

RLST 290AK-L01 Reading the Qur'an in English 2020 Translation Dr. F. Volker Greifenhagen

Luther College is a federated college of the University of Regina. Grounded in the liberal arts tradition, Luther College is committed to personalized education in a community of scholars who value excellent teaching and engaged learning. Luther courses are student-centred and open to students from all faculties and federated colleges at the University of Regina.

Luther College respectfully acknowledges that it is situated on Treaty Four lands and also the home of the Métis people. Our College considers this shared history to be especially significant as we seek truth and reconciliation. We are reminded that we are all treaty people and are aware of the responsibility we have to one another.

Course Number: RLST 290AK-L01

Course Title: Reading the Qur'an in English Translation

Term/Year: Winter 2020

Times and Locations: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., Luther College 215

Pre-Requisite: Completion of 12 credit hours or RLST 100 (or permission of the department head). No prior knowledge of Arabic or Islam is required or expected.

Instructor Name and Title: Dr. F. Volker Greifenhagen, Professor of Religious Studies

Office Location: Luther 226

Email: franzvolker.greifenhagen@uregina.ca

Phone Number: 306-206-2109

Office Hours: By appointment; please see me after class, or contact me by phone or email.

Any student with a disability who may need accommodations should discuss these with the course instructor, and contact the Centre for Student Accessibility at 306.585.4631, Riddell Centre 251, <http://www.uregina.ca/studserv/disability/index.shtml>

Course Description:

The religion of Islam is a prominent feature of the modern world, whether in terms of world events and media depictions, or because migration has diversified global communities, bringing Muslims to every country. The Qur'an is the holy book of Muslims and is acknowledged as a primary source for Muslim practice and belief. As an Arabic book, the Qur'an is generally not accessible to non-Arab speakers. However, numerous English translations are available and will form the basis of this course.

This course follows an academic approach in exploring the content and literary style of the Qur'an in the context of its emergence in the late antique Near East. We will read large parts of the Qur'an in various English translations. We will also sometimes read parallel texts belonging to other religious groups explicitly mentioned in the Qur'an, such as Jews and Christians. We will experience the scholarly challenges of studying the different layers and genres of the text, identifying its audience and various themes, and dealing with the limits of translation.

Please note that this is not a class in basic Muslim beliefs and practices. While the Qur'an is fundamental to Muslim beliefs and practices, our focus in this course is on gaining familiarity with the text of the Qur'an. Class members who wish an introduction to the basic tenets of Islam are directed to the great variety of introductory textbooks on the subject, and are also encouraged, if they have not already done so, to enroll in RLST 100 "Introduction to Religious Studies" and/or RLST 241 "Introduction to Islam".

Instructor's Bio:

<https://www.luthercollege.edu/university/academics/faculty-profiles/volker-greifenhagen>

Learning Objectives and/or Outcomes:

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Appreciate the particular power of the Qur'an as the scripture of Muslims.
2. Gain some understanding of the structure of the Qur'an, and its rhetorical and thematic characteristics.
3. Learn about the historical process of the origins of the Qur'an in Late Antiquity.
4. Cultivate a critical awareness of multiple interpretive approaches to a sacred text such as the Qur'an.
5. Develop the skills of close reading and analysis of textual units (pericopes) of the Qur'an, making use of available scholarly literature
6. Identify the use of Christian and Jewish intertexts in the Qur'an
7. Appreciate the challenges of translation and cross-cultural communication

Meta-skills and/or Capabilities:

This course will help you to work on certain skills and capabilities that employers look for in university graduates. These skills will be developed by specific parts of the course:

1. Close and careful reading and analysis of texts. This skill will be developed through the reading of the qur'anic text in class, applying the tools of scholarly approaches, and in the assigned written pericope studies.
2. Cross-cultural competence. This competence will be developed in the identification of the interplay between the Qur'an and other sacred texts, and in the relationship of these ancient texts to the modern world.
3. Reading, writing, research and critical analysis. These skills will be developed and practiced through class presentations and discussion, quizzes, and the writing assignments.
4. Historical consciousness. This capability will be developed through the examination of the origins of the Qur'an in the Late Antique context, and the recognition of flux and change from a human experiential perspective in the reception and canonization of the Qur'an.

Required Texts:

1. *How to read the Qur'an: A new guide with select translations*, Carl W. Ernst. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, paperback 2013.
ISBN 978-1-4696-0976-8 (paper)(hard cover 2011 ISBN 978-0-8078-3516-6)

2. At least two different English translations of the Qur'an. The new *Study Quran* edited by Seyyed Hossein Nasr et.al. is suggested as a translation by Muslims (other suggested Muslim translations include those of Yusuf Ali and M.A.S. Abdel Haleem), and the translations by A.J. Arberry and A.J. Droge are suggested as translations by non-Muslims.
You are required to bring a printed English translation of the Qur'an to every class

Other readings will be assigned and made available on-line and/or on library reserve. Class handouts (including this course syllabus!) are also required reading.

