars of Faith. 2. The pillars of Islam. 3. The characteristics of Islamic belief. 4. The impact of Islamic belief on the individual. 5. Trust in ALLAH almighty. 6. Livelihood.			1
5	Islamic Studies in a Global Context: An Overview			3
6	Conceptual Frameworks and Ethics; Code of Conduct			3
7	Islamic Economics in Practice			4
8	Media Representations: Reporting Islam			5
9,10,11	Islam and Science • The origin of life			1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmology • Big-bang • Speed of light in the Qur'an • The amazing split of the moon • Qur'an and Embryology • Qur'an and cerebrum • Earthquakes and volcano in the Qur'an • Zamzaw water • Sewak • Rivers and seas • Time in the Qur'an • Mountains 			
12	Islamic Painting, Representational Art, Graphic Art and Architecture			
13	Muslim Transnationalism: Networks, Brotherhoods and Diaspora			5
14,15	<p>Islamic code for eating and drinking</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health care ethics. 2. Understanding healthy diet and the practical rules of eating and drinking. 3. Prohibited food and drink in Islam. 4. Effects of prohibited foods, intoxicants and ingredients on humans and behavior. 			1
16	The human rights and social system in Islam			5

VII. Evaluation of Learning

The grade breakdown is as follows:

Methods	Dates	Weights
Mid Semester Assessment		20%
Class assessment		50%
Final Exam		30%

VIII. Grading System and Scale

University course work is measured in terms of quantity and quality. A credit normally represents one hour per week of lecture or recitation or not fewer than two hours per week of independent or laboratory work throughout a semester. The number of credits is a measure of quantity. The grade is a measure of quality. The university system for undergraduate grading is as follows:

Undergraduate Grading Scale		
Grade	Score	Quality Points
A	90 – 100	4
A-	87 – 89	3.7
B+	84 – 86	3.3
B	80 – 83	3
B-	77- 79	2.7
C+	74 – 76	2.3
C	70 – 73	2
C-	67 – 69	1.7
D+	64 –66	1.3
D	60 – 63	1
F	0 – 59	0

IX. Methodologies for Teaching and Learning:

There will be lectures, the class discussions will be an integral part of the learning process where ideas are exchanged and diverse perspectives shared. Other methods such as single and group presentations, responses to video content and other active learning strategies will also be used in class.

X. Relevant Policies

Relevant policies [Except for the policy on academic misconduct, the inclusion of the following is only suggested and is at the discretion of the instructor].

A. Academic Misconduct. A. Academic Misconduct:

The Honor Code and Honor System

The Honor Code is an integral part of university life. Students are responsible, therefore, for understanding the code's provisions. Cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing of academic work and related materials constitute Honor Code violations. In the spirit of the code, a student's word is a declaration of good faith acceptable as truth in all academic matters. To maintain an academic community according to these standards, students and faculty must report all alleged violations to the Honor Committee.

AURAK expects its students to uphold high standards of academic integrity and conduct. In particular, students are required to:

- Attend classes regularly and punctually.
- Be actively involved in class discussions and other course related classroom activities.
- Complete assignments on time.
- Meet the requirements for course and program completion.
- Abide by high standards of academic integrity, ethics, and honesty.
- Refrain from cheating on homework and examinations, plagiarizing other people's work by submitting it as their own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty.
- Adhere to the published test or examination rules and regulations.
- Make every effort to maintain good academic standing.

Given the internet and easy access to information and knowledge sources, the University is committed to students' learning in an ethical manner. For all academic assignments, project work, and presentations, students need to ensure that due acknowledgement is given to the source of any information which they incorporate in their work. The following are some examples of academic misconduct:

- Cheating/using unfair means in examinations
- Significant paraphrasing in written academic work that is unacknowledged
- Unacknowledged use of information or ideas unless such ideas are commonplace
- Citing sources which student has not read or referred to
- Breaching the word limit of assignments and mentioning wrong word count
- Plagiarism

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's ideas, words, projects, artwork, phrasing, sentence structure or other work without properly acknowledging the ownership (source) of the property (item). Plagiarism is dishonest because it misrepresents the work of someone else as one's own. It is intellectual theft as it robs others of credit for their work. Plagiarism takes many forms including:

- Using someone else's words without putting those words in quotation marks and providing full information about their source, sufficient information so that another person could easily locate the words that are being quoted, whether it is in an article, a book, or on the web.
- Using unique, original ideas, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or other materials, etc. from a single source or a variety of sources such as a text, journal, web page, electronic source, design, artwork, etc. in one's work without citing all sources. For a student found plagiarizing, the punishment will be a failing grade in the assignment without the right to redo the assignment up to a failing grade in the course.

Examples of Cheating. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Copying from another student's paper during an exam, or allowing or encouraging another student to copy from your paper during an exam.

2. Having someone else take your exam in your place, or taking an exam for someone else.
3. Obtaining unauthorized access to exams and accepting exams obtained by unauthorized access.

Examples of Plagiarism. Acts of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following

1. Handing in as 'original', work prepared by someone else or preparing/completing someone else's work.
2. Copying from a book or other publication without citing sources.
3. Using the same work to satisfy the requirements of two or more courses (during the same or different terms).
4. Having someone else rewrite a rough draft or rewriting a rough draft that is not your own work.

Violations of plagiarism are subject to evaluation according to the criterion of "reasonable doubt". The student's right to appeal and the procedures to be followed in carrying out the appeal of the University's decision is clearly stated in the *Student Handbook*.

Any violations of the University's academic rules, regulations or directives are reported to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs and may result in one of the following disciplinary measures.

- Verbal or written warning
- Repeating the term
- Dismissal from the University

Please refer to the relevant section in the *Handbook* and ensure a clear understanding of the provisions of the University honor code and honor system in order to avoid infringement of the policy and attendant penalization.

B. Concerns about grades or other course matters. Students are responsible for their learning experiences. If you are concerned about a class matter, first discuss it with the instructor. If the matter is not resolved, the next step is to meet with the Program Chair. If you still have a concern, meet with the Dean. The matter is likely to be resolved before it reaches that point, but if it is not, then the following positions are next on the organization chart: the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and, finally, the Vice Chancellor. Students who decide to "jump to the top" will be referred back to the appropriate next step.

C. Assignments. University policy is that assignments are due on the date assigned. Instructors may refuse to accept late assignments or lower the grade that would be otherwise given.

D. Attendance. University policy is that students are to attend all classes and to arrive on time. Verified emergencies may require an absence or delay, but habitual tardiness or absence affects your learning and disrupts the class. Your presence is important

since student contributions are a significant part of classroom activity and absence deprives others of your contributions.

According to current University Regulations for attendance,

Student with 2 absences: receives 5% warning

Student with 3 absences: receives 10% warning

Student with 5 absences: receives 15% and fails the course

E. Mobile Phones: All mobile phones, pagers and/or other communication devices should be turned off before entering the classroom.

F. Diversity and the Use of English. English is the common language of the AURAK campus, the use of which includes everyone. It is the only language to be used in the classroom. AURAK brings together students and faculty from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, which is one of the strengths of the university. This diversity provides an opportunity to share our different experiences and enlarge our understanding of the world. Classroom discussions and other activities are to be conducted with courtesy and civility and respect for one another and for our differences.