## Course Proposal Form

**Department**: Philosophy  
**Effective Session**: Fall 2016

### Proposed

- **Subject Abbreviation**: REL  
- **Course Number**: 37800  
- **Long Title**: The Qur'an in Muslim Life  
- **Short Title**: Qur'an Muslim Life

### Existing

- **Subject Abbreviation**:  
- **Course Number**:  
- **Abbreviated title will be entered by the Office of the Registrar if omitted. (50 CHARACTERS ONLY)**

### Terms Offered

- **Check All That Apply**
  - Fall  
  - Spring  
  - Summer

### Campus(es) Involved

- Calumet  
- Ft. Wayne  
- Tech Statewide  
- Indianapolis  
- W. Lafayette

### Credit Type

1. Fixed Credit: Cr. Hrs.  
2. Variable Credit Range:  
   - Minimum Cr. Hrs:  
   - Maximum Cr. Hrs:  
   - Equivalent Credit: Yes  

### Course Description

Scholarly investigation of the Qur'an and the manifold ways in which it has been received, understood, interpreted, and contested by Muslims throughout the ages. Topics includes the history of the text, its structure, literary features, and major themes, as well as its aural, devotional, social, and material dimensions, the issue of translation and debates over matters of interpretation. P: Junior or senior standing or permission of instructor.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Introduce students to the main historical, thematic, and literary features of the Qur'an as both a sacred book considered necessary and infallible by Muslims, and as a literary text whose language, imagery, and forms have exerted a wide-ranging influence on the development of art, culture, and society from Morocco to Indonesia.  
2. Guide participants in thinking, speaking, and writing analytically about the idea of scripture as a force which shapes, and is shaped by, human experience in time and space through examining the manifold ways in which the Qur'an has been received, preserved, understood, interpreted, and contested by Muslims throughout history.  
3. Foster students an internal understanding of the role of the Qur'an in contemporary Muslim life and thought through examining the ways in which classical forms of encounter and interpretation have been projected into the present to confront the vagaries of modernity.

### Course Attributes

- Pass/Not Pass Only  
- Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Only  
- Repeatable  
- Maximum Repeatable Credit:  
- Credit By Examination  
- 5. Fees:  
  - Coop  
  - Lab  
  - Rate Request

### Schedule Type

- Lecture  
- Recitation  
- Presentation  
- Laboratory  
- Lab Prep  
- Studio  
- Distance  
- Experiential  
- Research  
- Ind. Study  
- Pract/Observ

### Cross-Listed Courses

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-  
-  

**Office of the Registrar**

**Print Form**

**COASCD#15-11**

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**Calumet Department Head**  
**Date**:  

**Calumet School Dean**  
**Date**:  

**Ft. Wayne Department Head**  
**Date**:  

**Ft. Wayne School Dean**  
**Date**:  

**Indianapolis Department Head**  
**Date**:  

**Indianapolis School Dean**  
**Date**:  

**North Central Faculty Senate Chair**  
**Date**:  

**Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs**  
**Date**:  

**West Lafayette Department Head**  
**Date**:  

**West Lafayette College/School Dean**  
**Date**:  

**West Lafayette Registrar**  
**Date**:  

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THE QUR’AN
in Muslim Life and Thought

REL 37800-01
[Term] [Year]
Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne

Instructor: [name] [email] [phone]
Time & Location: [days] [times] in [location]
Office Hours: [days] [times] and by appointment in [location]
Course Website: https://ipfw.blackboard.com

Course Description
As Islam’s sacred book, the Qur’an is the primary repository of the beliefs, values, rituals, and symbols of Islam, permeating the lives of over one billion people worldwide. Yet for most non-Muslims, the Qur’an remains a closed book. This course looks to consider the features, structure, and contents of the Qur’an as a text and the manifold ways in which it has been received, understood, interpreted, and contested by Muslims for over 1,400 years. After familiarizing ourselves with the history of the Qur’an, its structure, literary features, and major themes, we will examine the ways in which it has been present in Muslim life and thought throughout the ages, paying particular attention to its aural, devotional, social, and material dimensions, the issue of translation, and debates over interpretation and exegetical authority from the classical period to the present. Evaluation will be based on weekly discussion papers and a research project and corresponding oral presentation.

Course Aims and Objectives
This course is guided by three primary objectives. First, to introduce students to the main historical, thematic, and literary features of the Qur’an as both a sacred book considered sacrosanct and infallible by Muslims, and as a literary text whose language, imagery, and forms have exerted a wide-ranging influence on the development of art, culture, and society from Morocco to Indonesia. Second, the course aims to guide students in thinking, speaking, and writing analytically about the idea of “scripture” as a force which shapes, and is shaped by, human experience in time and space through examining the manifold ways in which the Qur’an has been received, preserved, understood, interpreted, and contested by Muslims throughout history. Finally, the course aspires to foster an informed understanding of the role of the Qur’an in contemporary Muslim life and thought through examining the ways in which classical forms of encounter and interpretation have been projected into the present to confront the vagaries of modernity.

