GMC

UC 12130 12F ✓

APPROVED APR 2 4 2013

☒ **Undergraduate Council**	or	**Graduate/Professional Studies Council**
☐ New Course ☒ Course Change		☐ New Course ☐ Course Change
Core Category: <u>Lang/Phil/Culture</u> Effective Fall <u>2014</u>		Effective Fall <u>2013</u>

1. Department: <u>MCL</u> College: <u>CLASS</u>

2. Faculty Contact Person: <u>Emran El-Badawi</u> Telephone: <u>3-3044</u> Email: <u>eel-badawi@uh.edu</u>

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:
    *   Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title: RECEIVED OCT 12 2012
        <u>ARAB / 3340 / Modernity and Rationalism in Islamic Tradition</u>

    *   Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)
        <u>ARAB / 3340 / MODERN & RATIONAL IN ISLAM</u>

    *   SCH: <u>3.00</u> Level: <u>SO</u> CIP Code: <u>1601040001</u> Lect Hrs: <u>3</u> Lab Hrs: <u>0</u>

4. Justification for adding/changing course: **To meet core curriculum requirements**

5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? ☐ Yes ☒ No
    If Yes, please complete:
    *   Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:

        ___ / ___ / ___

    *   Course ID: _____ Effective Date (currently active row): _____

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): <u>B.A.</u> ✓
    *   Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? ☐ Yes ☒ No
    *   Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? ☐ Yes ☒ No
    *   Can the course be repeated for credit? ☐ Yes ☒ No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: <u>Letter (A, B, C ...)</u> Instruction Type: <u>lecture ONLY</u> (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title
    <u>ARAB / 3340 / Modernity and Rationalism in Islamic Tradition</u>

    *   Course ID: <u>048178</u> Effective Date (currently active row): <u>20123</u>

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)
    Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ENGL 1304 Description (30 words max.): Systematic analysis of classical Islamic philosophical discourse and its contribution to the development of Islamic Modernism and Arab Enlightenment; including the Qur'an, Ghazali, Averroes, Muhammad Abduh, and Nasr Abu Zayd. Taught in English

10. Dean's Signature: _____ _____ Date: 10.12.2011

    Print/Type Name: <u>Sarah Fishman</u>

- Created on 5/17/2012 12:39:00 PM -

REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: Modern and Classical Languages

Person Making Request: Emran El-Badawi   Telephone: 713-743-3044

Email: eel-badawi@uh.edu

Dean's Signature: _____   Date: Click here to enter text.

Course Number and Title: ARAB 3340: Modernity and Rationalism in Islamic Tradition

Please attach in separate documents:

X Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description

X Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):

- Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the concepts of modernity and rationalism in Islamic Tradition.
- Students will be able to analyze primary and secondary sources and cite them as evidence to support their understanding of historical events, as well as cultural ideas, values and beliefs.
- Students will be able to identify, evaluate and appropriately cite online and print sources.
- Students will be able to communicate effectively their understanding of patterns, processes and themes in Islamic philosophical discourse.

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Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

☐ Communication   ☐ American History

☐ Mathematics   ☐ Government/Political Science

X Language, Philosophy, & Culture   ☐ Social & Behavioral Science

☐ Creative Arts   ☐ Component Area Option

v.5/10/12

☐ Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

X Critical Thinking   ☐ Teamwork

X Communication Skills   X Social Responsibility

☐ Empirical & Quantitative Skills   X Personal Responsibility

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

Critical Thinking:
Students will need to write a 6-7 page paper that will cite primary as well as secondary sources as evidence for the arguments made. Each paper will also need to analyze the ideas, values and beliefs found in the literature.

Students may answer one of the following questions:

1) Explain the reasons for the decline of classical Islamic philosophy (falsafah). What field of knowledge came to prominence as a result of this recline? What scholars replaced the philosophers and why?

2) Why are Islamic Modernists considered reformers? What are the salient arguments made by 'Abduh and Afghani which later Modersnists build upon? Consider the role of Islamic tradition as well as colonialism in your explanation.

