

PUBLIC SYLLABUS
Regent University
Fall 2006

Joseph N. Kickasola, PhD
Prof. of International Policy
Joint Appointment in GOV, LAW, DIV

1. COURSE NAME: **LAW812/GOV659 Qur'anic Law; PMIS571 The Qur'an; 3 credit hours.**

2. COURSE TIME: 10:15a-11:50a, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Tue29Aug-Thu30Nov, 2006.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION: **LAW812/GOV659/PMIS571: 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 (four, which have already been ordered at the Regent Bookstore):

4.1 **MARSHALL.** Marshall, Paul, ed. *Radical Islam's Rules: The Worldwide Spread of Extreme Shari'a Law.* Foreword by R. James Woolsey. Freedom House's Center for Religious Freedom. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2005. ISBN 0-7425-4362-5 (pbk).

4.2 **mas = 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.

If self-ordering, the www.islamicbookstore.com product number is **B 8257** (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 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. The extra \$12 is well worth it, especially so if one wants to learn Arabic someday, for which the Roman transliteration along with the Arabic script is very helpful.

4.3 **yal = Yusuf Ali.** Ali, Abdullah Yusuf. *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an.* New Edition with Qur'anic Text (Arabic), Revised Translation, Commentary and Newly Compiled Comprehensive Index. Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications, 10th ed., 1999. Paperback (soft cover), Pocket Size (4 x 6), lxii+1759 pp. ISBN 0-915957-77-9.

If self-ordering, the www.islamicbookstore.com product number is **B 5421** (about \$11.00).

4.4 **hik = Hilali & Khan.** Hilali al-, Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din, and Muhammad Muhsin Khan. *Interpretation of the Meanings of the Noble Qur'an in the English Language [with Arabic Text, English Commentary and Index, and Appendix I (Glossary), II (Monotheism), III (Index), IV (Jihad)].* Paperback (softcover), Pocket Size (4 x 6), 1246 pp. ISBN 9960-740-79-X.

If self-ordering, the www.islamicbookstore.com product number is **B 5438** (about \$12.00).

These three available Qur'ans, above, span ideologically from left to right: Asad (moderate), Yusuf Ali (traditional), and Hilali & Khan (militant) in their translation and commentary, and thus supply a wide spectrum of Muslim opinion. Beyond the ISBN numbers, I have given the product number of the **Bookstore (bolded)** for each book from the www.islamicbookstore.com website. The Regent Bookstore (or the student, if he/she wishes) must order them from the IslamicBookstore (Baltimore, MD) online, so that it is certain that the instructor and the student have exactly the same edition. Go to the website (above), and to the left of this homepage click "Qur'an in English." Then scroll down until you find

pictured each of the three Qur'ans above. Of the Qur'ans available, the first (Asad) above is expensive and big, but the remaining two (YA and HiK) are inexpensive and pocket size.

5. ASSIGNMENTS:

5.1 **Assignment One.** Read all of the Marshall textbook, and write an 8-page (double-spaced, 10, 11, or 12 point font) reflection paper on it, including a final-paragraph of evaluation.

5.2 **Assignment Two.** Read straight through the Qur'an (Surah 1-114) of mas, yal, and hik, in that order, simultaneously, comparing their notes (and translation when necessary) verse by verse through the whole Qur'an, taking notes and making observations on points of interest to the student. All Qur'ans have more notes on the first half of the Qur'an, of course, which is resumed in the remainder by cross-references, and such bulk will be reflected in the student's notebook as well. "A Qur'an Notebook" is to be typed, it can be *any* length (but not *less* than 20-pages, double spaced, in 10, 11, or 12 point font), and is the major source of grade. The notebook will prove to be a treasure for the student as a future reference of things to remember and strategies to be applied.

6. ASSESSMENTS:

The Marshall paper is worth 20%, and the Qur'an Notebook is worth 80%, of the total grade.

END Syllabus for LAW812/GOV659 Qur'anic Law; PMIS571 The Qur'an; Fall 2006.doc