

# Religious Studies

## Summer 2015 - Course Descriptions

[saintmarys.edu/departments/religious-studies](http://saintmarys.edu/departments/religious-studies)

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### ON-LINE COURSE

RLST 381	Islam: Beliefs, Practices, and Current Events	Kurt Buhring
CRN 74019	5/18/15-6/26/15	
3.0 credits		

This course will be an engagement with Islam. We will examine Muslim beliefs and practices, as well as ways that Islam impacts current events. We will explore the roots of the Muslim tradition, different ways of being Muslim, the status of women in Islam, and the relationship between violence and Islam, among other topics. We will also consider ways in which the social, historical, cultural, and political contexts relate to Islam.

At the beginning of the semester, we will learn about the context out of which Islam arose, the prophet Muhammad, the Qur'an, and primary Muslim beliefs and practices. In the next part of the course, we will trace the development of Islam into various forms and schools of thought. Then, we will take up the role of women in the Muslim tradition. The next section will be devoted to understandings of the use of violence within the Muslim tradition. In the final portion of the course, through analysis of a work of fiction we will explore Islam in modern America. Throughout the second half or so of course we will be making connections with current events as well. This may involve Islam in politics, science, culture, or arts and music.  
Pre-reqs: RLST 101 & 200-level course.