Communication Skills:
In the same 6-7 page paper as above, students will demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively.

Empirical & Quantitative Skills:
Click here to enter text.

Teamwork:
Click here to enter text.

Social Responsibility:
In the same 6-7 page paper as above, students will explore issues of social responsibility.

Personal Responsibility:
In the same 6-7 page paper as above, students will explore issues of personal responsibility.

v.5/10/12

Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course?   ☐ Yes   X No

If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections:

Click here to enter text

Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every 5 years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their course.

Dept. Signature: _____

ARAB 3340: Modernity and Rationalism in Islamic Tradition

Instructor: Emran El-Badawi
Office Hours: TBA (AH 618)

Contact: eel-badawi@uh.edu / 3-3044
Course web site: uh.edu/blackboard

Course Description:

This course serves as a systematic analysis of how Islamic philosophical discourse contributed to the development of Islamic Modernism. It will first delve into the dimensions of rationalism found in the Qur'an, Orthodox Tradition (Sunnah) and the philosophical schools of Baghdad and Andalusia. The course will then bring to light the debate that arose between Hadith scholars and philosophers, accentuated in the works of Ghazali (d. 1111) and Averroes (d. 1198). Finally, the course will trace the trajectory of this debate to its culmination under such Islamic modernists including Muhammad Abduh (d. 1905) and Nasr Abu Zayd (d. 2010). This course is writing intensive and emphasizes critical thinking.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the concepts of modernity and rationalism in Islamic Tradition.
- Students will be able to analyze primary and secondary sources and cite them as evidence to support their understanding of historical events, as well as cultural ideas, values and beliefs.
- Students will be able to identify, evaluate and appropriately cite online and print sources.
- Students will be able to communicate effectively their understanding of patterns, processes and themes in Islamic philosophical discourse.

Course Objectives:
- To made students develop a profound appreciation for the humanities, by demonstrating the contributions of Islamic Philosophy to present day ethics, governance and every day values
- To expose students to the complex interrelationship between philosophical and religious literature in classical and modern Islamic Civilization
- To teach students how to think critically and objectively about Islamic Civilization by appreciating the diversity of its sources and the evolution of its historical context
- To prepare students for graduate school or rigorous careers by making them accustomed to a fast paced upper level course that requires lengthy reading and good writing skills.

Texts:

Primary Sources (Selections from)
The Holy Qur'an
Farabi (d. 951 CE), *On the Soul and Prophetic Knowledge; On Aristotle and Plato*
Ghazali (d. 1111 CE), *Incoherence of the Philosophers; Deliverance from Error*
Averroes (d. 1198 CE), *The Incoherence of the Incoherence*
Mulla Sadra (d. 1640 CE), *Wisdom*
Afghani and Abduh (ca. 1900 CE), *On Philosophy and Religion*
Ali Abd al-Raziq (d. 1966), *Islam and the Foundations of Governance*

Secondary Sources
Fazlur Rahman (d. 1988 CE), *Islam & modernity: Transformation of an Intellectual Tradition*
Dmitri Gutas, *Greek thought, Arabic culture: the Graeco-Arabic translation movement* (selections)
George Saliba, *Islamic science and the making of the European Renaissance* (selections)
Mansoor Moaddel, *Islamic modernism, nationalism, and fundamentalism*, pp. 1-69
Nasr Abu Zayd, *Reformation of Islamic thought: a critical historical analysis* (selections)
Muhammad Shahrur, *The Qur'an, morality and critical reason* (selections)
Wael Hallaq, "Sharia: Theory, Practice, and Transformations"
Jamal al-Banna, *Fatwas* (selections)

Course Grading:

Attendance & Participation	20%
2 Papers	40%
Final Exam	20%

Papers:

Students are required to write TWO essays answering a range of questions posted on Blackboard. Each essay should demonstrate knowledge of the terminology, theories and ideas, examine the sources critically and put them in conversation with one another. The essays should also demonstrate how Islamic civilization is in dialogue with other civilizations, and how it influenced the history, beliefs and values of modern society as a whole. The essays have to be sent via turnitin.com

Each essay must be between 6-7 pages in length (about 1500-1750 words). A rough draft of each essay is due two weeks before the final draft. Students will receive feedback on grammar, writing style, analysis, use of evidence and overall critical thinking.

