

HRBS 4822 QURAN: ANIMAL RIGHTS

Wednesdays, via Zoom, 9am–11:40 pm

Instructor: Dr. Ghazala Anwar, SKSM

Spring Semester, 2018

(draft syllabus subject to revision)

This course will expose the students to contemporary secular and religious writings concerned with animal well being and rights. Student will study relevant portions of the Quran, Hadith literature, and early texts which represent non-human animals as embodied vulnerable subjects, self-aware, conscious, with feelings, intelligence, language, in relationships with own kind and with humans and forming communities of believers (Muslims). And they will be introduced to prominent individuals through out the centuries whose Rahmanic lifestyles bore witness to their conviction that human and non-human Muslims are part of one moral community.

The students will gain an understanding of Islamic views on animal welfare and animal rights through the study of Quran and hadith literature as well as the current academic debates on animal rights.

Pre-requisite: An introductory course in the Quran or Islam.

Required Texts

1. A copy of the **Quran in Arabic with English translation** by one of the following translators: Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Ahmed Ali, Nazeer Ahmed, Laleh Bakhtiar, M.A.S. Abdel Haleem. (Please pick one that flows for you. Each have their advantages and disadvantages and the meaning becomes clearer by comparing several translation of the same passage.)
2. Carl W. Ernst, **How to Read the Quran: A New Guide with Select Translations**, University of North Carolina Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8078-3516-6. USD \$19.58
3. Richard Foltz, **Animals in Islamic Tradition and Muslim Cultures**, ISBN: 978-1851683987\$16.70

4. Al-Hafiz Basheer Ahmad al Masri, **Animal Welfare in Islam**, The Islamic Foundation, ISBN: 978-0860375951, \$18.86
5. Sarra Tlili **Animals in the Quran**, Cambridge Series in Islamic Civilization ISBN:9781107023703, \$28.54
6. Sue Donaldson and Will Kymlica, **Zoopolis: A Political Theory of Animal Rights**, Oxford University Press, ISBN:9780199599660, 2011. \$26.96
7. Carol Adams and Lori Gruen **Ecofeminism: Feminist Intersections with Animal and the Earth.**, Bloomsbury Academic, ISBN:9781628926224, 2014, 29.9

Essential Electronic Resources

1. **Quran.com**, for multiple translations for critical study of the texts
2. **Corpus.Quran.com**, for multiple translations and basic Quranic Studies resources.

Class Structure:

The weekly three hours class time will be divided between lectures, presentations, and discussion.

Course Assignments:

Class presentations and participation: 30%

Please participate in class by arriving on time, being attentive and by contributing both by mindful sharing of your thoughts and questions and respectful listening and responses to your peers. You will also be given class presentation assignments as individuals or groups depending on the class size.

Quran Journal: 30% (first draft due one week before class, final draft due one week after class.)

Please read the text and summarise and comment on noteworthy aspects of all the 114 surahs (chapters) of the Quran.

Assigned Readings Journal: 30%

Please read the required books and articles and give a brief summary of each chapter of the book or article while discussing what you found noteworthy and interesting.

Final Oral: 10%

After reading through your written assignments I shall have an interview and oral test with each of the students, in person or via Skype.

PhD students may write a 5,000 word research paper on a topic approved by the instructor to fulfill a GTU requirement. Guidelines for writing a research essay will be shared with those wishing to write an essay.