

**REL4368/RLG 5361/ASH3931/AFH3931/POS4931/WOH3931: Global Islam**

**Meeting Times:** Tuesday (period 4: 10:40-11:30 AM) and Thursday (periods 4-5: 10:40-12:35 PM)

**Class Venue:** WEIL 0270

**Instructor:** Professor Ali Altaf Mian, Ph.D.

**E-mail:** [alimian@ufl.edu](mailto:alimian@ufl.edu)

**Office Location:** Anderson Hall 107-A

**Office Hours:** Mondays 11 AM to 12:30 PM and by appointment

**Course Synopsis**

This course offers a critical survey of the manifold ways in which globalization has transformed modern and contemporary Muslim thought and practice. In so doing it also underscores the need for a deeper understanding of the diversity of Muslim cultures/societies in the contemporary global context; combines topical and geographical approach and studies Islam as it intersects with broader social, cultural, political, and economic dynamics.

**Required Texts:** All Readings on Canvas

**Assignments/Grade Breakdown:**

<b>Item:</b>	<b>Points:</b>
Three Analytical Papers	300
Group Presentation	100
Oral Exam	200
Presentation on Film and the Fine Arts	200
Attendance and Participation	200

**Three Analytical Papers (300 points)**

Each analytical paper will address a central theme in the study of Global Islam (examples include: religious authority, new media, colonial modernity, law and the modern state, and so on). The purpose is to synthesize and analyze how this theme appears in the study of Global Islam. You will propose a prompt that I will revise for each paper. Undergrads are required to write at least 1500-1800 words and consult 2 sources beyond class readings. Grad students are required to write at least 2000-2500 words and consult 4 sources beyond class readings.

**Group Presentation on a Reading (100 points)**

You will work in groups of 3-4 persons to prepare a 15-minute presentation on a modern Muslim thinker and/or organization. Detailed instructions on this assignment will be posted on Canvas in due time. Group presentations will be scheduled throughout the semester.

**Oral Exam (200 points)**

The oral exam tests your knowledge of the content as well as skills to communicate effectively your argument. A pool of possible questions will be posted on Canvas two weeks prior to this exam.

**Group Presentation on Film and the Fine Arts (200 points)**

Each group will make a presentation on a contemporary Muslim practitioner of the fine arts or film director, discussing how the artist’s work illuminates this course’s key themes. These presentations will

take place in class during the last two to three weeks of class. Detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas by mid-February.

### **Attendance and Participation (200 points)**

Class attendance and participation are mandatory. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. You can miss two sessions without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will detract 50 points from your grade. Excused absences are consistent with university policies as listed in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation. Class will begin and end on time. Five late arrivals (anything over 5 minutes) will be considered one absence.

### **Grading Scale**

<b>Score</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
940-1000	94-100	A	4.00
900-939	90.0-93.9	A-	3.67
867-899	86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
834-866	83.4-86.6	B	3.00
800-833	80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
767-799	76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
734-766	73.4-76.6	C	2.00
700-733	70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
667-699	66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
634-666	63.4-66.6	D	1.00
600-633	60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-599	0-59.9	E	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

### **Class Demeanor**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all. The use of laptops or tables is only allowed for purpose of note-taking.

### **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

On all work submitted for credit by University of Florida students, the following pledge is implied, “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” Please note that acts of plagiarism include:

- Turning in a paper or assignment that was written by someone else.
- Copying verbatim a sentence or paragraph of text from the work of another author without proper citation and quotation marks.
- Using and copying verbatim a sentence or paragraph of text from Chatgpt or any other AI software for any kind of course assignments.
- Paraphrasing or restating in your own words, text or ideas written by someone else without proper citation.

### Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu> 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

## UNIT 1: MODERN, SECULAR, GLOBAL

T 1/9—Introduction

R 1/11—Nile Green, *Global Islam: A Very Short Introduction*, introduction and chapter 1

T 1/16—Green, *Global Islam: A Very Short Introduction*, chapters 2-3

R 1/18—Green, *Global Islam: A Very Short Introduction*, chapter 4 and Conclusion

T 1/23—Marhsall Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam, Volume III* (excerpt)

R 1/25—Talal Asad, *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity*

T 1/31—Talal Asad, *Secular Translations: Nation-State, Modern Self, and Calculative Reason*

R 2/1: Aydin, *The Idea of the Muslim World* (excerpt) and Elias Muhanna, “Reinventing Islam” (LRB)

## UNIT 2: RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY

T 2/6—Muhammad Qasim Zaman, *The Ulama in Contemporary Islam*

R 2/8—Muhammad Qasim Zaman, *Islamic Thought in a Radical Age: Religious Authority and Internal Criticism*

T 2/13—Kecia Ali, *Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur’an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence* (excerpt)

R 2/15—SherAli Tareen, *Perilous Intimacies: Debating Hindu-Muslim Friendship after Empire* (excerpt)

T 2/20—Ismail Fajrie Alatas, *What is Religious Authority? Cultivating Islamic Communities in Indonesia* (excerpt)

R 2/22—Zareena Grewal, *Islam Is a Foreign Country: American Muslims and the Global Crisis of Authority* (excerpt)

### **ANALYTICAL PAPER 1 DUE by Friday 2/23 Midnight**

## UNIT 3: SUFISM IN THE MODERN WORLD

T 2/27—Ali Altaf Mian, “Abd al-Majid Daryabadi and Reforming Institutional Sufism in Colonial India.”

R 2/29—No Class (Dr. Mian is attending a workshop at University of California-Riverside)

T 3/5—Zachary V. Wright, *Living Knowledge in West African Islam: The Sufi Community of Ibrahim Niassa*

R 3/7—Merin Shobhana Xavier, *The Dervishes of the North: Rumi, Whirling, and the Making of Sufism in Canada*

T 3/12 NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

R 3/14 NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

## UNIT 4: ISLAMIC LAW AND COLONIAL MODERNITY

T 3/19—Wael Hallaq, *The Impossible State* (excerpt)

R 3/21—Junaid Quadri, *Transformations of Tradition* (excerpt)

T 3/26—Iza Hussin, *The Politics of Islamic Law* (excerpt)

R 3/28—Ali Altaf Mian, “Troubling Technology: The Deobandi Debate on the Loud Speaker and Ritual Prayer.”

### **ANALYTICAL PAPER 2 DUE by Friday 2/29 Midnight**

## UNIT 5: MUSLIM POLITICS IN THE MODERN WORLD

T 4/2—Muhammad Qasim Zaman, “The Sovereignty of God in Modern Islamic Thought.”

R 4/4:

- 1) Magnus Marsden, “Becoming Taliban: Islam and Youth in Northern Afghanistan,” in A. Masquelier & B. Soares, eds. *Muslim Youth and the 9/11 Generation*, pgs. 81-104.
- 2) Alex Thurston, “Muslim Politics and Shari‘a in Kano State, Northern Nigeria.” *African Affairs* 114 (454):28-51.

T 4/9:

- (1) Lila Abu-Lughod, “Do Muslim Women (Still) Need Saving?”
- (2) Nadia Fadil, “Not-/Unveiling as an Ethical Practice.” *Feminist Review* 98.1 (2011):83-109.

## UNIT 6: PRESENTATIONS ON FILM AND FINE ARTS

R 4/11—Presentations

**ANALYTICAL PAPER 3 DUE by Friday 4/12 Midnight**

T 4/16—Presentations

R 4/18—Presentations

T 4/23 Final Meeting