1. COURSE NAME: LAW812/GOV659 Qur'anic Law (3 credit hours)

2. COURSE TIME: 10:15-11:50am, Tue and Thu, Tue25Aug-Tue01Dec, 2009.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION: LAW812 (and cross-listed in GOV as ) GOV659: Qur'anic Law (3 credit hours). A survey of the text of the Arabic Qur'an [Koran] in English, and the commentary on it by Muslims: Secularists, Modernists-Reformists, Traditionalists, and Islamists. Lectures and assignments will seek to understand the history and Qur'anic basis of these four expressions of Islamic religion, politics, human rights and law, and Christian conceptual strategies to challenge them. Topics will include the rule of law, an establishment of religion, the law of war, crime and punishment, and civil law.

4. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (all three of these have already been ordered at the Regent Bookstore):


4.2. YALR = Qur'an of Yusuf Ali, revised.

4.3. ASAD = Qur’an of Muhammad Asad.
Asad, Muhammad. The Message of the Qur’an: The Full Account of the Revealed Arabic Text, Accompanied by Parallel Transliteration [and with Index]. Translated and explained by Muhammad Asad. Bristol, England: The Book Foundation, with the Oriental Press, Dubai, 2003. Hardback, xxiii+1164 pp. ISBN 1-904510-00-0. The www.islamicbookstore.com product number is B8257 (about $43.00). This price is expensive, and the book is big (11.5 x 8.5 x 2) and heavy (8 lbs, due to the glossy paper), but it is one of only two Asad Qur’ans available, the cheaper one being about $31.00, but while lighter, it is just as big, has poor font, has no transliteration and no index. So the extra $12 is well worth it, especially so if one wants to learn Arabic someday, for which the Roman transliteration along with the beautiful Arabic script is very helpful.

5. ASSIGNMENTS: Each of the two assignments below require "a reflection paper," which by definition for this syllabus is limited to selective summaries with reflections on each (thus neither a research paper nor a full summary), with page numbers in parentheses for each point (no footnotes), and with a final paragraph of evaluation on the work being treated as a whole. All three are to be double-spaced, with only Times New Roman, 11-point font.

5.2 Read selectively and comparatively the two Qur’ans by yalr (Yusuf Ali, revised) and mas (Muhammad Asad), and write a 12-page reflection paper, entitled "Modernity, and the Hermeneutics of Qur'anic Interpretation: Some Reflections on the Qur'ans of Yusuf Ali and of Muhammad Asad."

6. ASSESSMENTS: This year the sequence of the readings, and the reflection papers on them, are in a specific-to-general sequence: (1) portions of a comprehensive manual on Islamic law; (2) followed by a survey of two Qur’ans and tafsir (interpretation, exegesis) on them, which supply the Qur’anic and hermeneutical grounding of Islamic law, politics and theology. Of the total grade, the INK paper is worth 40%, the yalr-mas paper is 60%, for a total grade of 100% on papers. There are no quizzes or examinations this year, thus allowing more time for reading and writing, and reducing the lecture and exam pressures at the end of the course. Lapses in attendance or participation will be reflected only in possible demerits against the total grade. The instructor's lectures will be from his handouts and on the discussion of the textbook readings, and on the class discussion of each assigned paper on the day that each is due.

For more details, see the Private Syllabus, ONSITE & ONLINE, for this course in Blackboard (Bb).

END of file: Syllabus, Public, LAW812,GOV659 Qur'anic Law, Fall 2009.doc, JNK Folder, course, QuL2.