Timeline:

Week 1: <u>Overview of the course and its objectives</u>
> Defining terms "rationalism", "enlightenment," "modernity," "*ijtihad*,"
>> "*al-falasifah*," "*ahl al-hadith*," "*ahl al-kalam*," "*al-sufiyyah*," "*shari'ah*,"
>> "*al-hadathah*," "*al-tanwir*"

Week 2: <u>Rationalism in Islamic Scripture</u>
> Reason in the Qur'an. Shahrur (selections)
> Reason in the Hadith. Abu Zayd (selections)

Week 3: <u>Islamic Sciences</u>
> The spread of the sciences. Gutas
> The Translation Movements in Baghdad and Andalusia

Week 4: <u>The *Mihnah*</u>
> The affects of the inquisition (*al-mihnah*)
> The rise of the *ahl al-hadith* and the fall of *ahl al-kalam*

Week 5: The Flourishing of Islamic Philosophy.
   Peripatetic philosophy. Farabi (selections)
   Philosophy in the juristic environment

Week 6: <u>Debating Philosophical Inquiry and Religious Faith I</u>. Ghazali (selections)
   Againts Ibn Sina & the dangers of peripatetic philosophy
   ESSAY 1 Rough draft due

Week 7: <u>Debating Philosophical Inquiry and Religious Faith II</u>. Ghazali (selections)
   Harmonizing or separating religion and philosophy?
   Film: *The Alchemy of Happiness*

Week 8: <u>Debating philosophical inquiry and religious faith III</u>. Averroes (selections)
   Film: *Islam: Empire of Faith ~ Islamic Philosophy*
   ESSAY 1 Final draft due

Week 9: <u>The Decline of Islamic Philosophy in Central and Western Islamdom</u>
   Closing the doors of *Ijtihad*. Hallaq (selections)
   Makers of the European renaissance? Saliba

Week 10: <u>The twilight of Islamic Philosophy in the East</u>.
   Illuminationist & Transcendental Philosophy. Mulla Sadra (selections)
   Philosophy in the mystical environment.

Week 11: <u>Re-Opening the Gates of *Ijtihad*</u>.
      Neo-Mutazilism and Islamic Modernism
      Islamic Modernism. Afghani & Abduh (selections)
      Islamic Modernism. Fazlur Rahman

Week 12: <u>A Secular Approach</u>
      Islamic Philosophy and the Enlightenment School
      End of the Caliphate and the rise of secularism governance. Abd al-Raziq
      Between religious and secular ideologies. Moaddel (selections)

Week 13: <u>Re-Interpreting Scripture and Classcial Tradition</u>
      Re-reading the Qur'an. Shahrur (selections)
      Qur'anist / Qur'an only school
      Purging the Hadith. Banna (selections)
      ESSAY 2 Rough draft due

Week 14: <u>Islamic Humanism?</u>
      Human, civil rights.
      Women's rights. Abu Zayd (selections)

Week 15: <u>After the Arab Spring</u>
      Absent Intellectuals? (News article selections)
      Prospects
      Review

ESSAY 2 Final draft due

Holidays: TBA

Other Policies:

<u>Academic Honesty</u>

Students are expected to abide by the UH Academic Honesty Policy. Students who violate this policy will be penalized. For more on academic honesty, please see see the sections on "Conducive Learning Environment" (p. 64) and "Disciplinary Code" (pp. 66-67) in the *University's Student Handbook* at http://www.uh.edu/dos/publications/handbook.php

<u>Disability</u>

The University of Houston is committed to providing equal education opportunities for all students, and will make reasonable academic accommodations for students identified as disabled under the law. For more information, contact the Center for Students with Disabilities at 713-743-5400, or see their online explanation of policies and procedures at http://www.uh.edu/csd/