

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

**International Relations
RELS353
Islam
3 Credit Hours
8 Week
Prerequisite(s): none**

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Instructor Information

Course Description (Catalog)

RELS353 Islam course is a study of the people and nations that engage their lives in this youngest of the monotheistic faiths and currently a “hot topic.” Your knowledge of Islam will remain important to you personally, and to the United States, for as long as we are dependent on oil, and as long as the practitioners of Islam – Muslims – control the majority of the world’s oil reserves. Owing to the secular nature of our societies in the West, most Westerners misperceive Islam and its followers. Many of you will bring preconceptions about Islam into this class. More than likely, the media formed these views by images of 9/11 and 7/7 as it gives quite a bit of airtime to vocal Islamic Fundamentalists. Or, as it is ingrained in human nature, perhaps your views on Islam are based on fear of the unknown.

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Course Scope

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This **RELS353 Islam** course is divided into 8 weeks and is organized to introduce students to Islam and its associated civilization through readings, case studies, projects, and interaction. I expect that we will all interact as a “community of scholars.” I am sure that I will learn from you, and you will learn from each other, as we discover Islam in this course. At the end of this course, I expect you to be able to help dispel some of the prevailing myths about Islam that are popular in the U.S. today. For those stationed in the Middle East, or interacting with Muslims, this course will enhance your ability to further understand a culture where secularism, capitalism, and materialism have no value.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students will fulfill the following **Learning Objectives (LO)**:

- LO-1** Evaluate preconceived notions relating to Islam
- LO-2** Compare and contrast the history, essential tenets, and central practices of Islam and the context in which Islam began
- LO-3** Evaluate the impact Muhammad (PBUH) had on Islam
- LO-4** Evaluate the Five Pillars of the Islamic faith
- LO-5** Study and read the Qur’an
- LO-6** Evaluate what the Qu’ran says about tolerance, People of the Book, women’s roles and morals
- LO-7** Distinguish how the Hadith and Islamic Law differ
- LO-8** Evaluate and debate the different aspects of Jihad in Islam
- LO-9** Analyze and debate the impact of Muhammad’s life and death on the split of the Islamic faith into two major sects
- LO-10** Evaluate the split in Islam into the two major sects – Sunni and Shi’a – and its modern manifestations in Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and elsewhere
- LO-11** Analyze the various aspects of radical Islam
- LO-12** Evaluate the relationship between Islam and the West

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Course Delivery Method

This **RELS353 Islam** course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials are acquired individually and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Assignments (Forum responses, papers and exams) are due in accordance with the Course Outline and are essential components of the course.

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Course Materials

Required Course Textbooks

Brown, Daniel W. (2009) New Introduction to Islam. Publisher: Blackwell Publishers. 1405158077; 2nd edition

http://www.pearsoncustom.com/us/apus_rels353/

Password: apusstudent

Also located in RESOURCES as a .PDF file by chapter

Esposito, John L. (2002) What Everyone Needs To Know About Islam. Publisher: Oxford University Press, New York. ISBN 20020195157133
Accessed through the online library (Go to the Online Library and to the Online Catalog)

Haleem, Abdel M.A.S. (2005) The Qur'an [electronic resource] New York: Oxford University Press. Accessible through the Online Library [The Qur'an](#)
Go to the Online Library and to the Online Catalog

Lewis, B. & Buntzie, E.C. (2009). Islam: The Religion and the People. Publisher: Pearson Education; ISBN: 100132230852; 3rd edition
Accessed through the online library
[Islam: The Religion and the People](#) Password: apusstudent

Additional Resources:

In RESOURCES you will find the required articles, help with APA guidelines, .PDF files for the Intro to Islam text, info to help with writing a thesis/outline and examples of the QURAN paper assignment.

DVD (accessed through the classroom). *Islam: Empire of Faith*, a documentary by PBS

Websites

In addition to the required course texts the following public domain Websites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

Site Name	Website URL/Address
The OWL at Purdue	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/
APA Style Homepage	http://www.apastyle.org/index.aspx

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Evaluation Procedures	
Graded Assignment	Percent of Final Grade
Week 1 - Forum Intro and Question	14
Week 2 – Forum Question	7
Week 3 – Forum Question	7
Thesis/Outline	3
Week 4 – MidTerm Paper	12
Week 5 – Forum Question	7
Week 6 – Forum Question	7
Thesis/Outline	3
Week 7 – Assessment	20
Forum Question	7
Week 8 – Integrative Paper	12
Total	100

