UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2015
Instructor: Dr. Irfan A. Omar
Course #: THEO 4530/5530
Section: 101
Course Title: Islam: Faith and Practice

Description:
This course will introduce the Islamic tradition both as faith and practice. It will cover classical, medieval, and modern Islam, with an emphasis on history, religious thought and social organization. It will include discussions of the “ideals” of Islam as well as contrasting them to the social realities in the Muslim world. More importantly we will try to understand Islam as a living faith; the ways in which Muslims practice it. The diversity within the Muslim world pertaining to culture, social values, and religious attitudes will be observed through audio-visual materials. Parallels and relations with the Jewish and Christian traditions will be included where helpful in understanding Islam’s historical context.

Requirements:
This course requires daily reading, attendance, and active class participation; several in-class and take-home written assignments; a five-page book report; participation in and facilitation of a small-group discussion; and sectional and final exams.