

Cover Sheet: Request 10512

ABT4XXX The Qur'an as Literature

Info

Process	Course New Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending
Submitter	Amberson,Deborah dambers@ufl.edu
Created	10/26/2015 8:22:21 PM
Updated	12/14/2015 1:19:55 PM
Description	Approaches the Qur'an from a literary standpoint by examining its history, structure, style, major themes, and impact on Arabic literature, Islamic thought, and Muslim culture.

Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	CLAS - Languages, Literatures and Cultures 011686001	Amberson, Deborah		10/26/2015
Added UCCConsult.pdf					10/26/2015
Replaced Qur'an as Literature Syllabus Tlili.docx					10/26/2015
Added Qur'an as Literature Syllabus Tlili.docx					10/26/2015
College	Recycled	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Pharies, David A	approved, but first check fonts throughout which appear to have been affected by PDF conversion.	12/7/2015
No document changes					
Department	Approved	CLAS - Languages, Literatures and Cultures 011686001	Amberson, Deborah		12/14/2015
No document changes					
College	Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Pharies, David A		12/14/2015
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			12/14/2015
No document changes					
Statewide Course Numbering System					
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Student Academic Support System					
No document changes					
Catalog					
No document changes					
College Notified					
No document changes					

Course|New for request 10512

Info

Request: ABT4XXX The Qur'an as Literature
Submitter: Amberson,Deborah dambers@ufl.edu
Created: 10/26/2015 8:22:21 PM
Form version: 1

Responses

Recommended Prefix: ABT

Course Level : 4

Number : XXX

Lab Code : None

Course Title: The Qur'an as Literature

Transcript Title: Qur'an as Literature

Effective Term : Spring

Effective Year: 2016

Rotating Topic?: No

Amount of Credit: 3

Repeatable Credit?: No

S/U Only?: No

Contact Type : Regularly Scheduled

Degree Type: Baccalaureate

Weekly Contact Hours : 3

Category of Instruction : Advanced

Delivery Method(s): On-Campus

Course Description : Approaches the Qur'an from a literary standpoint by examining its history, structure, style, major themes, and impact on Arabic literature, Islamic thought, and Muslim culture.

Prerequisites : ARA1131 or ABT3500 or REL2000 or REL2362 or REL4361 or Senior Standing.

Co-requisites : None

Rationale and Placement in Curriculum : The Qur'an is at the heart of the Arabic literary canon and the most central text in Islamic tradition. This course approaches the Qur'an from a literary, non-theological, perspective. It examines its historical development, style, structure, themes, and impact, especially as it pertains to highly debated questions, such as inter-religious relations and gender and environmental issues.

Course Objectives : Upon successful completion students will:

- Become familiar with the Qur'an's major themes
- Gain firm understanding of the Qur'an's structure and stylistic features (e.g. characterization, plot, and voice)
- Learn about the Qur'an's use of literary devices (e.g. interplay between sound and meaning, irony, flashback, and foreshadowing)
- Become familiar with the scholarly debate on the history of the Qur'an
- Appreciate the impact of the Qur'an on Arab/Islamic culture and thought

Course Textbook(s) and/or Other Assigned Reading: Required Textbooks:

Carl Ernst, *How to Read the Qur'an: A New Guide, with Select Translations* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011).

Abdullah Saeed, *The Qur'an: An Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2008).

Asma Barlas, *"Believing" Women in Islam: Unreading the Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an* (Texas: University of Texas Press, 2002).

Course Packet (Available at Target Copy).

Supplemental readings are available on Canvas and/or Library Website

Weekly Schedule of Topics : Weekly Course Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Key: CP: Course Packet; LW/C: Library Website/Canvas; OA: Open Access

Week 1: Introductions: Arabia, Islam, Muhammad

- Daniel Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2004): "The Conquests", "Arabia", 3-20 (CP)
- Saeed, Chap. 1
- Watch Empire of Faith

Week 2: Overview and Genesis

- Ernst, "Introduction" and Chap. 1
- Saeed, Chaps. 2&3
- Behnam Sadeghi and Mohsen Goudarzi, "ʿanʿa? 1 and the Origins of the Qurʿan" *Der Islam* 87.8 (2012): 1-129. (CP)
- N?ldeke, "The Koran", 72-94. (CP)
- Readings from the Qur'an: suras 96, 73, and 74.

