Social Foundations II

Class code  SFI-UF 9101 - 087

Instructor Details  Dr Curt Noel
curtnoel@dsl.pipex.com
8764-9903
Office: G02 Tues –Wed. after class by appointment

Class Details  Spring 2013
Wednesdays, 10:00 to 13:00
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites  None

Class Description  This course introduces students to important ideas and institutions which flourished during the period ca. 600 AD to ca. 1700, the dawn of the modern age. Among them are the birth and expansion of Islam and its culture; cooperation and conflict between Christians, Muslims and Jews in Europe and the Levant; medieval and Renaissance European culture; Christian radicalism and the birth of Protestantism; the birth of modern science and secularism; and revolutionary ideas about politics and the state.

The course consists of lectures, class discussion of required readings, occasional videos and a mandatory class visit.

Desired Outcomes  Improvement of students’ ability to read, think and discuss analytically; to assess historical change and continuity; to compare times, cultures and ideas; to understand how European and non-European peoples influenced each other; to improve students’ communication skills.

Assessment Components  Comparative book review (ca. 1,500 to 1,800 words) = 15% (due Wed., 20 February)
Midterm examination (one hour) in class = 20% (on Wed., 6 March)
Long essay (ca. 2,500 to 3,000 words) = 25% (due Wed., 1 May)
Final examination = 30% (date, time and duration to be announced)
Class participation = 10%.

Class participation is especially important. To get the full 10% students must regularly contribute to discussion with intelligent or provocative questions and thoughtful answers, with clear evidence of having read the required readings.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations  Grade A: A thorough understanding of the required reading; signs of benefiting from class discussion; integration of varied ideas and materials; imaginative use of optional readings; original or
unusual thought; good focus on the issues; thoroughly effective use of English.

**Grade B:** Good understanding of required readings; thoughtful use of lecture and perhaps other material; little or no original thinking; adequately focused on the issues; good expression in English with perhaps a few lapses.

**Grade C:** Weak understanding of required readings; unimaginative reliance on lectures; little use of other materials; unclear, perhaps contradictory, ideas; no sign of student’s own thought; shaky focus on the issues; English expression frequently wobbly and ineffective.

**Grade D:** No clear understanding of readings; no apparent use of other materials; relies on lectures for ideas and jumbles even these; poor focus on the issues; poor expression.

**Grade F:** No sign of having read required or other readings; failed to benefit from lectures and class discussion; Not even clever writing can disguise the fact that this student has failed to work nearly enough. Where has he/she been?

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NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- **A=94-100**
- **A-=90-93**
- **B+=87-89**
- **B=84-86**
- **B-=80-83**
- **C+=77-79**
- **C=74-76**
- **C-=70-73**
- **D+=67-69**
- **D=65-66**
- **F=below 65**

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

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NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

In addition, Stern School of Business classes adhere to the following Stern grading guidelines:

- There should be no more than
  - 25-35% A's - awarded for excellent work
  - 50-70% B's - awarded for good or very good work
  - 5-15% C's or below - awarded for adequate or below work

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that—it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.
NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted. While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill-health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL's staff.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester. See also section 11.1 - Make up days.

Absence reporting for an absence due to illness

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expeditiously at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

Absence requests for non-illness reasons

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us atacademics@nyu.ac.uk. Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.
Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted **in person** to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during **office hours** (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

**Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

**Electronic Submission**

The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website [http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact [academics@nyu.ac.uk](mailto:academics@nyu.ac.uk) if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

Required Text(s)
The Qur’an, tr. M.A.S. Abdel Haleem (Oxford, 2004) 9780192805485
M.R. Menocal, The Ornament of the World (Boston, 2002) 0316168718
T. Aquinas, On Law, Morality, and Politics (Indianapolis, 2002) 0872206637
D. Erasmus, Praise of Folly (London, 1993) 9780140446081
J. Calvin, On God and Political Duty (ed. J. McNeill, Indianapolis, 1956, etc)
R. Descartes, A Discourse on the Method (Oxford, 2008) 9780199540075
Abu Uthman al-Jahiz, various essays (class handout)
Ibn Khaldun, Prolegomena to Universal History (digital reader)
T. Hobbes, Leviathan (class handout)

Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in

None
Internet research is not admissible on this course except with the professor’s explicit permission or as a required part of the course.

Additional Required Equipment

Session 1
THE BIRTH OF ISLAM
Wed 30 Jan
The Qur’an, suras 1 to 5
Armstrong, Islam. A Short History, pp. 3 - 81

Session 2
THE BIRTH OF ISLAM
Wed 6 Feb
The Qur’an, suras 17,24,30,42,49,81,83, and 88

Session 3
ISLAMIC CULTURE AND IDEAS
Wed 13 Feb
Al-Jahiz, essays; class handout
“After Rome: Holy War and Conquest” video in class

Session 4
ISLAMIC CULTURE AND IDEAS
Wed 20 Feb
Ibn Khaldun, Prolegomena (digital reader)
M.R. Menocal, The Ornament of the World, pp 5-49,66-90, and 101-129

Comparative Book Review due: hand in in class

Session 5
ARISTOTLE AMONG THE CHRISTIANS
Wed 27 Feb
T. Aquinas, On Law, Morality, and Politics, pp xiv-xxv and 10-69
M.R. Menocal, The Ornament of the World, pp 174-215, 229-38, 244-52 and 266-81

Session 6
ARISTOTLE AMONG THE CHRISTIANS
Wed 6 Mar
Aquinas, On Law, Morality and Politics, pp 97-129 and 164-95
Midterm examination in class

Session 7
CHRISTIANS ATTACK THEIR CHURCH
Social Foundations II


**Session 8**  A NEW KIND OF CHRISTIANITY


**Session 9**  A NEW VISION OF POLITICS

Wed 10 Apr  N. Machiavelli, *The Prince*, entire

**Session 10**  A NEW VISION OF POLITICS

Wed 17 Apr  T. Hobbes, *Leviathan*, handout in class

**Session 11**  THE BIRTH OF MODERN THINKING

Wed 24 Apr  R. Descartes, *A Discourse on the Method*, parts 1 to 4

**Session 12**  THE BIRTH OF MODERN THINKING

Wed 1 May  R. Descartes, *A Discourse on the Method*, parts 5 and 6

*Long essay due: hand in in class*

**Session 13**  THE BIRTH OF MODERN SCIENCE

Wed 8 May  T.S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, class handout

**Session 14**  THE ORIGINS OF MODERNITY

Wed 15 May  Discussion of the terms work

**Session 15**  Final Examination: details to be announced

**Classroom Etiquette**  Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during breaks
Social Foundations II

Food and drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.

Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except in emergencies.

**Laptops and other electronic devices may not be used in the classroom during class or examinations**

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<th>Required Co-curricular Activities</th>
<th>Visit to Canterbury</th>
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| Suggested Co-curricular Activities | To be announced when appropriate. |