

Quran Introductory Course

Day: Tuesday

Instructor: Marwa Abdalmoneam

Date: Feb12-April 23, 2013

mhabdalm@mtu.edu

Place: Fisher 231

Introduction:

About the Quran

The Quran is the holy book for Muslims. It is the words of Allah revealed to the prophet Mohammad through the angel Gabriel through a period of 23 years about 1450 years ago. The Quran was revealed in Arabic and it has been preserved in this language over the centuries. In chapter 15 verse 9 Allah says that it is He who sent down the Quran and He promises to guard it. Translations of the meanings of the Quran are available in different languages and there are many English translations.

Why would an old book be important for a contemporary American? Your American neighbor, classmate, or workmate might be a Muslim who considers this book an essential factor in his/her life. American society is moving forward and increasing its capacity for accepting the diversity within itself. A peaceful secure society needs mutual understanding and mutual respect among all of its groups. It is because Muslims are part of this society that you might be interested in knowing more about their religious principles.

There are about 1.6 billion Muslims around the world, more than one fifth of the earth population. They claim that the Quran is a universal book-and can be-useful to anyone at anytime and anywhere. Perhaps you would like to test this claim for yourself.

Goals of the Course

- Experience the Quran directly (without being mediated by the media, scholars, etc.)
- Read patiently and extract meanings that can be of contemporary usefulness.
- Read thoughtfully and ask questions about one's self, things we see and what we don't see.
- Read intellectually and see if we realize anything new.

About the Course

This is a 10 session course. The goal of it is to get a fair overview of the Quran through reading and explaining a few chapters for this holy book. The course work includes pre-class reading, class discussions, and after class written assignments. Attending the sessions regularly and doing the course work are very important in order to achieve the goal of this course. Missing some of the sessions or any of the work may lead to imbalanced idea about the Quran. The basic reference that will be used during this course is "The Nobel Quran English Translation of the Meanings and Commentary" by *Dr.*

Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al-Hilali and Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Kahan, printed in King Fahd complex, Madinah, K.S.A, 1985. A soft copy of the reference will be sent to the participants in the course.

More on the course work

Pre-class reading: Reading the subject assigned to the coming session.

Class reading and discussion: This will be directed reading of the verses from the assignment. The instructor will offer some explanation and suggest some points for discussion. It is important for the participants to ask questions because it enables a deeper understanding of the verses and their possible applications and usefulness to us as individuals and as communities.

After class Assignment: After each class a 1- to 2- page essay that demonstrates your understanding and adds comments on the subject given in class will be assigned. It should be e-mailed to the instructor before Saturday 8:00 AM.

Session #	Date	Subject
1	02/12/2013	Introduction and Basics of Islam
2	02/19/2013	Quran chapters 1, 112, and 103
3	02/26/2013	Quran Chapter 18 verses 1 to 25
4	03/5/2013	Ch. 18 V 26 - 44
5	03/19/2013	Ch. 18 V 45 - 59
6	03/26/2013	Ch. 18 V 60 - 82
7	04/02/2013	Ch. 18 V 83-110
8	04/9/2013	General reflections on CH.18
9	04/16/2013	Chapters 99 and 109
10	04/23/2013	Conclusion, and course evaluation