COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course shall explore contemporary political, social, and economic themes among various Islamic societies. The first part of the course shall introduce students to Islamic civilization, including the position of the Quran and Muhammad in the Islamic tradition. The second part of the course shall focus on contemporary debates such as human rights and democracy. The third part shall explore male and female Muslim voices in the United States post-9/11.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students shall be able to: (1) Recognize the major ideas being debated in the Islamic world from the Near East to South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. (2) Compare and contrast traditional, modernist, and neo-fundamentalist interpretations of core Islamic beliefs from the Quran to warfare. (3) Analyze the debates over human and women’s rights in postcolonial Muslim societies. (4) Assess the legacy of September 11th on American Muslim identity formation and nationalism.

COURSE TEXTS


GRADING

Attendance 20%
Class Assignments 20%
Site Visits 20%
Personal Interview 40%
CLARIFICATION

Attendance is mandatory for the course and unexcused absences count against a student’s final grade. If a student is unable to attend a session, he/she must inform the instructor in advance to request a dispensation for the absence. Over the course of the semester, class writing assignments shall be posted in Blackboard and must be completed and uploaded by the deadline provided by the instructor.

Each week, students shall prepare at least one discussion question for class based on the reading for the week. In lieu of a final paper, students will interview a Muslim on the impact of 9/11 on his/her identity and place within American society. Students will create a list of interview questions before the interview and can choose their manner of recording the interview and final product. Examples of final interview assignments can include a YouTube video, magazine article, or paper.

SCHEDULE

PART I: FOUNDATION

6 Jan 14  
Course Introduction

8 Jan 14  
Introduction to Islam  
Reading: Leaman- Introduction

10 Jan 14  
Shia Islam  
Reading: Leaman- Chapter 1

13 Jan 14  
The Quran- Overview  
Reading: Cook- entire book

15 Jan 14  
Ethics and the Quran  
Reading: Leaman- Chapter 2

17 Jan 14  
Interpreting Islamic Law  
Reading: Leaman- Chapter 9

20 Jan 14  
NO CLASS- MLK DAY

PART II: THEMES IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAM

22 Jan 14  
Class Discussion: What is the status of homosexuality in Islam?  
Reading: Leaman- Chapter 6

24 Jan 14  
Class Discussion: What is the status of homosexuality in Islam?  
Reading: Safi- Chapter 8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Jan 14</td>
<td>Islamic Pluralism</td>
<td><em>Leaman- Chapter 11</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Jan 14</td>
<td>Islam and Nationalism</td>
<td><em>Leaman- Chapter 5</em></td>
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<td>31 Jan 14</td>
<td>Islam and Entertainment</td>
<td><em>Leaman- Chapter 14</em></td>
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<td>3 Feb 14</td>
<td>Islam and Sufism</td>
<td><em>Leaman- Chapter 13</em></td>
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<td>5 Feb 14</td>
<td>Islamic Economics</td>
<td><em>Leaman- Chapter 7</em></td>
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<td>7 Feb 14</td>
<td>Islamic Education</td>
<td><em>Leaman- Chapter 10</em></td>
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<td><strong>Class Assignment I Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Feb 14</td>
<td>Reclaiming the Beautiful in Islam</td>
<td><em>Safi- Chapter 1</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Feb 14</td>
<td>9/11 and an American Muslim identity</td>
<td><em>Safi- Chapter 2</em></td>
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<td>14 Feb 14</td>
<td>Library Digital Collections Presentation</td>
<td>Stephanie Brenenson</td>
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<td>17 Feb 14</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS- PAPER PROPOSAL DUE</strong></td>
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<td>19 Feb 14</td>
<td>Who is a Muslim?</td>
<td><em>Leaman- Chapter 12</em></td>
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<td>24 Feb 14</td>
<td>Guest Lecture on Islamic NGOs</td>
<td>Dr. Pissaris Seema, FIU</td>
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<td>26 Feb 14</td>
<td>Ahmadiyya</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Feb 14</td>
<td>Guest Lecture on Ahmadiyya - Teena Purohit</td>
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</table>
7 Mar 14  NO CLASS- ONLINE MIDTERM EXAMINATION
10 Mar 14  NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK
12 Mar 14  NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK
14 Mar 14  NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK

PART III: ISLAM AND GENDER

17 Mar 14 Class Discussion: Is the hijab mandatory in Islam?
19 Mar 14 Class Discussion: Is the hijab mandatory in Islam?
21 Mar 14 Gender Equality in Islam
Reading: Safi- Introduction
24 Mar 14 Sexuality, Diversity and Ethics
Reading: Safi- Chapter 8
26 Mar 14 Love and Sexuality in Islam I
Reading: Nura and Mattu- pp. beginning-74
28 Mar 14 Love and Sexuality in Islam II
Reading: Nura and Mattu- pp.74-188
31 Mar 14 Love and Sexuality in Islam III
Reading: Nura and Mattu- pp.189-end

2 Apr 14 Guest Lecture- Nadia Shoeb
Class Assignment II Due

PART IV: ISLAM IN PRAXIS

4 Apr 14 MOSQUE VISIT I 1300-1430
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
Baitul Ul-Naseer Mosque
208 NW 7th Ct, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

7 Apr 14 Guest Lecture on Islamic Ethics- Bashir Datoo

9 Apr 14 Student Presentations- Group I
11 Apr 14  **MOSQUE VISIT II 1300-1430**
Ismāʿīlī Jamātkhānā  
12100 Miramar Pkwy.  
Miramar, FL 33025

14 Apr 14  **Student Presentations- Group II**

16 Apr 14  **Student Presentations- Group III**

18 Apr 14  Course Review- Last Day of Class

21 April 14  **FINAL- PERSONAL INTERVIEW DUE- SUBMIT VIA BLACKBOARD**

All assignments must be submitted on time through Blackboard.