



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**RELI 203 Civilisation and Cultures of Islam**

**20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 1 2014**

**Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 3 March to 2 July 2014

**Teaching dates:** 3 March to 6 June 2014

**Easter/Mid-trimester break:** 18 April to 4 May 2014

**Study week:** 9 – 13 June 2014

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

**Class times and locations**

Lecture:	Thursday 11:00 – 12:50	LB 118
Tutorials:	Thursday 13:10 – 14:00	MY 107
	Friday 10:00 – 10:50	MY 401

Tutorials start in the second week of the trimester and students should enrol in tutorials through S-Cubed.

**Names and contact details**

Course Co-ordinator:	Dr Art Buehler	<a href="mailto:art.buehler@vuw.ac.nz">art.buehler@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 7409
Tutor:	Hanlie Booysen	<a href="mailto:hanlie.booyesen@vuw.ac.nz">hanlie.booyesen@vuw.ac.nz</a>	
Administrator:	Aliki Kalliabetsos	<a href="mailto:aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz">aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 5299

**Office Hours**

The Religious Studies office is open Monday – Friday, 9:30 – 12:00 noon and 2:30 – 3:30. You can arrange to meet with Dr Buehler by appointment

## Communication of additional information

Additional information on any changes or notices regarding the course will be conveyed to students, through Blackboard. Students who do not use their assigned student.vuw.ac.nz email addresses should ensure that ITS has an up-to-date email address, and that they check this address regularly. Tutorials are administered through S-cubed, and students should enrol on line. Tutorial lists shall be posted on the Programme notice board, outside the Religious Studies office in the Hunter Building, HU 318.

## Prescription

This course introduces the major religious and cultural dimensions of the Islamic world, both those that express its diversity and those that express its continuity. The course seeks to provide students with a better and deeper understanding of the Islamic past and through this, the Islamic world today.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to satisfy the following six course objectives:

**First:** improvement in students' skills in critical thinking, creative thinking and communication.

**Second:** developing academic reading and writing skills, including the recognition and expression of key arguments and themes, logical analysis and critical engagement with primary and secondary sources.

**Third:** developing excellent skills in communication for peer learning, collaboration, and for formal presentation in the academic study of religion as well as other fields.

**Fourth:** familiarizing students with the main concerns and methodologies of research in studies of religion as an academic discipline, and to prepare them for further study in the histories, social dynamics and practices of religion.

**Fifth:** critically engaging with the issues and debates found in the scholarly literature in the area of Religious Studies.

**Sixth:** improving the necessary skills and resources to undertake independent argument and analyses in the areas covered by the course.

This course is designed as an integral combination of lectures, readings, tutorials, and assigned work. These components are complementary, not redundant, with one another; and ALL components of the course are necessary for students to do well. It is thus recommended in the strongest possible terms that students do the reading, attend all lectures and tutorials, and keep up with the required work for the course.

## By the end of the course you will

- appreciate the complexity and diversity of Islam, both past and present and cross-culturally;
- be familiar with the most commonly used terms in Islamic studies;
- have a broad understanding of the main stages in the development of Islam and of the contribution of outstanding individuals and movements;

- be able to identify and utilize useful sources for the study of Islam;
- be able to evaluate critically information about Islam in the news media and other sources;
- be able to discuss competently (orally or in writing) several aspects of Islam which has been studied in some depth.

**The main learning objectives for this course are threefold:**

- to impart knowledge of the contemporary forms of religious practice across cultures;
- to teach the study of religion as a critical discipline; that is, to examine the cultural, spiritual, and social dimensions of religious activity (with a nod to politics which is covered more in RELI 329);
- to help the students develop their research and writing skills, their ability to make and defend arguments, and their critical awareness.

## Teaching format

This course includes both lectures and tutorials. The lectures communicate theoretical and descriptive materials, while the tutorials allow students the opportunity to develop their own communication skills through critical discussion of the readings and lectures.

## Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit the written work specified for this course (specifically the map exercise, the two essays and the take-home test), on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work). **Please remember that although tutorial assignments are not required to pass they are 25% of the grade.**
2. Attend 80% of tutorials (6 out of 8)

**A serious note on tutorial attendance:** Attendance at tutorials will be recorded by signature. It is the student's responsibility to sign in for each tutorial. If a student misses more than two tutorial sessions, they must submit one extra tutorial assignment for each tutorial session missed, in lieu of attendance. **It is the student's responsibility to notify the lecturer within a week of missing more than two tutorial sessions because the** assignment must be discussed with the lecturer and must be handed in by the last day of class at the latest, otherwise the student will be deemed not to have satisfied course requirements.

## Workload

For 20 point one trimester courses, 200 hours across the trimester are recommended. An average student should spend 13 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay one, approximately 2,000 words <i>Recommended average time spent on this task 33 hours</i>	20%	1,2,3,4,5,6	28.03.2014
2	Essay two approximately 2,500 words <i>Recommended average time spent on this task 42 hours</i>	25%	1,2,3,4,5,6	16.05.2014
3	6 tutorial assignments approximately 300 words <i>Recommended average time spent on this task 42 hours</i>	25%	1,2,3,4,5,6	Due at tutorials
4	One Map Exercise <i>Recommended average time spent on this task 5 hours</i>	5%	4,6	17.03.2014
5	One Take-home test <i>Recommended average time spent on this task 42 hours</i>	25%	1,2,3,4,5,6	30.05.2014

## Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted to Blackboard electronically and hard copies must be submitted to the essay box outside the Religious Studies office, HU 318. Both methods of submission are mandatory. Marked work may be collected from the Religious Studies office after two weeks from date of submission.

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

An extension (with no penalty) will be considered on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances or workload pressure such as having three or four major pieces of work due in a short period. (Please see the Student Workload Policy).

### Penalties

2% per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays. Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's certificate.

## Set texts

- Dan Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam*
- Mohja Kahf, *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*
- The course reader is available from Vicbooks at a cost of approximately \$60.00

All undergraduate textbooks and course readers will be sold from Vicbooks, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:
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## Student feedback

Student evaluation of this course is administered by CAD. Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)