

REL 5365: ADVANCED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE QURAN: GENDER AND JIHAD

SPRING 2013- AKHTAR
WEDNESDAYS 5:00PM - 7:45PM IN CHARLES PERRY (PC) 445

Department of Religious Studies

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

- Ali, Wajahat and Zahra T Suratwala, *All-American: 45 American Men on Being Muslim*. Ashland: White Cloud Press , 2012.
- Ebrahimji, Maria M and Zahra T Suratwala, *I Speak for Myself: American Women on Being Muslim*. Ashland: White Cloud Press , 2011.
- Kamrava, Mehran, ed. *The New Voices of Islam: Rethinking Politics and Modernity--A Reader*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007.
- Maznavi, Nura and Ayesha Mattu, *Love, InshAllah: The Secret Love Lives of American Muslim Women*. Berkeley: Soft Skull Press, 2012.
- Smith, Huston. *Islam: A Concise Introduction*. New York: HarperOne, 2001.
- X, Malcolm. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Penguin Books, 2010.

GRADING

Attendance	15%
Weekly Questions	15%
Assignments	30%
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: Global Themes in the Contemporary Islamic World

Week 1 (9 Jan 13):	Introduction to Islamic Civilization <i>Reading: all of Smith</i> <i>Watch 'The Light In Her Eyes' by 12 Jan 13</i> http://video.pbs.org/video/2253823130
Week 2 (16 Jan 13):	Globalization <i>Reading: Kamrava, Chapters 1 and 2</i>
Week 3 (23 Jan 13):	Neo-fundamentalism <i>Reading: see Blackboard</i>
Week 4 (30 Jan 13):	Pluralism <i>Reading: Kamrava, Chapters 6 and 7</i>
Week 5 (6 Feb 13):	Democracy <i>Reading: see Blackboard</i>
Week 6 (13 Feb 13):	Human Rights <i>Reading: see Blackboard</i>

Part II: American Muslim Experiences

- Week 7 (20 Feb 13): African-American Muslim Experiences
Reading: Malcolm X
- Week 8 (27 Feb 13): African-American Muslim Experiences II
Reading: see Blackboard
- Week 9 (6 Mar 13): 11 September 2011 and Male American-Muslim Experiences
Reading: First ½ of Ali book
Watch: 'Fear Of Flying' <http://vimeo.com/24910890>
'Lingering Twenty' <http://vimeo.com/39513929>
- Week 10 (20 Mar 13): 11 September 2011 and Male American-Muslim Experiences
Reading: Second ½ of Ali book
Watch: 'Invisible Man' <http://vimeo.com/39473380>
'Patriot Story' <http://vimeo.com/39450303>
- Week 11 (27 Mar 13): Feminism and Female American-Muslim Experiences I
Reading: First ½ of Ebrahimji book
See Blackboard
- Week 12 (3 Apr 13): Feminism and Female American-Muslim Experiences II
Reading: Second ½ of Ebrahimji book
- Week 13 (10 Apr 13): American Muslim Female Sexuality I
Reading: First ½ of Maznavi book
- Week 14 (17 Apr 13): American Muslim Female Sexuality I
Reading: Second ½ of Maznavi book
- 28 April 12: **Final Assignment, Personal Interview Due**

All assignments must be submitted on time through Blackboard.