

**Islam in North America**  
**SCAR 2 TA 3**  
**Winter 2021**

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**The Course**

Many scholars who study the phenomenon of North American Islam tend to homogenize American Muslims. Those who restrict their study to this generalized analysis of Muslims in America tend to ignore the nuances that characterize and differentiate the diverse Muslim segments in America. It further postulates a monolithic Islam that expresses the ‘normative Islam.’

This class will explore the different expressions of Islam, especially in North America. It will introduce students to some pivotal sociological perspectives of the Muslim presence in North America. It will examine issues regarding assimilation, isolation, and integration in the North American milieu. Students will be exposed to a mosaic of Islamic cultures and will be encouraged to compare and contrast the different manifestations of Islam in North America.

The course will have guest speakers and an “experiential” component that includes visits to specific mosques/worship centers around Hamilton and a discussion and analysis of social and cultural manifestations of Islam in the North American context.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Regular attendance and active participation in the class and tutorials are mandatory. Please ensure that the readings assigned for each course are done before the class.

**Reading assignments:**

**Smith, J., Islam in America**

**Abdo, G. Mecca and Main Street America**

**Liyakat Takim Shi’ism in America**

**Turner, Islam in the African American Experience (Reserve)**

**Sylviane Diouf, Servants of Allah (Reserve)**

**Omid Safi (ed.) Progressive Islam (Reserve)**

**Olivier Roy., Globalized Islam (Reserve)**

**Hill, Michael. *A Sociology of Religion* (Reserve)**

**Turner, Bryan. *Weber and Islam: A Critical Study* (Reserve)**

**Composition of Final Grades**

Mid-term 30%

2 Quizzes: 10% each (total 20%)  
Final Paper 35%  
Class attendance and Tutorial participation: 15%

### **Course Evaluations Details**

#### **Due Dates of Assignments:**

**Quiz 1: February 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Quiz 2: March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Midterms: March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Exams: April 14th**

### **Class Format**

**Due to Covid restrictions, all lectures will be pre-recorded and posted online**

### **Classes & Readings:**

**Jan 13 Introduction to Sociology**

**Readings: Hill, Michael *A Sociology of Religion*. 1-45**

**Jan 20 Islam in West Africa**

**Readings: Diouf, Servants of Allah, 4-49**

**Jan 27 Migration to America: Assimilation, Integration or Isolation?**

**Readings: Diouf, Servants of Allah, 71-145**

**Turner, Bryan. *Weber and Islam: A Critical Study*.**

**Feb 3 Early Muslim Proselytes: The Ahmadis**

**Readings: Turner, Islam in the African American Experience, 109-146**

**Abdo, Mecca and Main Street America, 61-86**

**Feb 10 The Moorish Science Temple**

**Readings: Turner, Islam in the African American Experience, 71-108**

**Smith, J., Islam in America, 76-103**

**Feb 17 QUIZ 1**

**The Nation of Islam**



## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Submission of Assignments**

All assignments must be submitted by the due date to the TA. Assignments submitted after the due date will incur a penalty of 5% of the final grade

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

### **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user-names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor

## **ACADEMIC POLICIES:**

### ***Departmental***

Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will not date-stamp or receive papers and other assignments. Students must submit their assignments in class or to the TAs or professor during their office hours.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection**

*Some courses may* use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **Courses with an On-line Element**

**Some courses may** use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **Online Proctoring**

**Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

### **Conduct Expectations**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

### **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work**

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

### **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students

should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **Copyright and Recording**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.