ISLAM IN AMERICA  
(REL 196A/B)

TIME: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 8:50-10:00 AM (A) OR 12:50-2:00 PM (B)  
LINC CATEGORY: M3 (ULTIMATE QUESTIONS)
INSTRUCTOR: SHALAHUDIN KAFRAWI
CLASSROOM: COMENIUS 114

CONTENT:
The course deals with the characters of Islam in the United States of America. It focuses on the question of whether Islam is compatible with American worldview. The course compares Islamic values with American ideals, such as the struggle for equality, peace, justice, democracy, human rights, and multiculturalism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
At the end of the course, students are expected to achieve the following objectives:
1. to talk about common misconceptions about Islam in the United States of America;
2. to elaborate on the characteristics of American Islam;
3. to recognize Islamic and American ideals;
4. to discuss the challenges Muslims face in America;
5. to point the challenges American Muslims face in their search for their Islamic identity;
6. to compare what Muslims practice in the Middle Eastern countries with that in the U.S.

GRADING FORMAT:
1. Participation (20%); Active participation includes asking questions, making comments and giving answers to problems or questions posed to students.
2. Two short papers (2-4 pages each; 20%); the assignments will be posted on the Blackboard and the papers should be sent to Blackboard’s digital drop box.
3. Mid-term exam (10%);
4. Research paper (8-15 pages; 30%); research proposal and first draft of the paper are required prior to final submission;
5. Final exam (20%);
6. Perfect Attendance (5% extra).

ACADEMIC HONESTY:
Students are required to honor academic integrity. The course imposes the application of Moravian College’s Academic Honesty Policy. The policy is to be found at Moravian College’s Student Handbook: 2004-2005, pp. 52-8.
ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Students are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings for this course. Those with complete attendance will receive A (worth 5% extra percent of the total). Students have the liberty to miss four classes without any reason. Those who miss more than the allowed four absences will be downgraded by a point for each additional missed class. Those who miss a class with written justifiable reason(s) may be waived from absence if they take an assignment to substitute the missed class.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS:
All papers—including (1) short papers, (2) research proposal, (3) draft of research paper and (4) final research paper—should be electronically submitted through Blackboard on or before the indicated dates. If for some reason there is a problem with electronic submission, the printed copy of the paper should be submitted to the instructor’s office on the same day. Late submissions will be downgraded for that specific assignment by one point per day. Students are encouraged to rewrite the two short papers. Final research papers cannot be rewritten. The rewritten papers are due within a week after the papers are electronically distributed. Unsatisfied reflective papers should be rewritten within a week after distribution. Since the grades of the rewritten papers can be better or worse than the originally submitted papers, the best grades will be counted toward the final.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office: Zinzendorf 201
Phone: (610) 861-1628
E-mail: skafrawi@moravian.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM; or by appointment.

READINGS AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE:

READINGS AVAILABLE AT THE REEVES LIBRARY RESERVES:


### SCHEDULE:

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<th>Topic and Reading</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>(Reading: Syllabus)</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>9/1</td>
<td><em>Islam and the West: A Paradigm</em></td>
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<td>(Reading: Haroun Er-Rashid, “Muslims and the West: A Paradigm for Polarization,” in Michael J. Thomson, <em>Islam and the West: Critical Perspectives on Modernity</em>, 5-20.)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>9/6</td>
<td><em>Is Islam a Threat to America?</em></td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td><em>Is Islam a Threat to America?</em></td>
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| 9/15  | **The Coming of Islam**  
[Reading: Jane I. Smith, “Islam Comes to America,” in Islam in America, 50-75]. |                        |
| 9/20  | **African-American Muslims 1**  
| 9/22  | **African-American Muslims 2**  
| 9/27  | **African American Muslims 3**  
[Reading: Gilles Kepel, “Farrakhan in the Looking-Glass of America,” in Allah in the West, 44-78]. |                        |
| 9/29  | **Islamic and American Values 1: Peace 1**  
| 10/4  | **Islamic and American Values 2: Peace 2**  
| 10/6  | **Islamic and American Values 4: Justice**  
| 10/11 | **Fall Recess—No class**                                                                   |                        |
| 10/13 | **Islamic and American Values 5: Human Rights 1**  
| 10/18 | **Islamic and American Values 6: Human Rights 2**  
| 10/20 | **Islamic and American Values 7: Women’s Rights**  
[Reading: Robert Spencer, “Does Islam Respect Women?,” | Short Paper 2          |
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<td>26</td>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving—No class</td>
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<td>Concluding Remarks</td>
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