



SCHOLÉ ACADEMY  
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# Reading Group: Islam in World History

Summer 2019



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Class Dates: M/W in August (5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28)

Class Times: 10-11am EST

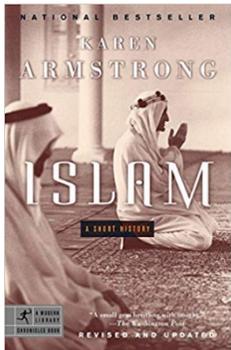
Instructor: Adam Lockridge

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Suggested level: Upper School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

COURSE TEXT: *Islam: A Short History*, by Karen Armstrong

## DESCRIPTION



Islam is the world's second largest religion, and it is the fastest growing major religion in the world. Scholars project that the number of adherents to Islam will equal the number of Christians by the year 2050. This development raises many questions. What are the origins of Islam? What does the religion teach? What do modern Christians need to know about Islam to interpret current events and understand Muslim believers?

To help address some of these questions, the reading group will study Karen Armstrong's *Islam: A Short History*. Mr. Lockridge, teacher of Scholé Academy's Upper School Medieval History course, will provide necessary background information and draw connections to other events in world history. Book discussions will focus on tracing the historical development of Islam and understanding the core theological concepts of the religion. In the last couple of sessions, we will also consider how Christian students can prepare themselves to respond to the contemporary challenge of Islam.

This book club is suitable for all interested Upper School students; it could be particularly helpful for students who have taken or are preparing to take Upper School Medieval History, as well as Rhetoric students who wish to address contemporary issues related to Islam and the Middle East.

## OUTLINE

PRIOR TO START: CH. 1, "BEGINNINGS"

WEEK 1: CH. 2, "DEVELOPMENT"

WEEK 2: CH. 3, "CULMINATION"

WEEK 3: CH. 4, "ISLAM TRIUMPHANT"

WEEK 4: CH. 5, "ISLAM AGONISTES"

## Technology

Live meetings will take place using a video conferencing app called **Zoom** ([www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)). Please download the free app from their website. Students will need access to a webcam, microphone, and a strong internet connection. All other course communication will happen on **Schoology** ([www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com)), a user-friendly learning management system. Students will receive a registration link the week before the beginning of the class.

## Expectations

Summer Reading Groups are less formal than a yearlong course, but students are still expected to participate and come to our meetings prepared for the discussion. Other short assignments and optional readings may be given (less than 20 minutes additional prep), but the bulk of the expectation will be to simply read the book (fewer than 200 pages, ~40 pages per week for 5 weeks). Students may be asked to report on their reading at the beginning of the session. The usual standards of academic integrity apply (see Scholé Academy Student Handbook).

## About the Teacher

Adam lives in rural Kansas where he and his wife homeschool their three children. Adam studied Philosophy at the University of Kansas and received his MA in Philosophy from the University of Memphis. As a philosophy student, Adam was most interested in the history of philosophy. Over the past ten years, Adam has taught a variety of subjects in 5th-12th grades, mostly in the humanities. His study of philosophy taught him the joy of carefully reading old books and gave him a Socratic paradigm for in-class discussion—two essential components of his teaching style.

While teaching is one of Adam's favorite activities, he has a variety of interests which help remind him that, although "the unexamined life is not worth living," it is also true that the "unlived life is not worth examining." Thus, he tries to pull his nose out of a book (or away from the computer) long enough to take his wife to a concert, read to his children, go on a walk with his dog Buck, mow the churchyard, fix something that is broken, or otherwise hold back the forces of primordial Chaos.