Week 3: Translatability

- Saeed, Chap. 7
- Bruce Lawrence, "Approximating saj? in English Renditions of the Qur'an: A Close Reading of Sura 93 (al-ʿuʿa) and the basmala," *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 7. 1 (2005): 64-80. (LW/C)
- Ernst, pp. 62-72.
- Shawkat Toorawa, "The Inimitable Rose: being Qur'anic saj? from Surat al-ʿuʿa to Surat al-Nas (Q.93-114) in English Rhyming Prose," *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 8.2 (2006):143-156. (LW/C)
- Listening assignment: Listen to Shawkat Toorawa's video lecture titled "How (not) to translate the Qur'an" following this link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO0Lj70CCFU>

Week 4: Structure

- Walter Ong, *Orality and Literacy* (London: Routledge, 1988), "The Orality of Language" and "The Modern discovery of Primary Oral Cultures", 5-30. (CP)
-

Michel Cuypers, "The Semitic Rhetoric in the Koran and a Pharaonic Papyrus" *US-China Foreign Language*, 8.1 (2010): 8-13. (OA)

[http://www.ideo-](http://www.ideo-cairo.net/IMG/pdf/The_Semitic_rhetoric_in_the_Koran_and_a_Pharaonic_papyrus-3.pdf)

[cairo.net/IMG/pdf/The_Semitic_rhetoric_in_the_Koran_and_a_Pharaonic_papyrus-3.pdf](http://www.ideo-cairo.net/IMG/pdf/The_Semitic_rhetoric_in_the_Koran_and_a_Pharaonic_papyrus-3.pdf)

- Readings from the Qur'an: suras 1, 11:25-100, 18.

Week 5: Early Meccan Suras

- Ernst, Chap. 2
- Saeed, Chap. 4
- Thomas J. O'Shanghnessy, S. J., "God's Purpose in Creating According to the Qur'an" *Journal of Semitic Studies* 20.2 (1975): 193-209. (CP)
- Isra Yazicioglu, "Redefining the Miraculous: al-Ghazali, Ibn Rushd and Said Nursi on Qur'anic Miracle Stories", *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, 13.2 (2011): 86-108. (LW/C)
- Rosalind Ward Gwynne, " Sign, Analogy, and the Via Negativa: Approaching the Transcendent God of the Qur'an" in *Sacred Tropes: Tanakh, New Testament, and Qur'an as Literature and Culture*, edited by Roberta Sterman Sabbath (Leiden: Brill, 2009), 53-63. (CP)
- Readings from the Qur'an: suras 112, 103, 69, 75, 78.

Week 6: Middle and later Meccan Suras

- James Bellamy, "The Mysterious Letters of the Koran: Old Abbreviations of the Basmalah" *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 93.3 (1973): 267-285. (LW/C)

- Martin Nguyen, " Exegesis of the ?uruf al-muqa??a?a: Polyvalency in Sunni Traditions of Qur'anic Interpretation" *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, 14.2 (2012): 1-28. (LW/C)
- Saeed, Chap. 8
- Ernst, Chap. 3
- Readings from the Qur'an: Suras 43 and 44.

Week 7: Medinan Suras

- Ernst, Chap. 4
- Saeed, Chap. 9
- Toshihiko Izutsu, *Ethico-religious Concepts in the Qur'an* (Montreal: McGill University Press, 1966), 119-155. (CP)
- Readings from the Qur'an: Sura 3:33-52, 190-200.

