

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Interpreting the Quran in Translation

Course Number and Section:

RELSTUD

5310A 550

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course explores passages in the Quran that have shaped classical and contemporary Islam, particularly regarding the tensions between text, context, and community. In addition to textual analysis, the course covers the history of reception and the influence these texts and their interpretations have on social relations and contemporary issues.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify the major tools of traditional and modern Quran interpretation
- Describe the primary methodological differences among major schools of Islamic thought in interpreting the Quran
- Be able to identify acts of interpretation in a variety of Islamic texts
- Discuss how reason, science, ethics and context have been variously invoked by Quran interpreters as filters for normative readings
- Conduct basic research in the academic study of Quran interpretation

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Karen Bauer, *Gender Hierarchy in the Qur'an: Medieval Interpretations, Modern Responses* (Cambridge University Press 2017). Students require a personal hardcopy of this book (no e-books) for an in-class assignment. Available from the Western bookstore, \$53.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	Ongoing	10
Test 1	10/14/2025	30
Test 2	12/02/2025	30

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Book Assignment: Pre-Modern and Contemporary Interpretations of Gender Hierarchy	11/11/2025	30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Tuesday, September 2, 2025