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8-Week Course Outline

Week	Topic(s)	Learning Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
1	Embedded Thoughts About Islam Introduction	LO-1	Lewis, <i>Islam: The Religion and the People</i> Preface, Intro, CH 1 (8 total pages) Read article located in RESOURCES in ARTICLES “Reel Bad Arabs”	Intro Forum Week One Forum Watch PBS Documentary, <i>Islam: Empire of Faith</i> (accessed through LESSONS) Log into TURNITIN.COM
2	Basic Beliefs and		Esposito, <i>What Everyone Needs to</i>	Forum

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	Practices Beginnings Contextual Setting Development vis a vis Other Faiths	LO-2	<i>Know About Islam</i> <i>Esposito (General Info, Faith & Practice)</i> pgs. 1-9 <i>Brown's, A New Introduction to Islam</i> CH 1-3 pgs. 1-47 <i>Qur'an on your own</i>	Questions/Responses Look at ASSIGNMENTS to understand what is due next week
3	Role of Muhammad Basic Beliefs and Practices The Qur'an Five Pillars	LO- 3, 4, 5	<i>Lewis, Islam: The Religion and the People</i> CH 2, 3 <i>Esposito, What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam (Faith & Practice)</i> pgs. 10-24 <i>Brown's, 'A New Introduction to Islam'</i> CH 4, 5 pgs. 49-86 <i>Qur'an on your own</i>	Forum Questions/Responses Qur'an Paper Thesis/Outline due
4	Women & Islam	LO-5,6	<i>Lewis, Islam: The Religion and the People</i> CH 11 <i>Esposito (Customs & Culture)</i> pgs. 87-98 Foreign Policy Article "Why They Hate Us" (link in Lessons) <i>Qur'an on your own</i>	Qur'an Paper Due Optional Forum this week as you are to focus on Qur'an paper
5			<i>Lewis, Islam: The Religion and the</i>	Forum

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	<p>The Hadith</p> <p>Islamic Law</p> <p>Jihad</p>	<p>LO-7, 8</p>	<p><i>People</i></p> <p>CH 14</p> <p>Esposito (<i>Violence & Terrorism</i>) pgs. 117-136</p> <p>(<i>Society, Politics, Economy</i>) pgs. 139-149</p> <p>Brown's, <i>A New Introduction to Islam</i></p> <p>CH 6 pgs. 88-100 CH 10 pgs. 147-170</p> <p>Articles in RESOURCES in folder JIHAD "License to Kill" "Two-Hundred Year War"</p>	<p>Questions/Responses</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Sunni & Shi'a</p> <p>Politics</p> <p>Sufism</p> <p>Expansion of Islam</p> <p>The Caliphate</p>	<p>LO-9,10</p>	<p>Lewis, <i>Islam: The Religion and the People</i></p> <p>CH 6-9, pgs. 61-95</p> <p>Esposito (<i>Faith & Practice</i>) pgs. 39-48</p> <p>Esposito (<i>Muslims in the West</i>) pgs. 56, pgs. 151-161</p> <p>Brown's, 'A New Introduction to Islam'</p> <p>Chapter 7-9 pgs. 103-145</p>	<p>Forum Questions/Responses</p> <p>Final Paper Thesis/Outline Due</p>

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			CH 11 172-192	
7	Radical Islam Islam & the West The Future for Islam	LO-11, 12	Lewis, <i>Islam: The Religion and the People</i> CH 15 & Conclusion Pgs. 155-167 Brown's, 'A New Introduction to Islam' Chapter 15-16 pgs. 249-298	Forum Questions/Responses ASSESSMENT (accessed through TEST and QUIZZES)
8	Integration of Course in your Final Paper	LO 1-12	No reading—focus on your paper	Submit your Integrative Final Paper

Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

- Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
- Arial 11 or 12-point font or Times New Roman styles.

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- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation made for special situations and online submission variances.

CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Style Manual, 6th Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation used in the APA Style Manual, 6th Edition.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

NETIQUETTE

Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Educator classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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Academic Services

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

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- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Turnitin.com:** [Turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) is a tool to improve student research skills that also detect plagiarism. Turnitin.com provides resources on developing topics and assignments that encourage and guide students in producing papers that are intellectually honest, original in thought, and clear in expression. This tool helps ensure a culture of adherence to the University's standards for intellectual honesty. Turnitin.com also reviews students' papers for matches with Internet materials and with thousands of student papers in its database, and returns an Originality Report to instructors and/or students.
- **Smarthinking:** Students have access to 10 free hours of tutoring service per year through [Smarthinking](http://smarthinking.com). Tutoring is available in the following subjects: math (basic math through advanced calculus), science (biology, chemistry, and physics), **accounting, statistics, economics, Spanish**, writing, grammar, and more. Additional information is located in the Online Research Center. From the ORC home page, click on either the "Writing Center" or "Tutoring Center" and then click "Smarthinking." All login information is available.

Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111) or class name. If a guide you need isn't available yet, let us know by emailing the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu