

## Course Syllabus

1	<b>Course title</b>	Islam and Contemporary Issues Course Syllabus	
2	<b>Course number</b>	0408705	
3	<b>Credit hours</b>	3	
	<b>Contact hours (theory, practical)</b>	3	
4	<b>Prerequisites/corequisites</b>	-	
5	<b>Program title</b>	M.A in Islamic Studies	
6	<b>Program code</b>		
7	<b>Awarding institution</b>	The University of Jordan	
8	<b>School</b>	Shari'ah/ School of Islamic Studies	
9	<b>Department</b>	Department for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World	
10	<b>Course level</b>	Master Degree	
11	<b>Year of study and semester (s)</b>	1	
12	<b>Other department (s) involved in teaching the course</b>		
13	<b>Main teaching language</b>	English	
14	<b>Delivery method</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Face to face learning <input type="checkbox"/> Blended <input type="checkbox"/> Fully online	
15	<b>Online platforms(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moodle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Teams <input type="checkbox"/> Skype <input type="checkbox"/> Zoom <input type="checkbox"/> Others.....	
16	<b>Issuing/Revision Date</b>	October 2022	

### 17 Course Coordinator:

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### 18 Other instructors:

Name:

Office number:

Phone number:

Email:

Contact hours:

Name:

Office number:

Phone number:

Email:

Contact hours:

### 19 Course Description:

This course will explore the experience of contemporary Islam with a special focus on the Islamic world since 1970. It will discuss major political, economic, and cultural shifts that have occurred in Muslim nations since this time and how these contexts have influenced new and current developments in the understanding and practice of Islam across the globe. The course will discuss in detail issues of special concern in the contemporary Muslim community such as gender, fundamentalism, colonialism, religion and the state, and religious reform.

This course offers a profound study of contemporary issues including Islam particularly controversial subjects which Muslims encounter everywhere. The discussed issues can include (not exclusively) the following subjects: Islam and the Woman, Islam and human rights and Islam and democracy. The course also deals with Jihad (struggle in the cause of Allah) in Islam including the military and religious interpretations of Jihad, the Western misunderstanding of Jihad and the main obstacles to the interfaith dialogue and minorities taking into consideration the other divine religions.



## 20 Course aims and outcomes:

### A- Aims:

After the student study this subject, we expect the students to do the following:

1. Identifying the contemporary issues which are considered as challenges for the Islamic thoughts.
2. Having the ability to discuss contemporary issues in the light of Islamic thought.
3. Directing the student to the correct approach in dealing with contemporary issues and studying a speech.
4. Enabling the student to discuss with the management of non-Muslims in the problematic issues.

### B- Students Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

#### A. Knowledge and Understanding: Student is expected to

1. Understand the meaning of contemporary issues.
2. Demonstrate understanding of course content through weekly short papers and discussions.
3. Emphasis will be upon major course themes and ideas rather than specific details.

#### B. Intellectual Analytical and Cognitive Skills: Student is expected to

1. Demonstrate ability to critically analyze contents of assigned readings and other materials related to subject matter
2. Demonstrate ability to engage in academic discussions of subject matter, and to orally express interpretations and conclusions in a cogent manner

#### C. Subject- Specific Skills: Students is expected to

1. Demonstrate a broadened understanding of the most important issues related to Islam and Contemporary Issues
2. Present intelligent and cogent arguments, using relevant evidence to support points, in writing assignments and in-class discussions, demonstrating mastery of course subject matter.

#### D. Transferable Key Skills: Students is expected to

1. lead short (10-15 minutes) content discussions in English on assigned articles and subject matter
2. respond orally, cogently, and respectfully in English to arguments by instructor and fellow students on course-related subject matter
3. Produce short written summaries and discussions in English of assigned readings and topics
4. Express well organized written argument in English, backed up with citations to appropriate evidence in final comprehensive essay (8-10 pages) on topic of student's choosing.

SLOs	SLO (1)	SLO (2)	SLO (3)	SLO (4)
SLOs of the course				
1	*			
2		*		
3			*	
4	*			*
5		*		
6			*	

## 21. Topic Outline and Schedule:

Week	Lecture	Topic	Student Learning Outcome	Learning Methods (Face to Face/Blended/ Fully Online)	Platform	Synchronous / Asynchronous Lecturing	Evaluation Methods	Resources
1	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to Course and overview.</li> <li>- A general view of the most important contemporary issues.</li> <li>- Identifying the most important sources that discuss these issues.</li> </ul>	A1	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
2	2.1	<p><i>Reform in Islamic Societies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Necessity of Reform</li> <li>- Challenges and Approaches</li> </ul> <p>Abdullah Saeed, <i>Islamic Thought an Introduction</i>. 2006. Chapter 10: Renewal, Reform, and Muslim Modernism. Pp. 129-141. Notes pp. 180-181.</p>	A1,2	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
3	3.1	<p><i>Social Context</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women in Islam and other</li> </ul>	B1	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources



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Week	Lecture							
		<p>cultures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women's Rights</li> </ul> <p>Abdul-Rahman al-Sheha, <i>Women in the Shade of Islam</i>. 2000. Chapter 1, 2 &amp; 3</p>						
4	4.1	<p><i>Social Context, Misconceptions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marriage and Divorce, Polygamy, The Guardian, Inheritance, Two witnesses, Child Marriage, Hijab, Marriage to non-Muslims.</li> </ul> <p>Abdul-Rahman al-Sheha, <i>Women in the Shade of Islam</i>. 2000. Chapter 4.</p>	B2	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
5	5.1	<p><i>Islam and Human Rights</i></p> <p>A, Mawdudi, <i>Human Rights in Islam</i>, 2002, pp. 15-39.</p>	C1	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
6	6.1	<p><i>Misconceptions about Human Rights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedom, Apostasy, Slavery, Penalty Code.</li> </ul> <p>Abdul-Rahman al-Sheha, <i>Human Rights in Islam and Common Misconception</i>. Pp.113-142.</p>	C2	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
7	7.1	<p><i>Muslims and Others</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Concept of Jihad</li> </ul>	B2,C1	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources



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Week	Lecture							
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does Islam spread by sword?</li> <li>- Peace, War, Terrorism.</li> </ul> <p>L. Safi, Peace and the Limits of War. 2003. Pp. 1-3, 19-23, 27-33.</p>						
8	8.1	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	A1,2	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Midterm Exam	Various Resources
9	9.1	<i>Muslims and Others: Misconceptions</i>	D1	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
10	10.1	<p><i>Islam and Politics</i></p> <p>Fathi Osman, <i>Islam in a Modern State: Democracy and Shura</i>, PP. 1-23</p>	D2	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
11	11.1	<p><i>Islam and Politics: Misconceptions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Islamic State</li> <li>- Shari'ah Law</li> <li>- Caliphate</li> </ul>	D3	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
12	12.1	<p><i>Islam and Science</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conflict or compatibility</li> <li>- Muslim contribution to civilization</li> <li>- Modern challenges</li> </ul> <p>Ali Unal. <i>Islam Addresses Contemporary Issues. "Science and Modern Scientific Approach"</i>. Pp. 41-61.</p>	D3,4	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources



Week	Lecture	Topic	Student Learning Outcome	Learning Methods (Face to Face/Blended/ Fully Online)	Platform	Synchronous / Asynchronous Lecturing	Evaluation Methods	Resources
13	13.1	Discussion of Student's Papers	C1, D3	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
14	14.1	Discussion of Student's Papers	D2,3,4	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Presentation & Class Discussion	Various Resources
15	15.1	<b>Final Exam</b>	ALL	Face to Face	Classroom	Synchronous	Final Exam	Various Resources

## 22 Evaluation Methods:

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the SLOs are provided through the following assessment methods and requirements:

Evaluation Activity	Mark	Topic(s)	Period (Week)	Platform
Submission of weekly assignments	10%	all	all	Classroom
presentations	10%	To be determined	To be determined	Classroom
Research paper	20%	To be determined	14	Classroom
Midterm Exam	20%	1-7	8	Classroom
Final Exam	40%	8-14	15	Classroom

## 23 Course Requirements

(e.g: students should have a computer, internet connection, webcam, account on a specific software/platform... etc):

## 24 Course Policies:

A- This course is designed to be two-thirds class meetings and one-third online learning. This means that you are expected to attend class at the university every Sunday and Tuesday. You are also expected to participate in online discussions, collaborate and work with your fellow students, and



prepare and complete any assigned homework.

- You are expected to be in class on time. Students coming late are allowed to enter but will be marked absent on attendance sheet. The same applies to leaving class early. No exceptions.
- Participation and students' involvement are crucial to the success of the course. All students are expected to have read the assigned materials before coming to class in order to fully engage in the discussions. In addition to in-class discussions, students are encouraged to post their comments and questions on E-Learning (Moodle) which can be accessed at <http://elearning.ju.edu.jo/>.
- The University allows students to be absent seven times during the semester. However, in a BL course like this one, you are allowed a maximum of THREE excused absences. The only excuse that would remove your absence from your record is in case of a conflict with another course (a scheduled written exam). If you exceed this limit, you will not be allowed to sit for the final exam. No make-up exams. In case of sickness, only reports issued directly from a public clinic or hospital will be accepted. Medical reports from private practiced doctors or private hospitals will not be accepted even if they are stamped by the university's clinic. Reports should be produced within a week of the date of the exam. No exceptions.

## 25 References:

### a. Required book(s), assigned reading and audio-visuals:

- Abdul-Rahman al-Sheha, *Women in the Shade of Islam*. 2000. Chapter 1, 2, 3 & 4.
- A, Maududi, *Human Rights in Islam*, 2002, pp. 15-39.
- Abdullah Saeed, *Islamic Thought an Introduction*. 2006. Chapter 10: Renewal, Reform, and Muslim Modernism. Pp. 129-141. Notes pp. 180-181.
- Abdul-Rahman al-Sheha, *Human Rights in Islam and Common Misconception*. Pp.113-142.
- Louay Safi, *Peace and the Limits of War*. 2003. Pp. 1-3, 19-23, 27-33.
- Fathi Osman, *Islam in a Modern State: Democracy and Shura*, PP. 1-23
- Ali Unal. *Islam Addresses Contemporary Issues. "Science and Modern Scientific Approach"*. Pp. 41-61.

### b. Recommended books, materials, and media:

-*Islam and Modernity: Key Issues and Debates*, ed. Muhammad Khalid Masud, Armando Salvatore, and Martin van Bruinessen (Edinburgh University Press, 2009) (IM)

-*Islam, Secularism, and Liberal Democracy: Toward a Democratic Theory for Muslim Societies*, Nader Hashemi (Oxford University Press, 2012) (ISLD)

-*Shari'a Politics: Islamic Law and Society in the Modern World*, ed. Robert W. Hefner (Indiana University Press, 2011) (SP)

-*The Arab Spring: Change and Resistance in the Middle East*, ed. David W. Lesch and Mark L. Haas (West View Press, 2012) (AS)





## 26 Additional information:

### Teaching Methods and Assignments:

Reading assignments will be handed out at least one week in advance, along with assigned reading questions and presentation assignments for the following week. Learning will be achieved through careful reading of assignments, thoughtful summary and analysis in short papers and in mid-term examination, in-class discussions between students and instructor, and developed argumentation in final course paper assignment.

### Projects and Assignments

Every student in the class is expected to:

- 1) Students will be asked to submit a 2-3 pages short essay each week, analyzing and discussing the assigned readings for the week. Instructor will hand out reading questions for consideration one week in advance.
- 2) Each student will be asked to lead a ten to fifteen minutes discussion on one of the readings each week. Students will be asked to highlight the most important aspects (as they see it) of the article they are reporting on, and to come up with some related questions that can be discussed in class. Students will be assigned readings for which they will serve as discussion leader one week in advance. Students will submit presentation notes to the instructor each week and will receive graded notes in class on the following week.
- 3) Students will be asked to engage in discussion for all the assigned readings and not just for the readings on which they will be presenting.
- 4) Reading assignments will be announced one week in advance. All readings will be available electronically, and students will not be asked to purchase readings for this course.
- 5) The mid-term exam will consist of two short in-class essays, to be completed during Week Seven. Potential essay questions will be handed out in Week Six. Students will be able to use notes when writing essays.
- 6) The final exam will be an eight-to-ten-page essay on a theme chosen by the student, in which the student will discuss at least 4-6 of the assigned readings from the course and will make an argument and draw a conclusion in reference to their chosen subject. Students will submit to the instructor a one paragraph summary of proposed subject for final comprehensive paper, along with proposed readings to be consulted, by Week #10.
- 7) **Research Paper (Including Project Proposal and Source List Assignments):** The research paper (15-20 pages) will explore a topic related to contemporary Islam and must incorporate substantial research from primary sources outside of class. The paper must have at least 15 sources, five of which must be primary sources.



- **Project Proposal:** One page proposal describing the topic you will investigate for the research paper. The topic must be specific enough to enable detailed primary source research but must also concern a broad issue such as those discussed in the syllabus. **due 16/11/2022**

**16/11/2022**

- **Source List (Preliminary Bibliography):** A preliminary list of the primary and secondary sources for the research paper.
- **Paper Rough Draft due 28/12/2022**
- **Paper Final Draft due 18/1/2022**
- Students are encouraged to attend my office hours throughout the semester as they write the paper. Students should be aware that I am committed to assisting them at every step of the research process, and are encouraged to check in with me throughout the research process to explore their ideas and writing process.

Name of Course Coordinator: -----Signature: ----- Date: -----  
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 Head of Curriculum Committee/Department: ----- Signature: -----  
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 Head of Department: ----- Signature: -----  
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 Head of Curriculum Committee/Faculty: ----- Signature: -----  
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 Dean: ----- Signature: -----