

University of California, Riverside

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (CHASS)

CHASS FIRST HUMANITIES

CHF001F:

Religious Studies: Islam in Southeast Asia

FALL 2013

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

SPR 1340

Instructor:

Dr. Muhamad Ali

Course Description

Demographics make Southeast Asia significant to the world Muslim community, with a regional population of more than 230 millions, representing about 20 percent of the global Muslim population of 1.6 billion. This course introduces students to religious studies, with special focus on Islam in Indonesia, the most populous majority Muslim country in the world. It first introduces students to indigenous religions and world religions in Southeast Asia. It then examines various dimensions of religion, from faith, prayer, fasting, pilgrimage to music and performance, with specific attention to Islam as practiced in Indonesia. Although this course uses most materials on Islam in Indonesia, it highlights a comparative analysis of other religious traditions in Asia and other parts of the world, including the U.S.A.

By exploring both theories of religion and case studies of Islam in Indonesia, it addresses some larger questions: what is religion? What is Islam? How do we make sense of the role of ritual and religion in shaping the world today? How and why are there many religious rituals and traditions? How and why are there diverse religious expressions and practices of Islam in the world?

Learning Objectives

- **Developing Academic Skills:** a. Thinking critically of religion in general and Islam in particular; b. Reading texts and speaking critically; c. Writing academic essays; and d. Creating a piece of work about religion and Islam utilizing the media.
- **Understanding Key Concepts in Context,** such as religion, spirituality, animism, theism, the Sacred and the Secular, the Traditional and the Modern, and the Private and the Public.
- **Understanding Subject Matters:** basic yet important knowledge about different religious traditions, pillars of faith and pillars of Islam, such as

prayer, fasting, charity, and pilgrimage, holidays and festivals, and the relationship between religion and gender, politics, music, and performance.

Requirements and Grading

- **Class participation:** Attending class regularly, asking questions, making comments, and participating in discussions are considered active class participation. Every lecture requires students' engagement. Students are required to read the material before class. 10 % of the total grade
- **2 short essays:** 1). One page essay about "what I don't know and what I want to know about religion in general and about Islam and Southeast Asia in particular", and 2). One page essay about "what I have learned from the course about religion, Islam, and Southeast Asia". 2.5 % each, 5 % for the two essays.
- **Group discussion and peer mentorship:** 20 % (teaching assistant and peer mentors have their specific requirements and grading).
- **2 (two) 3-4 page critical analysis Essays:** the first one due in class on Monday, October 21 (20 %) and the second one due on Monday, November 18, (25 %) . The prompts for the essays will be given in due time.
- **A final creative work and presentation (20 %):** posters, video clips, poems, short stories, and other creative works of student's choice with consultation with instructor or teaching assistant. Students will present their works on December 2 and December 4. This assignment will be explained in class.

Textbook or Readings

There is no specific textbook for purchasing. Required readings and additional readings for each week will be available mostly on iLearn under Course Material. Required Readings are for each week. Additional Readings are for further readings as well as for use as references in writing essays and doing other assignments given by teaching assistant and peer mentors. Other readings might be given if necessary.

Lectures Schedule

Week 1: Introduction and Key Concepts and Theories

Monday, September 30: Introduction to the course: explaining syllabus, defining Religion, religious, ritual, mapping Southeast Asia, Indonesia, the Sacred and the Profane, Dimensions of the Sacred.

Wednesday, October 2: Key Concepts and Theories: defining and studying Islam critically, exploring dimensions and diversity of Islam.

Required Readings for the Week:

- “Academic Ritual”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*, pp.1-5.
- Jonathan Z. Smith, “Religion, Religions, Religious”, in Mark C. Taylor, ed., *Critical Terms for Religious Studies*
- Ninian Smart, “Introduction”, *Dimensions of the Sacred: An Anatomy of the World’s Beliefs*
- Andrew Rippin, “Introduction”, in *Defining Islam: A Reader*

Additional Readings:

- Catherine Bell: *Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice* , Part I: the Practice of Ritual Theory,
- Frederick M. Denny, “Islamic Ritual: Perspectives and Theories”, in Richard C. Martin, *Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies*

Week 2: Religions in Southeast Asia

Monday, October 7: Indigenous Beliefs and World Religions: learning how Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity reached and became localized in Southeast Asia.

