

Islamic Societies

HUM2302-01
Al Akhawayn University
Spring 2020
MWF: 11:00-11:50AM
Building 8, 013

Instructor: Dr. Paul Love
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Office: Building 6, 009
Office Hours: MWF 2-5PM



Course Description:

Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course introduces students to the historical and contemporary study of Islamic societies. Students explore a variety of topics including history, theology, mysticism, anthropology, archaeology, political theory, literature, and music to gain an appreciation for the vast array of peoples, places, ideas, and things that all gather under the umbrella of “Islam.” Rather than a comprehensive course in the history of Islam, the course varies depending on the semester and instructor, who emphasizes different historical and/or contemporary themes.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Through completing this course, students will have the opportunity to:

1. Grasp the broad contours of the history of societies and peoples associated with Islam
2. Gain an appreciation for the diversity of Islam and Muslims in both the past and present
3. Learn about the academic study of religion and history through readings, videos, and hands-on activities
4. Carry out an ethnographic study of Islam in Morocco

Required Materials

Course pack—The HUM2302 course pack is available at the AUI Book store. It contains readings, exercises, and related materials that we will use in class. It is meant to be used in conjunction with online exercises available on the Jenzabar site.

Notifications, additional readings, and other announcements will be communicated through e-mail. Please note that I do not normally answer e-mails after 5:00PM or on the weekends. **If you have a specific question about or would like to debate anything related to grades, please come to see me in person during office hours.**

Course Requirements (For details on the AUI grading system, visit:

<http://www.aui.ma/en/registrar/grading-system.html>)

Engagement (online quizzes, forum responses)	70%
Ethnography Project	10%
Final Project	20%

- (1) **Engagement:** At least once a week, you will respond to prompts on the online forum (Jenzabar), have a short online reading/post quiz, or prepare something in advance of class. Each of these things will count toward your ‘engagement’ in the class. **NB:** The ultimate weight of each assignment depends on the total number of assignments.
- (2) **Ethnography Project:** Details on the ethnography project will be made available later in the course.
- (3) **Final Project:** The final project for the course includes several workshops in collaboration with the AUI library. Details will be distributed in a separate handout.

Attendance

Although attendance is not factored in your grade, all students are expected to attend class. As per university policy, attendance is recorded at the start of every class. Listening to lectures, doing the readings, watching the films, and taking part in the discussions are integral parts of the course. If you are not in class or do not complete the readings, you simply cannot do well. The university’s attendance policy is available at <http://www.aui.ma/en/registrar-menu/class-attendance-absence-policy.html>.

Please, read it carefully and note that unexcused absences will result in a lower course grade. Every **two late arrivals** to class (or early departures) will count as **1 unexcused absence**.

Turnitin.com

Your ethnography assignment will be submitted on Turnitin.com. Please register for the class using these credentials:

Course ID: 23278357
Enrollment Key: HUM2302

Academic Honesty

All students are expected and required to be solely responsible for their work, whether for reading responses, worksheets, quizzes, or any other assignment. There is a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism and cheating and any students caught will receive 0% credit for the assignment. **After the first instance, additional disciplinary measures will be taken in accordance with SHSS and university-wide policies.**

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s words, thoughts, or ideas and representing them as your own without attribution. Examples include but are not limited to: copying sections of another’s work, paraphrasing someone’s work, or passing off another’s ideas as your own without proper

citation or reference. Proper, consistent referencing is expected in all assignments and papers. More information on AUI's policy can be found on the university's website, available at: http://www.aui.ma/images/pdf/policies/p12-policy_academic_honesty.pdf

Inclusive Learning Environment

In our course, we want to nurture an inclusive and mutually respectful learning environment for all students. This means respecting and encouraging differences of opinion and beliefs. In addition, it means understanding that any classroom is made richer by diversity in terms of religion, race, culture, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, or any other differences in experience or perspective. Please help us build a respectful, collaborative, and comfortable classroom environment that encourages student participation and dialogue.

Deadlines for Assignments

This course includes many short assignments, most of which will be posted to the online Engagement Forum on Jenzabar. These assignments are given a time stamp by Jenzebar when you submit the post. Assignments submitted after the deadline will not receive credit.

Larger assignments (i.e., ethnography & the final project) will be accepted up to two days late, with a penalty of -10% for each day late up to two days. After the two-day limit, these assignments will not receive credit. Except in extenuating circumstances, students who fail to attend a class in which there is an in-class assignment like a quiz, worksheet, or other activity will receive a zero and not be allowed to make it up.

Managing Coursework and Writing

Students who are having trouble balancing their coursework are encouraged to come see me during office hours to discuss strategies for overcoming those difficulties. Alternatively, students should consider contacting the AUI Counseling Services to help in dealing with any and all problems.

Laptops, Tablets, & Phones

For several exercises, we will look at texts and images in class together. I encourage you to bring a laptop or tablet if you have one, since this is much easier than using your phone.