This seminar will focus on scientific traditions in Islam and their interactions with a number of religiously-based Islamic doctrines. During part of the term, we will critically examine some of the writings on the subject that have appeared over the last century and a half. The other part of the course will be devoted to looking at primary source materials that have a direct bearing on the subject. There will of course be overlaps, so we may well be looking at both primary and secondary materials during a single class.

Although knowing Arabic is desirable, it is not a prerequisite as long as the student has a background in Islamic intellectual traditions, the history of science, or science/religion issues.

Assignments:

1) [1/4 of grade] The basic assignment will be to come to class each week, keep up with the readings, and be prepared to discuss them.

2) [1/4 of grade] Both enrolled students and auditors will be asked to present at least one report during the term based on additional readings related to that week’s topic. The written report should be turned in at the end of the class in which the presentation is made.

3) [1/2 of grade] The term paper (approximately 15-20 double-spaced pages) will be on some aspect of science and religion in Islam. The paper may be either historiographical or historical; in the latter case you could focus on a specific author or text, or else trace an idea, discourse, or interaction over time. In any case, you will be expected to use primary source materials, either in the original language or in translation. **DUE: DEC. 22, 2015**

Goals of the Class: By the end of the course, you should have become knowledgeable about the major arguments, positions, theses, etc. regarding science and religion in Islam and be able to assess them critically. You should also have acquired some of the tools needed to do original work in this field.

**Readings will be available at the course website** [https://www.rasi.mcgill.ca/ISLA581/](https://www.rasi.mcgill.ca/ISLA581/), as an e-book or e-article through the McGill Libraries, or as printed media in the Islamic Studies Library.
SCHEDULE

Sept. 10, 17: Setting the Stage

Sept. 17, 24: Translation and Transformation

Additional Readings for Reports:

Oct 1: The Place of Science in Islam—Marginality vs. Naturalization

Additional Readings for Reports:
http://name.umdl.umich.edu/HEB00923
Oct. 8: The Place of Science in Islam—Location, Location, Location

Additional Readings for Reports:

Oct. 15: Philosophy and Science

Background Reading:


Additional Readings for Reports:


Nov. 5, 12: Naturalization or Reconfiguration?


Additional Readings for Reports:


Nov. 19: Science and Islam: The Modern Context


ADDITONAL READINGS TO BE ASSIGNED

Additional Readings for Reports:

Seyyed Hossein Nasr, and Muzaffar Iqbal, Islam, Science, Muslims and Technology (Sherwood Park, AB, 2007).


Nov. 26: Science and Islam: The Modern Context
READINGS TO BE ASSIGNED

Dec. 3: Wrap-up and Class Presentations
Additional Course Information

1. Ragep’s Office Hrs: Th 1:30-3:15 pm and by appointment. [Morrice Hall 024]

2. Make-up of an examination, or late submission of papers, will be permitted without penalty only in cases of serious illness or emergency (such as a death in the family); approval for such a make-up exam or late essay submission must be obtained in advance in all but highly exceptional cases.

3. Late submissions of assignments will be accepted but will be penalized a half letter-grade (or 5 points on a 100 scale) for every day it is late, up to a maximum of 50% penalty. Missed exams (other than the final) or paper assignments that are unexcused may (and should) be made up; they will be given 50% credit.

4. McGill is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with the professor as early in the semester as possible. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 398-6009 (online at http://www.mcgill.ca/osd) before you do this.

5. In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté.

6. McGill University recognizes and respects the diversity of its members, including diversity of religious faiths and observances. For McGill’s policy for the Accommodation of Religious Holy Days, please see https://www.mcgill.ca/importantdates/holy-days-0/policy-holy-days

7. Permission from the instructor is needed for taping of Lectures.

8. Academic Integrity:
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ ) for more information.

9. In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

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Please feel free to email me with any questions or problems: jamil.ragep@mcgill.ca