

Approaches to the Study of the Quran HRBS 4827 - 01
GTU, Starr King School for the Ministry, Fall 2010

Wednesdays, 2:10-5:00pm

Instructor: Ghazala Anwar

This is an introduction to the content of the Quran and the approaches to its study. It will look at the traditional and Western modern understanding of how the Quran came to be; the content of the Quran; and the approaches to its study. The class will be run like a seminar with students presenting and leading discussions on the weekly topics of discussion.

Course Assignments:

Participation in weekly seminars	10%
Presentations in weekly seminars	25%
Leading weekly Quranic textual study	25%
Reading log	20%
Written transcripts of class presentations	20%

Due Dates

Notes of presentation on articles and Quran texts are due a day in advance, i.e on Tuesday before class by 5 pm via email. These may be revised and re-submitted by Friday 5pm of the same week as the presentation.

Reading log for first half of the semester is due on Wednesday October 20th by 2pm

Reading log for second half of the semester is due on Wed December 8th by 2pm.

All assignments to be submitted via email

Required Texts

Ahmed Ali, trans., al-Quran: A contemporary translation...
Princeton University Press, 1984. ISBN 0-691-02046-9
(\$13.57 on Amazon on July 17)

Jane Dammen McAuliffe, ed., Cambridge Companion to the Quran
Cambridge University Press, 2006. ISBN 978-0-521-53934-0
(\$18.97 on Amazon on July 17)

Articles from the following books on reserve in the GTU library.

Issa Boullata, ed., Literary Structures of Religious Meaning in the Quran
Curzon Press, 2000. ISBN 0-7007-1256-9

Colin Turner, ed., The Koran: Critical Concepts in Islamic Studies, VI-IV
Routledge Curzon, 2004. ISBN 0-415-31191-8 (Set)

INTRODUCTIONS

Week I 8-Sep

McAuliffe Introduction

via email - End of Ramadhan - No class meeting

Students chose the readings for their in-class presentations

Ahmed Ali *al-Fatiha and al-Baqara* Sura 1-2 p11 - 50

FORMATION of the QURANIC TEXT

Week II 15-Sep

McAuliffe The Historical Context by Fred Donner

McAuliffe Creation of a Fixed Text by Claude Gilliot

McAuliffe Alternative Accounts of the Quran's Formation by Motzki

Ahmed Ali *Al-Imran to al-Maidah* Sura 3 - 5 p51-113

Week III 22-Sep

Turner History of the Text by Montgomery Watt

Turner Quran Collection by Richard Burton

Turner Forgotten Witness by Estelle Whelan

Ahmed Ali *al-Anam to at-Taubah* Sura 6-9 p114-176

TRANSMISSION of the QURANIC TEXT

Week IV 29-Sep

McAuliffe Themes and Topics by Daniel Madigan

McAuliffe Inscriptions in Art and Architecture by Blair and Bloom

Ahmed Ali Yunus to an-Nahl S 10 - 16 p177-239

Week V 6-Oct

McAuliffe From Palm Leaves to the Internet by Fred Leehuis

McAuliffe Recitation and Aesthetic Reception by Graham and Kermani

Ahmed Ali *Bani Israel to al-Hajj* S 17-22 p240-290

STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

Week VI 13-Oct

Turner **Structural, Linguistic & Literary Features by Angelika Neuwirth**

Turner **Linguistic Errors by Richard Burton**

Turner **Fawatih al-Suwar by Shahid**

Ahmed Ali *al-Muminun to al-Qasas* S 23- 28 p291-336

Week VII 20-Oct

Izutsu **Ethico Religious Concepts in the Koran - Semantics & the Koran**

Izutsu **Ethico Religious Concepts in the Koran - the Believer**

Izutsu **Ethico Religious Concepts in the Koran - Conclusion**

Ahmed Ali *al-Ankabut to Sad* S 29- 38 337-390

Reading logs for first half of the semester due

Week VIII 27-Oct

READING WEEK. NO CLASS

Week IX 3-Nov

NO CLASS - a make up class will be scheduled

LITERARY ANALYSES

Week X 40492

Turner Inimitability of the Quran by Larkin

Turner Quran as Literature by Mustansir Mir

Turner Literary Approaches to the Hymnic Surahs by Michael Sells

Ahmed Ali *az-Zumar to al-Ahqaf* S 39-46 391-434

Week XI	17-Nov		
Boullata		Text and Textuality Quran 3:7	Jane D. McAuliffe
Turner		Images and Metaphors in Mekkan Surahs	by Angelika Neuwirth
Turner		Refrentiality and Textuality in Surah al-Hijr	
Ahmed Ali		<i>Muhammad to al-Jumu'ah</i>	S 47 - 62 435-485

TRADITIONAL EXEGESIS and CONTEMPORARY READINGS

Week XII	24-Nov		
McAuliffe		The Task and Tradition of Interpretation	by Jane D. McAuliffe
McAuliffe		Multiple Areas of Influence	by Alexander Knysch
McAuliffe		Western Scholarship and the Quran	
Ahmed Ali		<i>al-Munafiqun to al-Fajr</i>	S 63 - 74 486-536

Week XIII	40513		
Turner		Scepticism and Literature	by Berg
Turner		Tafsir from Tabari to Ibn Kathir	by Norman Calder
Turner		Modern Tafsir of al-Kahf	by Netton
Ahmed Ali		<i>al-Balad to al-Bayyinah</i>	S 90-98 537-545

Week XIV	40520		
McAuliffe		Women's Readings of the Quran	by Asma Barlas
McAuliffe		Political Interpretations of the Quran	by Stefan Wild
McAuliffe		The Quran and Other Religions	by Abdul Aziz Sachedina
Ahmed Ali		<i>al-zilzal to an-Nas</i>	S99 - 114 546 - 561
Reading logs for second half of the semester due			

Week XV	15-Dec		
Closing Discussion and end of the Semester Party			