Syllabus for **Islam: Yesterday and Today**
Institute for Continued Learning
Spring 2015

**Instructor:** Dr. Preston Hughes  
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**Recommended Textbooks:**

**Class Time and Location:**  
Wednesday 11:00 – 12:50  
Science Building  Room 113

**First Day of Instruction:** January 14

**Final Day of Instruction:** Tentatively April 15

**No Class Date:** March 11 (Spring Break)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
This course covers the rise of Islam and its evolution over 1400 years. Emphasis will be given to understanding developments within Islam during the past 200 years, particularly regarding: 18th – 20th century reform movements within Islam, the emergence and development of Islam in the United States and the role of Islam in the increase of terrorism during the past forty years.

**Phase I** will cover the period 4th Century AD to 661 AD and will focus on:
- Middle East before Muhammad (Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire) and Persian Empire)
- Muhammad
- The Qur’an and the Hadith
- The period of the “Rightly Guided Caliphs” (632-661 AD)

Suggested reading for more information on subjects covered in Phase I:
- *The Arabs in History* by Bernard Lewis
- *The Life and Times of Muhammad* by John Bagot Glubb (Glubb Pasha)
- *No God But God* by Reza Aslan

(OVER)
Phase II will cover the period 661 to 1918 and will focus on:

- Sunni-Shia split
- Expansion of Arab Empires and Islam
- Contributions of Islam to science, medicine, philosophy
- Sufism
- Islamic Law
- Seljuk Turks and Ottoman Empire
- Islam’s Approach to Judaism and Christianity

Suggested reading for more information on subjects covered in Phase II:

- A history of the Crusades (Steven Runciman and Harold Lamb have written good ones)
- *Destiny Disrupted* by Tamim Ansary
- *Shia Revival* by Vali Nasr
- *The Shambala Guide to Sufism* by Carl W. Ernst
- *Essential Sufism* by James Fadiman & Robert Frager
- *The Ottoman Centuries* by Lord Kinross
- *The Emergence of Modern Turkey* by Bernard Lewis

Phase III will cover the period 1918 to present and will focus on:

- Post World War I developments and their Impact on the Islamic World (especially the Middle East)
- Creation of Israel
- Islam in the United States
- The emergence and the expansion of Islamic-sponsored terrorism

Suggested reading for more information on subjects covered in Phase III:

- *What Went Wrong* by Bernard Lewis
- *A Peace to End all Peace* by David Fromkin
- *Our Last Best Chance* by King Abdullah of Jordan
- *My Promised Land* by Ari Shavit
- *Islam in America* by Jane I. Smith
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
- *Milestones* by Sayyid Qutb
- *The Looming Tower* by Lawrence Wright
- *Militant Islam Reaches America* by Daniel Pipes

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