Islam and Media
HRRS-4840
Starr King School for the Ministry
Mondays, 2:10PM-5:00PM PT

Instructor: M. S. Pourfarzaneh, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Islamic and Digital Media Studies
Email: spourfarzaneh@sksm.edu

Course Description

This course will present an overview of different ways in which Islam and Muslims are
represented in contemporary popular media, which include news media, films, TV shows,
comic books, video games, music, social network platforms, and other forms of
infotainment. It will also foster discussion about the ways in which different forms of media
are utilized to reify or counter Islamophobic concepts and normative stereotypes about Islam
and Muslims. Course format and evaluation: seminar, with reflection papers and final
research paper/presentation on a specific topic or theme. Intro to Islam or equivalent
strongly recommended.

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 issues related to
Islam and media by referring to articles, film and music clips, and other 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 different types of media relating to 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, Google+, 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.
Weeks 13-14 are 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>LABOR DAY – NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Asad 1-17; Taylor 23-30, 83-99, 175-183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Bourdieu 1-73; cooke, Lawrence 1-28</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Ginsburg, Abu-Lughod, Larkin 1-36; Nieuwkerk 1-24; Alsultany 1-46</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Hirschkind 1-31; Alim 264-274; Aidi 121-139; Aidi 283-296 <em><strong>RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS DUE</strong></em></td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Esposito xxi-xxxv; Kalin 3-20; Esposito, Mogahed ix-28; Abbas 63-76</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Gottschalk, Greenberg 191-209; Karim 169-188; Bunt 235-251</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>READING WEEK – NO CLASS</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Lister et al. 9-37; Bunt 1-54 <em><strong>RESEARCH PAPER FIRST DRAFT (~5 PAGES) DUE</strong></em></td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Bilici 195-208; Nakamura 1-5; Research Papers</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Abu-Lughod 137-162; Research Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Research Papers <em><strong>RESEARCH PAPER SECOND DRAFT (~10 PAGES) DUE</strong></em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS</td>
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Course Readings

Course readings will be selected from:


*Online Sources:*

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

Center for Race & Gender (UC Berkeley). crg.berkeley.edu.


Islamic Networks Group. www.ing.org.

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


Supplementary Websites

www.isna.org (Islamic Society of North America)
www.islamicfinder.org (Information about Islam)
www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/quran/ (USC online translations of the Qur’an)
www.zaytuna.org (Zaytuna College, first accredited Muslim college in the United States)
www.ing.org (Islamic Networks Group, educational presentations and dialogue about Islam)

Supplementary Readings