Supplemental Texts:

1. *Reading the Qur'an; the contemporary relevance of the sacred text of Islam*, Ziauddin Sardar. London: Hurst & Company, 2011.
2. *The Qur'an: A user's guide*, Farid Esack. Oxford: Oneworld: 2005. [published in 2002 as *The Qur'an: A short introduction*]

Familiarity with the following scholarly resources is a requirement for successful completion of this course (other resources may be added to this list):

1. *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* (5 vols.), ed. Jane Dammen McAuliffe. Leiden; Brill, 2001 -
2. *A concordance of the Qur'an*, Hanna Kassis. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983.
3. *The Qur'an: An encyclopedia*, ed. Oliver Leaman. London: Routledge, 2006.

UR Courses:

You will need to access the course website for at least four purposes:

- To participate in any on-line discussions and/or ask questions.
- To find up-to-date information on readings and other assignments.
- To access various course materials.
- To check your marks.

Evaluation Components and Due Dates

1. **Participation:** You need to attend class and have completed the assigned readings and any assignments for each class period. Please also make active use of the discussion area and other features of the course website. Your class participation mark, and your general performance in this course, will depend on your attendance, and on your preparedness and active participation in class and on-line.
2. **Quizzes:** You will write a short quiz, based on the reading assignments and class lectures and discussion, at the beginning of each class session on Tuesdays. The quizzes are meant to motivate you to keep up with the material. While 11 quizzes in total will be written, only the 8 with the highest marks will be counted towards your final grade. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.
3. **Written Assignments:** You will write three papers: two analyses of qur'anic pericopes, one on a Meccan sura (5-6 pages) and one on a Medinan sura (or part of a sura)(7-8 pages), and a paper on a thematic topic (9-10 pages). Further information will be provided in class. Written assignments are due on Thursdays, February 4, March 10, and April 28.
4. **Presentations:** You will give a short in-class presentation based on your final written assignment. Presentations will take place on March 31, April 2, and 9.

****Note:** You must complete all of the above requirements in order to pass this course. For written assignments, see the section on "Written Work" below. There is no final exam in this course

Evaluation Component	Grade Weight	Due Date
Class and on-line participation	10%	Ongoing
Quizzes 8 X 2.5	20%	Every Tuesday
Assignment #1	15%	Feb 4
Assignment #2	20%	Mar 10
Assignment #3	25%	April 28
In-Class Presentation	10%	April 5, 7 or 12
Total	100%	

Class Schedule

It is your responsibility to keep informed on required readings, quizzes, and assignments and their due dates. We will attempt to generally follow this schedule but circumstances may require modifications along the way. Please watch for announcements in class and on the course website.

Class Dates	Focus/Topic	Activities/Assessments	Readings
Jan 7, 9	The Qur'an as a Book		Ernst pp. 1-19 Suras 1, 112, 113, 114
Jan 14, 16	History and Literary Form	Brief Quiz: Jan 14	Ernst pp. 20-51 Suras: as assigned
Jan 21, 23	Genres and Ways of Reading	Brief Quiz: Jan 21	Ernst pp. 51-75 Suras: As assigned
Jan 28, 30	Early Meccan Period	Brief Quiz: Jan 28	Ernst pp. 76-104 Suras: As assigned
Feb 4, 6	Middle & Late Meccan Period I	Brief Quiz: Feb 4 Assignment #1 Due: Feb 6	Ernst pp. 105-120 Suras: as assigned
Feb 11, 13	Middle & Late Meccan Period II	Brief Quiz: Feb 11	Ernst pp. 120-154 Suras: as assigned
Feb 18 - 21 Winter Break			
Feb 25, 27	Medinan Period I	Brief Quiz: Feb 25	Ernst pp. 155-171 Suras: as assigned
Mar 3, 5	Medinan Period II	Brief Quiz: Mar 3	Ernst pp. 171-204 Suras: as assigned
Mar 10, 12	A Literary, Historical and Intertextual Approach	Brief Quiz: Mar 10 Assignment #2 Due: Mar 12	Ernst pp. 2015-212 Suras: as assigned
Mar 17, 19	Contemporary Themes & Issues I	Brief Quiz: Mar 17	Sardar: as assigned Suras: as assigned

Mar 24, 26	Contemporary Themes & Issues II	Brief Quiz: Mar 24	Sardar: as assigned Suras: as assigned
Mar 31, Apr 2	Presentations	In Class Presentations	
Apr 7, 9	Presentations & Conclusion	In Class Presentations	

Assignment #3 Due: Thursday, April 16, by 5:00 p.m.