Week 8: Case Study

- M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, " The Qur'anic Employment of the Story of Noah" *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 8.1 (2006): 38-57. (LW/C)
- Ingrid Mattson, "The Most Beautiful of Stories" in *Qur'an in Conversation*, edited by Michael Birkel (Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2014), 14-21. (CP)
- Readings from the Qur'an: Sura 12

Week 9: Women in the Qur'an I

- Barlas, Chaps. 1, 2, and 3
- Readings from the Qur'an: Suras 58:1-4, 66

Week 10: Women in the Qur'an II

- Barlas, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- Readings from the Qur'an: Sura 4:1-35

Week 11: Poverty, Wealth, and Social Status

- Michael Bonner, "Poverty and Economics in the Qur'an" *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. 35.3 (2005): 391-406. (LW/C)
- A. H. Johns, "Shu?ayb, Orator of the Prophets: Reflections on Qur'anic Narrative", *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, 13.2 (2011): 136-148. (LW/C)
- A. H. Johns, "Jonah in the Qur'an: An Essay on Thematic Counterpoints" *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 5.2 (2003): 48-71. (LW/C)
- Readings from the Qur'an: Suras 10 and 15

Week 12: Peace and War

- Asma Afsaruddin, "War and Violence" in *The Qur'an: an Encyclopedia*, edited by Oliver Leaman (London: Routledge, 2005), 686-692. (CP)
- Reuven Firestone, "The Qur'an on War: A New Reading" in *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam* (London: Oxford University Press, 1999), 67-91. (CP)
- Muhammad Abdel Haleem, "War and Peace in the Qur'an" in *Understanding the Qur'an: Themes and Style* (London: I. B. Tauris, 1999), 61-73. (CP)
- Readings from the Qur'an: Suras 9 and 10.

Week 13: Animals and the Environment

- Tlili, Chaps. 4 and 5 (LW/C)
- Readings from the Qur'an: Sura 27

Weeks 14 and 15: Presentations

Grading Scheme : Grading:

Class participation: 10%

Midterms:

40%

Final: 25%
Pop Quizzes: 10%
Final presentation: 15%

Course Requirements:

Participation: Class activities revolve primarily around discussions of reading materials, debates and short presentations. For every session you will be assigned one or more articles/book chapters and guiding questions to help you navigate the readings. Please come prepared to discuss all material critically.

Midterms: There will also be two midterms (February 2nd and March 8th), one final exam (April 19th).

There will also be several (no less than 4) unannounced pop quizzes.

Presentations: Students are required to give 15-minute presentations on a topic of their choice, but which must be discussed with me no later than the tenth week of the semester. The presentation will be graded based on content, organization, and clarity. A rubric will be provided. Presentations will take place during the last two weeks of the semester.

Instructor(s) : Dr. Sarra Tlili

Instructor: Sarra Tlili
Course title: The Qur'an as Literature-ARA4930/04EF
Meeting time: T 8th-9th periods, R 9th period
Office location: 354 Pugh Hall
Office Hours: Thursday 10-12 or by appointment.
Telephone number: 352-392-8678
Email address: satlili@ufl.edu

Pre-Requisite: None

Course Description: This Course approaches the Qur'an from a literary, non-theological, standpoint. It examines this Scripture's history, themes, structure, and style and assesses its impact on Arabic literature, Islamic thought, and Muslim Culture.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion students it is expected that students will:

- Be familiar with the Qur'an's major themes
- Have gained firm understanding of the Qur'an's structure and stylistic features (e.g. characterization, plot, and voice)
- Have learned about the Qur'an's use of literary devices (e.g. interplay between sound and meaning, irony, flashback, and foreshadowing)
- Be familiar with the scholarly debate on the history of the Qur'an
- Have learned to appreciate the impact of the Qur'an on Arab/Islamic culture and thought

Required Textbooks:

- Carl Ernst, *How to Read the Qur'an: A New Guide, with Select Translations* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011).
- Abdullah Saeed, *The Qur'an: An Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2008).
- Asma Barlas, *"Believing" Women in Islam: Unreading the Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an* (Texas: University of Texas Press, 2002).
- Course Packet (Available at Target Copy).
- Supplemental readings are available on Canvas and/or Library Website

Recommended Textbooks: Several translations of the Qur'an are available online. I recommend that any of them be used in conjunction with the following translation:

- Tarif Khalidi. *The Qur'an: A New Translation*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2010.

