

Introduction to Islam
HR-1902
Starr King School for the Ministry
Thursdays, 9:40AM-12:30PM PT

Instructor: M. S. Pourfarzaneh, Ph.D.
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Course Description

This course will give an introduction to the Islamic tradition in its religious, historical, and cultural contexts, paying particular attention to the diversity of expressions of Islam within each of these categories. The course will discuss the theological foundations of the tradition, the history of its development, and different expressions of its praxis that have evolved out of Muslim cultures and societies. It will also present contemporary issues related to Islam and Muslims in the United States, particularly in their representation throughout different types of media. Course format and evaluation: seminar, with final research paper/presentation on a specific topic or theme.

Course Requirements

You are expected to attend all classes and engage in class discussions, having prepared the reading materials for the week. Each week, we will look at contemporary and historical issues related to Islam and Muslims by referring to the readings along with media+ examples, followed by a short lecture on the week's theme from the readings and a class discussion. It is important that you come to class having prepared the readings as we will be building on the themes of the assignments in our lectures and discussions. Excused absences must be cleared with the instructor.

This course is structured around the production of a 15-20 page research paper, and is intended to give you an opportunity to hone your academic research and writing skills while being exposed to the history of Islam and Muslims. Towards this objective, there will be two rough drafts due during the semester preceding the final draft due date, which will provide you with opportunities to receive feedback on your writing and research. We will also have class sessions dedicated to understanding academic writing and research.

In coordination with your academic research for the semester, you will be required to create or maintain a social media account on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and/or reddit, to better understand how these forms of media+ are being used. Included in this requirement is the objective for you to post on these online forums at least once a week, and provide an outline of your discoveries at the end of the semester in addition to your research paper.

Week 14 is reserved for presentations. You will be required to give a 10-15 minute presentation on your research paper topic.

Due to the online component of this course, you will also be required to set up a Moodle account to help coordinate research paper drafts, notes, announcements, and discussions outside of class.

The grading for the class will be based on these areas:

- Class participation and attendance – 10%*
- Research Paper first draft – 15%*
- Research Paper second draft – 15%*
- Social Media Overview – 15%*
- Research Paper Presentation – 15%*
- Research Paper final draft – 30%*

SKSM Policy Statement on Plagiarism

Please refer to the SKSM policy statement on plagiarism for guidelines on academic research and plagiarism.

SKSM Guidelines on Disability

If you have a disability or requirement for special needs either inside or outside of the classroom, please make your needs clear both to the instructor and the SKSM center for disabilities, in accordance with the SKSM guidelines on disability.

Course Schedule

Date	Readings and Assignments
Week 1	Esposito 3-36; Esposito & Mogahed ix-28; Qur'an
Week 2	Esposito 37-67; Murata & Chittick xiv-xxxix; Qur'an
Week 3	Esposito 68-115; Murata & Chittick 3-44; Qur'an
Week 4	Esposito 116-161; Murata & Chittick 236-273; Qur'an ***RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS DUE***
Week 5	Esposito 162-202; Murata & Chittick 321-335; Qur'an
Week 6	Diouf 1-48; X and Haley; Qur'an
Week 7	cooke & Lawrence 1-28; Alim 264-274; X and Haley; Qur'an ***RESEARCH PAPER FIRST DRAFT (~5 PAGES) DUE***
Week 8	READING WEEK – NO CLASS
Week 9	Bunt 1-54; X and Haley; Qur'an
Week 10	Karim 1-24; X and Haley; Ahmed; Qur'an
Week 11	Karim 25-50; Ahmed; Qur'an ***RESEARCH PAPER SECOND DRAFT (~10 PAGES) DUE***
Week 12	Esposito & Kalin xxi-17; Ahmed; Qur'an
Week 13	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
Week 14	Alsultany 1-46; Norton 1-11; Ahmed; Qur'an **RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS**
Week 15	***FINAL PAPERS (15-20 PAGES) AND SOCIAL MEDIA

OVERVIEW DUE***

Course Readings

Course readings will be selected from:

Ahmed, Leila. *A Border Passage: From Cairo to America – A Woman's Journey*. New York: Penguin Books, 1999.

Ali, Abdullah Yusuf, trans. *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an*. Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications, 2004.

Alsultany, Evelyn. *Arabs and Muslims in the Media: Race and Representation after 9/11*. New York: New York University Press, 2012.