Professional Conduct & Policies

Written Work:

All written assignments for this course must be *typewritten* on 8 1/2" by 11" white paper, provided with a cover page with your name and student number, and stapled in the upper left-hand corner. No binders or report covers, please! Written work should be properly paginated, and referenced with consistent citations and a properly formatted bibliography. The authenticity and scholarly reliability of sources from the Internet must be carefully evaluated before being used; if in doubt, consult the instructor.

Written work should follow the format of the *Style Sheet* published by the University of Regina; see: <http://lgdata.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/docs/581/291995/stylesheet-1.pdf>
For further guidance, consult the *MLA Handbook* or Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*.

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will result in severe academic penalties that can include a failing mark or even expulsion from the university. See the academic regulations regarding cheating and plagiarism on in the *U of R Undergraduate Calendar* 5.14.2 (<http://www.uregina.ca/student/registrar/publications/undergraduate-calendar/assets/pdf/2015-16%20Undergrad%20Calendar%20Extracted/attendance.pdf>).

Late Submission Policy:

Written work is due on the deadlines specified in the class schedule. If, for circumstances beyond your control (e.g. medical reasons, death in the family), you are unable to complete the written work on time, you must apply, in advance if possible, with the instructor for an extension - see the form attached to this syllabus. Assignments submitted late without permission of the instructor will be penalized 10% for every day overdue.

Attendance Policy:

Please attend class punctually, complete the assigned readings for each class period, and participate in discussions on-line and in class. Note the academic regulation concerning class attendance in the *U of R Undergraduate Calendar* 5.3 (<http://www.uregina.ca/student/registrar/publications/undergraduate-calendar/assets/pdf/2015-16%20Undergrad%20Calendar%20Extracted/attendance.pdf>). If you are persistently absent or late to class, you will find it difficult to pass this course. Your attendance constitutes a significant part of your participation mark.

Student Privacy

To protect your privacy, please provide the instructor with a standard 9" X 12" envelope labeled with your name (last name first!). This envelope will be used to return your quizzes and written assignments after they have been marked.

Professionalism:

The overwhelming majority of future employers believe that universities should develop professionalism in students regardless of their field of study. A job applicant's professionalism has a huge impact on the likelihood of being hired. Therefore, it is well worth the effort for you to cultivate a professional attitude and behavior as a student. Aspects of professional student conduct have already been touched on above, but here is a list of some things to which you will want to pay attention in order to develop your sense of professionalism:

1. Be on time for classes. If you are late try to slip in without disrupting the class.
2. Stay for the whole class. Do not start packing up your things until the instructor has indicated that the class is over.
3. During class, be attentive to the instructor. Do not talk during class unless asking the instructor a question or unless the instructor wants a time of discussion or is requesting responses from the students.
4. Turn cell-phones off or set them to vibrate.
5. Do not distract other students by texting or surfing the web during class.
6. Hand in assignments on time, at the beginning of class, clearly printed, stapled and labelled with your name.
7. Respect the opinions of other students in the class; avoid rudeness.
8. Use a formal approach to communicating with your instructor whether verbally or in emails; do not assume familiarity unless the instructor permits or encourages it.
9. Never ever plagiarize! It is stealing and unprofessional and not worth it in the long run.

Teaching and Learning Philosophy:

You, as a student, are responsible for your own learning; I, as an instructor, am responsible to assist you with your learning. I do not claim to have all the answers on the subject matter; rather, together we will generate productive questions and explore possible answers. Instead of competing with other students in class, make friends and collaborate.

I will strive to be prepared each class; I expect you also to be prepared. I will work hard, be involved and enthusiastic; I expect the same from you. I expect you to read the required readings, take notes, ask questions and talk about what you are learning. I expect you to take the written assignments seriously as a way of thinking and improving your written communication skills. I will respect your contributions and alternative views of the material.

I will maintain standards to ensure learning. I will endeavour to inform you of your standing in the class in an ongoing manner.

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor about any questions or problems connected with the course.

Helpful Stuff:

The University of Regina Counselling Services at 251 Riddell Centre (585-4491) provides personal counseling and emergency counselling. See <http://www.uregina.ca/counselling/facts.shtml>.

The University of Regina Student Success Centre offers writing tutoring, student success workshops, and one-on-one learning skills consultations. See <http://www.uregina.ca/student/ssc/>.

