

Muslims in America

HRRS-4841

3 Units

Starr King School for the Ministry – Graduate Theological Union

Spring 2020

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Meeting Dates and Times:

Thursdays, 9:40AM-12:30PM

Course Description:

This course will present an overview of the history of Islam and Muslims in the United States, from the presence of African Muslims in the antebellum era to the multiethnic contemporary milieu. Specific focus will be given to the African American and immigrant populations that have helped shape this history, as well as the various contemporary communities and organizations that are active in the U.S. public square. Course format and evaluation: seminar, with research paper drafts and final research paper/presentation on a specific topic or theme. Intro to Islam or equivalent strongly recommended.

Learning Objectives:

During this course, students will:

- Learn about the history of Islam in the United States and North America
- Examine a diversity of Muslim religious expression and identities
- Be exposed to the contributions of African American, immigrant, white Caucasian, and other Muslims to American society
- Write a research paper on a specific topic related to Islam and/or Muslims in America

Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Speak conversantly about the history and diversity of Muslims in the United States and North America
- Distinguish specific religious expression and practice from monolithic representation
- Engage in topics related to religion in America, African American Islam, immigrant identity formation, and conversion/reversion
- Apply their knowledge of religious diversity to the study of other traditions

Course Policies:

Academic Conduct and Plagiarism

Please refer to the SKSM/GTU policy statement for guidelines on academic conduct and plagiarism.

Privacy

Please refer to the SKSM/GTU policy statement for guidelines on privacy (FERPA).

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/GTU center for disabilities, in accordance with the SKSM/GTU policy on disability.

Course Assignments:

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 Muslims in America 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 in the United States. 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.

Weeks 14-15 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.

Grading:

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

Class participation and attendance – 25%

Research Paper first draft – 15%

Research Paper second draft – 15%

Research Paper Presentation – 15%

Research Paper final draft – 30%

Required Texts:

All course readings will be available on Moodle, except for *A History of Islam in America: From the New World to the New World Order* (ISBN 978-0521614870, \$20.49) and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (ISBN 978-9990065169, \$4.99).

Please see the section on “Course Readings” for more information about required texts.

Course Schedule:

Date	Readings and Assignments
Week 1	Diouf 1-48; GhaneaBassiri 1-58
Week 2	Diouf 49-70; Austin 1-29; GhaneaBassiri 59-94
Week 3	Diouf 179-210; GhaneaBassiri 95-134; Turner 147-173; X and Haley
Week 4	Turner 174-237; GhaneaBassiri 135-164; X and Haley ***RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS DUE***
Week 5	GhaneaBassiri 165-227; Diouf 268-295; X and Haley
Week 6	GhaneaBassiri 228-271; Nyang 250-261; Aidi 121-139; Marable 299-316
Week 7	GhaneaBassiri 272-326; Takim 218-232; Leonard 233-249 ***RESEARCH PAPER FIRST DRAFT (~5 PAGES) DUE***
Week 8	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Week 9	GhaneaBassiri 327- 377; Nimer 145-164; Bagby 323-346; Unus 347-379
Week 10	Kalin 3-20; Bakalian & Bozorgmehr 1-31; Jackson 93-106
Week 11	Aidi 283-296; Karim 25-50; Alim 264-274 ***RESEARCH PAPER SECOND DRAFT (~10 PAGES) DUE***
Week 12	Haddad & Smith 3-19; Cristillo 67-83; Karim 1-24
Week 13	GhaneaBassiri 379-381; Alsultany 1-17, 132-161; Bunt 1-54;
Week 14	RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS
Week 15	RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS
Week 16	***FINAL PAPERS (15-20 PAGES) DUE***

Course Readings:

Course readings will be selected from:

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

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.

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., and Ibrahim Kalin, eds. *Islamophobia: The Challenge of Pluralism in the 21st Century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- GhaneaBassiri, Kambiz. *A History of Islam in America: From the New World to the New World Order*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- 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.
- Karim, Jamillah. *American Muslim Women: Negotiating Race, Class, and Gender within the Ummah*. New York: New York University Press, 2009.
- Marable, Manning and Hishaam D. Aidi, eds. *Black Routes to Islam*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.
- Turner, Richard B. *Islam in the African-American Experience*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003.
- 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, Abdullah Yusuf, trans. *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an*. Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications, 2004.
- 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.
- 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.
- Esposito, John L., and Dalia Mogahed. *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think*. New York: Gallup Press, 2007.
- Gomez, Michael A. *Black Crescent: The Experience and Legacy of African Muslims in the Americas*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- 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.
- Marable, Manning. *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*. New York: Viking, 2011.
- 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.
- Schimmel, Annemarie. *Islam: An Introduction*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1992.

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

Zaytuna College: www.zaytunacollege.org