Course Requirements:

Participation: Class activities revolve primarily around discussions of reading materials, debates and short presentations. For every session you will be assigned one or more articles/book chapters and guiding questions to help you navigate the readings. Please come prepared to discuss all material critically.

Presentations: Students are required to give 15-minute presentations on a topic of their choice, but which must be discussed with me no later than the tenth week of the

semester. The presentation will be graded based on content, organization, and clarity. A rubric will be provided. Presentations will be during the last two weeks of the semester.

Other requirements: There will also be two midterms (February 2nd and March 8th), one final exam (April 19th), and several pop quizzes.

Grading:

Class participation: 10%
 Midterms: 40%
 Final: 25%
 Final presentation: 15%
 Quizzes: 10%

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-0
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0

Note: A C- grade will not be sufficient for Majors or Minors or count towards a GE or Gordon Rule Credit or College Basic Distribution Credit. See UF website on grading policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

General Administrative Issues:

Canvas: All assignments, announcements, exercises, study guides, grades, and other class-related matters will be posted on the course website on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the website regularly and keep up to date with the class.

Class Attendance: Attendance and participation are mandatory. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. With the exception of religious holidays, for which you only need to give prior notice, all excuses must be documented. You are also allowed three absences without need to provide justification. Any additional non-excused absence will cause your course grade to drop by one degree (A becomes A-, A- becomes B+, and so forth). Every three late arrivals equal one absence.

Should you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to be informed of the material covered. Make-up options for missed exams and assignments are available only for excused absences. For more information refer to the following website: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences>

Late and Make up Work: No late work will be accepted or make-ups will be offered unless the student offers a legitimate documented excuse. See class attendance for more information.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices: Students are expected to put their cell phones on silent during class time. Electronic devices may be used only for class activities upon instructor's request.

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Violations of the honor code include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, bribery, misrepresentation, fabrication, and conspiracy. Such violations may result in the following: lowering of grades, mandatory 0 on assignments, redoing assignments, a final failing grade in the course, expulsion from the course, referral to the student-run Honor Court. The Honor Code states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." 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. For more information please refer to:
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/Academic_Honesty.html

Students with Special Needs: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (Disability Resources in Reid Hall). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>)

Online Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will

be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

Weekly Course Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Key:

CP: Course Packet

LW/C: Library Website/Canvas

OA: Open Access

Week 1: Introductions: Arabia, Islam, Muhammad

- Daniel Brown, *A New Introduction to Islam* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2004): "The Conquests", "Arabia", 3-20 (CP)
- Saeed, Chap. 1
- Watch *Empire of Faith*

Week 2: Overview and Genesis

- Ernst, "Introduction" and Chap. 1
- Saeed, Chaps. 2&3
- Behnam Sadeghi and Mohsen Goudarzi, "Ṣan'ā' 1 and the Origins of the Qur'ān" *Der Islam* 87.8 (2012): 1-129. (CP)
- Nöldeke, "The Koran", 72-94. (CP)
- Readings from the Qur'an: suras 96, 73, and 74.

Week 3: Translatability

- Saeed, Chap. 7
- Bruce Lawrence, "Approximating *saj'* in English Renditions of the Qur'an: A Close Reading of Sura 93 (*al-Duḥā*) and the *basmala*," *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 7. 1 (2005): 64-80. (LW/C)
- Ernst, pp. 62-72.
- Shawkat Toorawa, "The Inimitable Rose: being Qur'anic *saj'* from Sūrat al-Duḥā to Sūrat al-Nās (Q.93-114) in English Rhyming Prose," *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 8.2 (2006):143-156. (LW/C)
- Listening assignment: Listen to Shawkat Toorawa's video lecture titled "How (not) to translate the Qur'an" following this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO0Lj70CCFU>