Wednesday, October 9: Islam: studying how and why Islam spread from the Middle East to Southeast Asia, and how Islam interacted with indigenous and other world religions in the region.

Required Readings for the Week:

- “Indigenous Beliefs in Southeast Asia”
- Michael Feener, “Islam: Historical Introduction and Overview”, in Michael Feener, ed., *Islam in World Cultures: Comparative Perspectives*
- Muhamad Ali, “Islam in Modern Southeast Asian History”, in *Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian History*

Additional Readings:

- “Hinduism”, “Buddhism”, “Catholicism”, “Protestantism”, “Islam”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*
- The Semai: A Non-violent People of Malaya
- The Iban of Serawak: Chronicle of a Vanishing World
- “Indonesians who do not yet Have A religion”
- Hinduization of Southeast Asia
- Peter Harvey, *An Introduction to Buddhism*

- “Being Protestants in Southeast Asia”
- “Arrival of Christianity”
- Vincent Houben, “Southeast Asia and Islam”
- Barbara Andaya, “Islamization of Southeast Asia”
- Muhamad Ali, “Categorizing Muslims in Colonial and Postcolonial Indonesia”
- “Religion in Asia: a comparative chart”

Week 3: Faith and Prayer

Monday, October 14: Faith and Conversion: learning what faith and conversion mean to different individuals and groups; how different peoples, especially Muslims, express their faiths and how and why they convert to Islamic faith and religion.

Wednesday, October 16: Prayer: studying what prayer means to different Muslim individuals and groups; how Muslims pray and why.

Required Readings:

- “Prayer”, “Nature worship”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*, pp. 336-339, pp.289-290.
- Paul Courtright, “the Making of A Deity”, “the Worship of A Deity”, *Ganesa: Lord of Obstacles, Lord of Beginnings*
- “Personal Expressions of Faith”, *Voices of Islam in Southeast Asia*
- John Bowen, “*Salat* in Indonesia: the Social Meanings of an Islamic Ritual”

Additional Readings:

- Richard M. Eaton, “Approaches to the Study of Conversion to Islam in India”, in Richard Martin, ed., *Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies*
- Janet Hoskins, “Entering the Bitter House: Spirit Worship and Conversion in West Sumba”
- Martin Lings, “The House of God”

Week 4: Fasting

Monday, October 21: Fasting in Religions: comparing different ways of controlling one’s self from eating or else in specific times.

Wednesday, October 23: Islamic Fasting: learning why and how Muslims fast in a certain time (especially Ramadan and other times) and what fasting means to them.

Required Readings:

- “Asceticism”, “Food and Ritual”, “Ramadan”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*, pp. 35-38 & pp.139-142, pp.355-357
- Andre Moller, *Ramadan in Java: the Joy and Jihad of Ritual Fasting*, Knocking on Heaven’s Door: Fasting in Jewish, Christian, Indian religions, How to understand Islamic Rituals, Normative Ramadan, Textual Ramadan, Lived Ramadan, Analyzed Ramadan
- Mark Woodward, *Java, Indonesia, and Islam*, chapter 6, the Fast of Ramadan in Yogyakarta

Additional Readings:

- Joseph Tamney, “Muslim and Christian Attitudes toward Fasting in Southeast Asia”

Week 5: Pilgrimage

Monday, October 28: Pilgrimage: learning why and how different peoples make spiritual or religious journeys often called pilgrimage.

Wednesday, October 30: Islamic Pilgrimage (Hajj) : studying why and how Muslims perform pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia as well as why and how some Muslims visit local sacred sites in their local areas.

Required Readings

- “Pilgrimage”, “Hajj”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*, pp.327-331, pp. 159-161
- William R. Roff, “Pilgrimage and the History of Religions: Theoretical Approaches to the Hajj”, in Richard Martin, *Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies*
- Eric Tagliacozzo, *the Longest Journey: Southeast Asians and the Pilgrimage to Mecca*, chapter 11: “I was the Guest of Allah: Hajj Memoirs from Southeast Asia”

Additional Readings:

- Eric Tagliacozzo, Conclusion, *the Longest Journey: Southeast Asians and the Pilgrimage to Mecca*

Week 6: Festival

Monday, November 4: Calendrical Rituals and Commemorative Rituals: learning why and how different peoples perform different forms of ritual or ceremony.