The Religious Studies Students Association (RSSA) is an organization of students interested in the study of religion, and welcomes you to participate in their activities. The RSSA will sponsor various events during the year - watch for posters and announcements. See <http://www.uregina.ca/arts/religious-studies/current-students/rssa.html>

The Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN) is a community-university collaboration involving students, people working in the voluntary/nonprofit sector and university faculty and staff. Note that religious organizations are considered part of the voluntary sector. Check out the various fulfilling careers in this sector, and the new Nonprofit Sector Leadership and Innovation Certificate.
See: <https://www.luthercollege.edu/university/academics/luther-programs/voluntary-sector-studies-network>

See the attached pages for helpful information on various university procedures and deadlines, on safety and on student mental health.

“A mind is not a vessel to be filled. It is a fire to be kindled”
Plutarch



Name: _____

Student ID#: _____

RLST 290AK APPLICATION FOR AN EXTENSION

(Note: Applications are NOT automatically approved!! You need to provide a description of circumstances beyond your control for not meeting an assignment deadline)

I would like to request an extension to _____ on
the due date for the following assignment:

Reason:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Instructor's Response:

Luther College Academic Announcements
Winter 2020

Special Needs

Any student with a disability who may need accommodations should discuss these with the course instructor, and contact the Centre for Student Accessibility at (306)585-4631 or visit <http://www.uregina.ca/arts/student-resources/new/special-needs.html>.

Student Responsibilities and Course Prerequisites

Students are responsible for understanding and following the academic regulations outlined in the University Calendar. Please see the Academic Regulations section of the 2019-20 Calendar under Responsibilities of Students. Ensure that you have the necessary prerequisite for this class. If not, you will not receive credit for it at graduation time, and you may have difficulty in completing your degree program. Please note unauthorized video or audio-recording of classes is not permitted. If you have a complaint about this course or the instructor, please contact the Academic Dean of Luther College.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of students in their courses. When the persistent lateness or absence of a student jeopardizes the learning or the evaluation of the work of other students in the course, the student may be subject to penalty, including being dropped from the course or being barred from writing the final examination. One written warning will be provided to the student before such action is taken. (Academic Regulation section of the 2019-20 Calendar). **Please note any specific requirements for attendance in this course.**

University Email Accounts

All official university and course-related correspondence is sent to your University of Regina email account. Check it regularly or have your University email forwarded to your preferred email address; see <http://www.uregina.ca/is/student/email/>.

Procedures and Dates for Dropping Courses

All changes to course registration must be made through UR Self Service. Students who are not attending but have not formally withdrawn are still considered to be registered, are liable for fees, and are assigned a failing grade of NP for failing to complete the course. **Non-attendance does not constitute withdrawal.**

Last day to drop a course and receive 100% refund	January 17, 2020
Last day to drop a course without a transcript record	January 17, 2020
Last day to withdraw from a course and receive 50% refund	January 31, 2020
Last day to withdraw from a course without a failing grade	March 16, 2020

Academic Misconduct – Plagiarism and Cheating

Note the definitions of plagiarism and cheating in the Student Code of Code and Right to Appeal section of the 2019-20 Calendar, as well as the potential punishments (which range from a grade of 0 on the test or essay in question up to expulsion from the University). **If you have any questions about the proper methods of citing sources, the extent to which sources (including internet resources) must be cited, or what might constitute plagiarism, please discuss your questions with your instructor before handing in work!** Please note that when you hand in assignments, it is assumed that you handed in the version you intended to hand in – the excuse that you ‘accidentally’ handed in the wrong file will not be accepted. Note that submitting the same assignment in two different classes is considered academic misconduct.

Procedures for Requesting Deferrals of Final Exams or Term Work

If you are unable to finish your final exam or term work for reasons beyond your control (e.g., illness, accident, death in the family), please contact the Assistant/Associate Dean of the Faculty or College through which you are registered as soon as possible for advice. Procedures for requesting deferral of final examinations or term work are outlined in the Academic Regulations section of the 2019-20 Calendar. If you experience any personal difficulties during the semester, for example due to illness or family issues, please discuss your situation with your instructor and/or your Assistant/Associate Dean as soon as possible.

University Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy

All members of the University community are entitled to a professional working and learning environment free of harassment and discrimination. See the General Information for Students section of the 2019-20 Calendar for more details.

Wishing you a successful semester!