Week 4: Structure

- Walter Ong, *Orality and Literacy* (London: Routledge, 1988), "The Orality of Language" and "The Modern discovery of Primary Oral Cultures", 5-30. (CP)
- Michel Cuypers, "The Semitic Rhetoric in the Koran and a Pharaonic Papyrus" *US-China Foreign Language*, 8.1 (2010): 8-13. (OA)
http://www.ideo-cairo.net/IMG/pdf/The_Semitic_rhetoric_in_the_Koran_and_a_Pharaonic_papyrus-3.pdf
- Readings from the Qur'an: suras 1, 11:25-100, 18.

Week 5: Early Meccan Suras

- Ernst, Chap. 2

- Saeed, Chap. 4
- Thomas J. O'Shanghnessy, S. J., "God's Purpose in Creating According to the Qur'an" *Journal of Semitic Studies* 20.2 (1975): 193-209. (CP)
- Isra Yazicioglu, "Redefining the Miraculous: al-Ghazālī, Ibn Rushd and Said Nursī on Qur'anic Miracle Stories", *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, 13.2 (2011): 86-108. (LW/C)
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- Readings from the Qur'an: suras 112, 103, 69, 75, 78.

Week 6: Middle and later Meccan Suras

- James Bellamy, "The Mysterious Letters of the Koran: Old Abbreviations of the Basmalah" *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 93.3 (1973): 267-285. (LW/C)
- Martin Nguyen, "Exegesis of the *ḥurūf al-muqatta'at*: Polyvalency in Sunnī Traditions of Qur'anic Interpretation" *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, 14.2 (2012): 1-28. (LW/C)
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- Ernst, Chap. 3
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Week 7: Medinan Suras

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- Ingrid Mattson, "The Most Beautiful of Stories" in *Qur'an in Conversation*, edited by Michael Birkel (Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2014), 14-21. (CP)
- Readings from the Qur'an: Sura 12

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- Barlas, Chaps. 1, 2, and 3
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Week 10: Women in the Qur'an II

- Barlas, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
- Readings from the Qur'an: Sura 4:1-35

Week 11: Poverty, Wealth, and Social Status

- Michael Bonner, "Poverty and Economics in the Qur'an" *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. 35.3 (2005): 391-406. (LW/C)
- A. H. Johns, "Shu'ayb, Orator of the Prophets: Reflections on Qur'anic Narrative", *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, 13.2 (2011): 136-148. (LW/C)

- A. H. Johns, "Jonah in the Qur'an: An Essay on Thematic Counterpoints" *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 5.2 (2003): 48-71. (LW/C)
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Week 12: Peace and War

- Asma Afsaruddin, "War and Violence" in *The Qur'an: an Encyclopedia*, edited by Oliver Leaman (London: Routledge, 2005), 686-692. (CP)
- Reuven Firestone, "The Qur'an on War: A New Reading" in *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam* (London: Oxford University Press, 1999), 67-91. (CP)
- Muhammad Abdel Haleem, "War and Peace in the Qur'an" in *Understanding the Qur'an: Themes and Style* (London: I. B. Tauris, 1999), 61-73. (CP)
- Readings from the Qur'an: Suras 9 and 10.

Week 13: Animals and the Environment

- Tlili, Chaps. 4 and 5 (LW/C)
- Readings from the Qur'an: Sura 27

Weeks 14 and 15: Presentations

External Consultation Results (departments with potential overlap or interest in proposed course, if any)

Department Religion	Name and Title Manuel Vasquez, Professor and Chair
Phone Number 392-1625	E-mail manuelv@ufl.edu
Comments I consulted with Professors Terje Ostebo, Zoharah Simmons, and Jim Mueller, and they see no conflict.	

Department	Name and Title
Phone Number	E-mail
Comments	

Department	Name and Title
Phone Number	E-mail
Comments	