Wednesday, November 6: Islamic Holidays and Celebration of The Birthday of the Prophet: studying why and how Muslims celebrate the Eids as well as other festivals, such as the Birthday of the Prophet.

Required Readings:

- “Calendrical Rituals”, “Commemorative Rituals”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*, pp. 67-70; pp.93-95.
- Mark Woodward, Java, *Indonesia and Islam*, chapter 3 the Slametan: Textual Knowledge and Ritual Performance in Yogyakarta
- Mark Woodward, Java, *Indonesia, and Islam*, chapter 5 the Garebeg Maulud: Veneration of the Prophet as Imperial Ritual

Additional Readings:

- Muhammad Adlin Sila, “the Festivity of Maulid Nabi in Cikoang, South Sulawesi: Between Remembering and Exaggerating the Spirit of the Prophet” , *Studia Islamika* vol.8, No.3, 2001.
- Clifford Geertz, “the Slametan Communal Feast as A Core Ritual” in *Religion of Java*, pp.11-15.

Week 7: Family and Gender Relations

Monday, November 11: no class

Wednesday, November 13: Movie (Woman with a Turban, *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban*): learning how and why Muslims view family and gender relations and how they play their gender roles.

Required Readings:

- “Gender Rituals”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*, pp. 145-149.
- Suzanne Brenner, “Reconstructing Self and Society: Javanese Muslim Women and “The Veil”
- John Bowen, “Qur’an, Justice, Gender: Internal Debates in Indonesian Islamic Jurisprudence”

Additional Readings:

- “Marriage rituals”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*, 230-235.
- Muhamad Ali, “Gender Jihad in Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Australia”

- Jennifer Connolly, “Forbidden Intimacies: Christian-Muslim Inter-marriage in East Kalimantan, Indonesia”
- “Interfaith Food Fight Brigs Lombok’s Muslims and Hindus Closer Together”

Week 8: Knowledge and the Political

Monday, November 18: Learning and Teaching Islam: learning why and how Muslims learn about Islamic knowledge in schools and colleges; how and why they categorize knowledge into the religious and the secular; and how and why they preferred one to another while others combine both the religious and the secular.

Wednesday, November 20: Ritual and the Political: studying why and how Muslims define the political; how and why some use ritual as having political meanings; and why and how some seek to separate ritual from the political.

Required Readings

- “Language, Literacy, and Ritual”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*, pp. 213-216
- Azyumardi Azra et al, “*Pesantren and Madrasa: Muslim Schools and National Ideals in Indonesia*”
- Muhamad Ali, “Far from Mecca: Modern Islam in Indonesia and Malaysia”, in *Islam in the Modern World*

Additional Readings:

- Djamil Suherman, “Becoming A Santri”
- Muhamad Ali, “Transmission of Islamic Knowledge in Kelantan”
- Andree Feillard, “Traditionalist Islam and the State in Indonesia: the Road to Legitimacy and Renewal”, in *Islam in an Era of Nation-States*

Week 9: The Aesthetic

Monday, November 25: Music and Performance: learning how and why music and performance become a crucial part of rituals and religious practices.

Professor Muhamad Ali will be absent in class and will attend the Annual Conference of American Academy of Religion (AAR) in Maryland and Professor René T. A. Lysloff will be a guest lecturer on this topic.

Wednesday, November 27: Beautifying Sound and Words: learning why and how Muslims recited the Qur’an and have competition in Indonesia; how and why Muslims do Qur’anic or Arabic calligraphy. Students will practice calligraphic writing.

Required Readings:

- “Music”, “Ritual of Performace”, Franck A. Salamone, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals*, pp. 262-267, pp. 321-323.
- Ahmad Tohari, part 1, *the Dancer A Trilogy of Novels*
- Anne Rasmussen, “The Qur’an in Indonesian Daily Life: the Public Project of Musical Oratory”

Additional Readings:

- Anna Gade, Introduction, *Perfection Makes Practice: Learning, Emotion, and the Recited Qur’an in Indonesia*
- Nurcholish Madjid, “Islamic Roots of Modern Pluralism: Indonesian Experiences”
- Muhamad Ali, “Liberal Islam Network in Contemporary Indonesia”

Week 10: Student Presentations and Conclusion

Monday, December 2: Student Presentations

Wednesday, December 4: Student Presentations and Conclusion