Bunt, Gary. *iMuslims: Rewiring the House of Islam*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.

cooke, miriam, and Bruce B. Lawrence, eds. *Muslim Networks: from Hajj to Hip Hop*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

Diouf, Sylviane A. *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas*. New York: New York University Press, 1998.

Esposito, John L. *Islam: The Straight Path*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Esposito, John L., and Dalia Mogahed. *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think*. New York: Gallup Press, 2007.

Esposito, John L., and Ibrahim Kalin, eds. *Islamophobia: The Challenge of Pluralism in the 21st Century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Karim, Jamillah. *American Muslim Women: Negotiating Race, Class, and Gender within the Ummah*. New York: New York University Press, 2009.

Murata, Sachiko and William C. Chittick. *The Vision of Islam*. St. Paul: Paragon House, 1994.

Norton, Anne. *On the Muslim Question*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013.

X, Malcolm and Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1965.

Supplementary Readings

Ahmed, Leila. *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011.

- Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.
- Ali, Wajahat, Eli Clifton, Matthew Duss, Lee Fang, Scott Keyes, and Faiz Shakir. "Fear, Inc.: The Roots of the Islamophobia Network in America." Center for American Progress, <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/religion/report/2011/08/26/10165/fear-inc/> (accessed October 28, 2012).
- Armstrong, Karen. *Islam: A Short History*. New York: Modern Library, 2002.
- Armstrong, Karen. *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1992.
- Asad, Talal. "The Idea of An Anthropology of Islam." *Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies Occasional Papers Series* March (1986): 1-22.
- Austin, Allan D. *African Muslims in Antebellum America: Transatlantic Stories and Spiritual Struggles*. New York: Routledge, 1997.
- Bakalian, Anny and Mehdi Bozorgmehr. *Backlash 9/11: Middle Eastern and Muslim Americans Respond*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009.
- Bukhari, Zahid H., Nyang, Sulayman N., Ahmad, Mumtaz, and John L. Esposito, eds. *Muslims' Place in the American Public Square: Hopes, Fears, and Aspirations*. Walnut Creek: Alta Mira Press, 2004.
- Chittick, William C. *Sufism: A Short Introduction*. Oxford: OneWorld, 2000.
- Curtis, Edward E. *Muslims in America: A Short History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Dannin, Robert. *Black Pilgrimage to Islam*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- GhaneaBassiri, Kambiz. *A History of Islam in America: From the New World to the New World Order*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Gomez, Michael A. *Black Crescent: The Experience and Legacy of African Muslims in the Americas*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Haddad, Yvonne Y. *Muslims in the West: From Sojourners to Citizens*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Haddad, Yvonne Y., Farid Sensai, and Jane I. Smith, eds. *Educating the Muslims of America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck and Jane I. Smith, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of American Islam*.

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck and John L. Esposito, eds. *Muslims on the Americanization Path?* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Kumar, Deepa. *Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2012.

Marable, Manning. *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*. New York: Viking, 2011.

Marable, Manning and Hishaam D. Aidi, eds. *Black Routes to Islam*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

McMcloud, Aminah Beverly. *African American Islam*. New York: Routledge, 1995.

Metcalf, Barbara D. *Making Muslim Space in North America and Europe*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996.

Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. *Islam: Religion, History, and Civilization*. New York: HarperCollins, 2003.

Runnymede Trust Commission on British Muslims and Islamophobia. *Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All*, edited by Robin Richardson. London: The Runnymede Trust, 1997.

Safi, Omid, ed. *Progressive Muslims: On Justice, Gender, and Pluralism*. Oxford: OneWorld, 2003.

Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1978.

Schimmel, Annemarie. *Islam: An Introduction*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1992.

Shryock, Andrew, ed. *Islamophobia/Islamophilia: Beyond the Politics of Enemy and Friend*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010.

Taylor, Charles. *Modern Social Imaginaries*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004

Turner, Richard B. *Islam in the African-American Experience*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003.

Online Sources:

Center for Islamic Studies: www.gtu.edu/centersandaffiliates/islamicstudies

Council on American-Islamic Relations: www.cair.com

Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California: www.iccnc.org

Islamic Finder (information about Islam): www.islamicfinder.org

Islamic Networks Group: www.ing.org

Islamic Society of North America: www.isna.org

Islamophobia Research & Documentation Project: crg.berkeley.edu/content/islamophobia

UC Berkeley Center for Race & Gender: crg.berkeley.edu

Unity Productions Foundation: www.upf.tv

USC CMJE translation of the Qur'an: www.usc.edu/org/cmje/religious-texts/quran/

Zaytuna College: www.zaytunacollege.org