Course Format, Procedures and Assumptions
The class will be devoted mainly to discussion, with background lecture as necessary. All assigned readings must be completed before each class session.
Required Books and Resources

1. Course Reader (online) (CR in meeting schedule).


Course Requirements

1. Presence and Participation =10%
2. Discussion Papers (14) =56%
3. Research Paper & Presentation =34%

Presence and Participation

Regular attendance is of paramount importance and will be monitored with an attendance sheet as well as through participation in discussion. It will be worth 10% of your final course grade. Please note that participation also means that you have done the readings. You, your classmates, and I cannot derive much of a benefit from our time together if we are all not, speaking literally and figuratively, ‘on the same page’. You are expected to be present not only in body, but in mind as well; stimulating, instructive, and successful exchange cannot be nurtured in a passive environment—it is only when everyone actively participates in classroom discussions and activities that we can truly benefit from the unique contributions each of us brings to our (very complex and challenging) course of study. To this end, I promise to create, promote and maintain an open, welcoming, and intellectually engaging environment within which all of us can feel free to question, challenge, explore, debate, and learn. Further guidelines for discussion will be given in class.

Discussion Papers

Beginning with our second meeting, all participants will be required to submit informal discussion papers in response to each major thematic set of assigned readings. There will be fourteen such papers in all. These discussion papers must be posted on the course website (accessible from https://ipfw.blackboard.com) by [time] on the [day] immediately preceding the session in which we will be discussing the reading(s) in question. Each discussion paper will be worth 4% of your final course grade (for a total of 56% altogether) and will be assigned a + (4%) or − (2%) based on whether or not it evinces that: a) you read the material; and, b) made an honest attempt to think about it in a critical way. Each discussion paper should be in the range of 500–1000 words in length (although you can certainly write more). Late papers will not be accepted. These discussion papers are designed to serve as starting points for in-class discussion, and thus are an essential component of the course. Although I will post explicit leading questions for each set of readings, you are welcome to respond to the readings in any way you see fit. There is no “right” response, and indeed you are encouraged to evaluate, interrogate, challenge, argue, and pose your own questions rather than rely solely on mine. Before coming to class, you should make an effort to read the papers
posted by your classmates and are strongly encouraged to print them out and bring them with you
(or have them available on a laptop or tablet while in class).

Research Paper and Oral Presentation
At the end of the term, each student will be responsible for submitting a formal research paper and
conducting a corresponding oral presentation on a subject related to our course of study. An
assignment sheet detailing the scope, nature, and expectations of the paper and accompanying oral
presentation will be distributed in class. This assignment will be worth 34% of the final course grade
and will be due in class on [day], [date].

Grading Scale
Final course grades are earned on a straight 100 point scale as follows: 98–100 = A+; 93–97 = A;
90–92 = A−; 88–89 = B+; 83–87 = B; 80–82 = B−; 78–79 = C+; 73–77 = C; 70–72 = C−; 68–69 = D+;
63–67 = D; 60–62 = D−; 59 or less = F.

Policy on Attendance Expectations and Due Dates
All students in this course are expected to maintain the highest level of fidelity to the class schedule.
This means that if you miss a regularly scheduled class session or assignment due date for whatever
reason you will not be excused nor will you be able to recoup any points lost as a result of such an
absence or missed assignment or exam. Extreme and documentable circumstances may be excepted
on a case-by-case basis, although this rarely occurs.

Policy on Academic Integrity
Each student in this course is expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by the policies on
academic integrity as defined in the IPFW Code of Students Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct, which
may be found in the IPFW Undergraduate Bulletin available online at bulletin.ipfw.edu. Breeches of
any part of the Code will not be tolerated and will be treated as per the policies contained therein.

Policy on Accessibility and Accommodations
In compliance with IPFW practice and policy on accessibility for all students, appropriate academic
accommodations which may be required for certain students will be made. Generally speaking,
requests for such accommodations should be made during the first two weeks of the term so that
appropriate arrangements can be made. In all cases, however, such requests must be vetted through
the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (located in Walb 113). For more information,
please visit the SSD website at new.ipfw.edu/offices/disabilities or call the office at 481-6657.
MEETING SCHEDULE

INTRODUCING THE QUR'AN

1. [day], [date]
   Welcome and Introduction

2. [day], [date] [disc. paper #1]
   Islam and the Idea of Scripture

3. [day], [date] [disc. paper #2]
   The Qur’an as a Book: Form, Structure, Language

READING THE QUR’AN

4. [day], [date] [disc. paper #3]
   The Qur’anic Cosmos: Theology, Anthropogony, Eschatology

5. [day], [date] [disc. paper #4]
   The Qur’anic Worldview: History and Prophecy
6. [day], [date] [disc. paper #5]

The Qur'anic Vision: Man and Society


EXPERIENCING THE QUR'AN

7. [day], [date] [disc. paper #6]

Qur'anic Sonority: Sound Figures and Aural Landscapes


8. [day], [date] [disc. paper #7]

Aurality, Devotion, and the Qur'an as a Public Text


9. [day], [date] [disc. paper #8]

The Qur'an as Presence/Art/Object


10. [day], [date] [disc. paper #9]

Inimitability and the Limits of Translation

CONTESTING THE QUR’AN

11. [day], [date] [disc. paper #12]

Qur’anic Exegesis as a Mode of Encounter

12. [day], [date] [disc. paper #11]

The Qur’an and Modernity

13. [day], [date] [disc. paper #12]

Reclaiming the Qur’anic Feminine I

14. [day], [date] [disc. paper #13]

Reclaiming the Qur’anic Feminine II
Readings: Wadud, Qur’an and Woman, 62–104.

15. [day], [date] [disc. paper #14]

Recent Revisionist Engagements: Abu Zayd, Shahrur, Arkoun

16. [day], [date]

Oral Presentations / Research Papers Due


