

Abrahamic Religious Thought, PHIL/LART 2P20 D2
Brock University, Spring 2014
Professor Michael P. Berman

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 12:00-3:00pm
Place: GLN 164
Phone: 905.688.5550 ext. 3317
Email: mberman@brocku.ca
Office: GLN 273
Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:00am, or by appointment

Texts:

<i>I and Thou</i> , M. Buber (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996, ISBN: 0684717255)
<i>Jesus, Interrupted</i> , Bart D. Ehrman (New York: Harper Collins, 2009, ISBN: 9780061173936)
<i>The Place of Tolerance in Islam</i> , Khaled Abou El fadl (Boston: Beacon Press, 2002, ISBN: 0807002291)
<i>The Koran: A Very Short Introduction</i> , Michael Cook (USA: Oxford Paperbacks, 2000, ISBN: 0192853449)
<i>Makers of Contemporary Islam</i> (electronic resource available through the Brock Library)
Selection of journal articles, links posted on Sakai

Requirements

ONE

There are assigned readings for each class period. These vary in size depending on the text. The due dates for each reading are specified below. Lectures will be based on these readings. All students are expected to be prepared for each class by completing these readings and being able to discuss them.

TWO

There are two types of assignments. Two quizzes will be given in class; the dates are assigned below. The quizzes will focus on a specific text (the first on Buber and the second on Ehrman) and will be written at the beginning of class. There will also be a take home final essay quiz; see section THREE.

THREE

For the Spring session there is **one take home final essay quiz** due. Your essay should be between **1200 to 1400 words** in length. The due date for the essay is indicated on the syllabus below.

Essay questions: At least one week before the take home final essay quiz is due, the essay assignment will be posted on Sakai.

Any time you quote directly from a book or text, you must cite the quote properly. Place quotation marks ("xxx") around the quoted passage. And then indicate the source of the quote by the **author**, **title** of work and **page** reference by **footnote** or **endnote**. If you have a long quotation in your paper, that is, if it is more than four typed lines in length, then you must make the citation into a *block quote* (which is single spaced and indented).

Points will be deducted for incorrect citations.

As a rule of thumb, any time you quote from a source, you should provide an explanation of that quote in your own words, showing why it is relevant to your essay's thesis. Your explanation should be as long, if not longer than the quote itself.

Essays must be **typed and double-spaced**.

All **quiz essays** must be submitted as a printed **hardcopy** with a **turnitin.com receipt**. The course ID# **7678752**, and the course password is “**abraham**”. If you have not used turnitin.com before, simply go to the website, and in the upper right hand corner of the webpage create a user ID, login, and follow the instructions for submitting your paper.

Your final essay quiz cannot be late!! A late paper will result in a full grade reduction (-5%) per day late, and will not include comments.

Plagiarism is expressly forbidden by the rules of Brock University. If you hand in a plagiarized paper, the Dean’s Office may be informed, and it may result in a failing course grade. The following refers to the online faculty handbook and student code of conduct:

- In the Faculty Handbook, section III, part #15. Academic Misconduct at <http://www.brocku.ca/secretariat/facultyhandbook/section3.php#_genIndex95>.
- Code of Student Academic Conduct at <<http://www.brocku.ca/academicintegrity/policy>>.

FOUR

Attendance for lectures and seminars is mandatory according to the rules of Brock University. Each student may only miss one (1) lecture during this Spring session. Any additional absences will result in grade penalties for the final course grade (-5% per absence). Only valid medical excuses (with written confirmation) will prevent this.

Please note: the use of laptop computers and any other electronic devices is banned during lecture; they are simply distractions. Only legitimated educational needs will supercede this requirement.

Accommodations: As part of Brock University’s commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the University Community with disabilities. If you require accommodations related to a permanent disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact the Student Development Centre Services for Students with Disabilities (4th Floor, Schmon Tower, ext. 3240) and also discuss these accommodation(s) with the professor.

FIVE

Class participation is expected and mandatory. Some of the material that we will cover during the course will be new and unfamiliar. Ask questions and express your ideas. All views are welcomed and encouraged. During this course you will learn to articulate and voice your ideas. Communication, both written and oral, is a key goal of the course. Discussion and dialogue are important ingredients for all classes, especially in philosophy and liberal arts courses.

Grading

Grading for each student will be a combination of four (4) scores over the course of the Spring session:

Spring 2014	
Participation & Attendance	20%
Quiz #1 and #2	50%
Final Essay Quiz	30%
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Total	100%

Syllabus: Spring 2014

DATE	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
May 5	Introduction: Monotheism and Tolerance; Buber, pg. 1-48
May 7	<i>I-Thou</i> , pg. 49-100
May 12	<i>I-Thou</i> , pg. 101-140
May 14	<i>I-Thou</i> , pg. 141-182
May 19	No Classes: Victoria Day**
May 21	<i>Jesus, Interrupted</i> , pg. ix-100; Quiz #1
May 26	No Classes: Congress 2014
May 28	No Classes: Congress 2014
June 2	<i>Jesus, Interrupted</i> , pg. 101-180
June 4	<i>Jesus, Interrupted</i> , pg. 181-284
June 6**	<i>The Koran: A Very Short Introduction</i> , pg. 1-174; “Tale of the Sands” (online in Sakai); Quiz #2
June 9	<i>Makers of Contemporary Islam</i> , pg. 3-22 (available in the library, electronic resource); <i>The Place of Tolerance in Islam</i> , pg. 1-111
June 11	Journal articles: “Al-Ghazali’s Hermeneutics and Phenomenology” (<i>Religion East and West</i>), “What is Sufism?”, and “Mysticism as Morality, The Case of Sufism”
June 16	Final Essay Quiz (due in Prof. Berman’s office at 10:00am, Monday morning!)