Luther Safety Guide

Fire Alarm and Evacuation

- If you see a fire, **PULL THE ALARM AND EVACUATE.**
 - If a Fire Alarm sounds (loud beeping, red flashers in hallways) everyone must evacuate the building immediately.
 - Exit the building via the nearest stairway. Do not use the elevator.
 - If you have limited mobility, exit to a stairwell along the exterior of the building and wait there for assistance. Ask someone to tell emergency personnel where you are. You will be safe there.
 - Leave all belongings behind and close the door behind you.
 - Follow the instructions of emergency wardens, senior Luther staff, and the fire department.
 - Do not return to the building until clearance is given.
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Other Emergencies

- Warnings of other emergency situations will be given via the Emergency Notification System (yellow *Alertus* beacons in the academic wing hallways, loudspeakers in the Residence, and notices displayed on computer screens).
 - Alert others in your area.
 - Follow all instructions given.
 - If a violent intruder is on campus, exit your building if safe to do so and leave campus. If the intruder is in your building, seek shelter in a room, lock and barricade the door, make the room seem unoccupied, and **DO NOT** open the door until a Regina Police Officer instructs you to do so: see the short training video at <https://www.uregina.ca/hr/hsw/emergency-management/armed-intruder/index.html>.
 - In the event of a power failure, proceed immediately to a sunlit spot. If it is dark
 - In the residence, go to the nearest lounge
 - In the academic wing, go to the student lounge on the northwest corner of the first floor. If the power failure lasts longer than 15 minutes, you will be met there by RAs with flashlights.
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Call for Help if you need it!

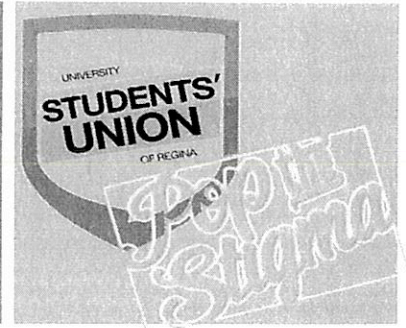
- Call 911 **first**. If you are calling from a Luther land line, dial 9-911.
 - Phone Campus Security: 306-585-4999. If you are calling from a Luther land line, dial 9-306-585-4999.
 - Seek help from the Luther Student Services Office (LC 110, 306-585-5333) or the Academic Office (LC 200, 306-585-5444) during regular business hours.
 - Alert a Luther staff member as you are able.
-

AED (Automated External Defibrillator)

- Located on the **FIRST FLOOR** in the foyer between the Academic Wing and Residence. Instructions for use are on the AED.
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University
of Regina

Counseling Services



Feeling Stressed? Always worried?

Some stress is normal when you're going to university but **1 in 5 students** will suffer from enough distress that they **would benefit from counseling**.

What can I do?

The U of R offers counseling services free of charge for students at the U of R. These services are confidential and easy to access for students – simply go to the second floor of Riddell, Room 251 to make an appointment.

When should you go?

Knowing when to schedule an appointment can be tough. Some common issues you might need help with include if you are test anxious, if you've experienced a trauma like losing a family member or a close friend, or if you've recently ended a relationship.

If the feelings you're experiencing are more intense or severe, counseling services can also provide urgent service within 3 days and referrals as needed.

What options are available to me for?

Personal Counseling – This is a great option if you'd like one on one attention for things like anxiety and panic, relationship conflict, depression, grief and loss, academic issues, body image and substance abuse. The U of R offers all students several free sessions per semester. Try it – talking about your problems can be more helpful than you would think!

Group Counseling – Simply put, you're not alone. Many students are experiencing the same things as you. The U of R offers a wide variety of group counseling opportunities that can help teach many skills for managing your mental health, including: Meditation and Relaxation, Building Healthy Relationships, Stress Management, and Self-Care.

But I can't afford counseling...

Seeking counseling doesn't have to be cost prohibitive. Many students can benefit from the free sessions offered by the U of R's counseling services.

If you need more coverage make sure you contact URSU and www.iHaveAPlan.ca. Expenses related to mental health, including seeing a psychologist, and some medications are partially covered by your student health and dental plan!

What else can I do?

Self-care - taking better care of yourself, can help! Eating better, working out, smoking and drinking less, and balancing school with fun can all help with mental health!

Spiritual Counseling is also available from the chaplains at Luther College and Campion College, and the elders at First Nations University. Pastor Sean Bell 585-5028; Campion Chaplain 359-1235; Elders 790-5950 ext 3129

Stressed out but don't know how to fix it? URSU's Student Advocate can help you free of charge!

- Academic Appeals
- Disciplinary Appeals
- Student Loan Appeals
- E-mail advocate@ursu.ca to schedule an appointment today!
- Emergency Bursaries
- Notary Public
- Rentalsman Appeals

