

The World of Islam, Humanities 375
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COURSE BACKGROUND

Since the Islamic world has been at the forefront of current domestic & international affairs, there has never been a more appropriate time to approach the study of the world of Islam in an academic setting than today. The demand for Islamic information through books, college courses, educational material, public lectures, media, etc. has reached highest records in the country especially after the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses our community's growing concerns and aspirations to learn about Islam and to help us better understand the multi-faceted origins and complexity of the Islamic religion, its culture and its people. Collectively, we survey the most important *events* and *personalities* associated with Islam and we link the faith with the other two *Western Abrahamic* traditions, Judaism and Christianity which also developed around the Mediterranean region.

Together, we investigate the fundamental doctrines of the faith, its common practices, and worldviews. Drawing on real life examples and authentic products and practices, we explore the ongoing and dynamic interconnectedness of Islam with both Western and Eastern traditions, cultures and innovations, from the 7th Century until today. We try to understand how they influence and were influenced by certain aspects and features of the Mediterranean region and the rest of the globe.

Jointly, we tackle contemporary issues as they pertain to politics, refugees, conflict, fundamentalism, terrorism, Islamophobia, and Orientalism. We also address socio-cultural dimensions of Muslims living both as majority and minorities in certain regions of Europe and North America. We investigate ethnic and cultural diversity, festivities, music, culinary art, and social traditions as they are manifested in the Muslim lifecycle, from birth to death, including important passage rites during teenage years and adulthood. Critically, we examine controversial topics as they are portrayed in mainstream and alternative media outlets such dress code, women rights, modern slavery, migration, refugees, polygamy, pre-arranged marriage, tolerance, and jurisprudence (aka Sharia Law).

Cooperatively, we study Islam in the United States tracing its origins from the advent of Columbus, the early period of African slave trade, immigrants' influx, the rise of the Nation of Islam, the role of foreign students, and Muslim Americans in sports, armed services, educational and scientific institutions, entertainment industry and correctional facilities.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After taking this class, each student who successfully passes the class will be able to:

- 1-GIVE a brief sketch of the origins of Islam and PLACE major events in Islamic history in their proper socio-political and cultural context.
- 2-CONNECT Islam with the two other Western monotheistic religions, Judaism and Christianity, which grew out of the Mediterranean regions.
- 3-EXPLAIN the multi-faceted importance of the Mediterranean regions to past human civilizations and contemporary global issues.
- 4-UNDERSTAND the main rituals, holidays, and worldviews of Muslims as they are practiced in the 21st Century.
- 5-IDENTIFY important international and national Islamic leaders and cultural figures.
- 6-DESCRIBE the typical architectural aspects and activities conducted in a Masjid (or mosque or Muslim place of worship) in the United States.
- 7-IDENTIFY the history, development and diversity of the Islamic community in the Western Hemisphere and the role of its main organizations.
- 8-LIST common misconceptions about Islamic culture, practices, beliefs and behaviors and DISCUSS controversial aspects, commonly addressed in the West.
- 9-CONNECT with members of the Muslim community in the Inland Empire and IDENTIFY institutions founded by or catering to the needs of immigrants and refugees. These institutions include schools, restaurants, places of worship, public service, and commercial entities.
- 10-TRY/SAMPLE foods from the Mediterranean and Southeast Asian regions.
- 11-LOCATE information about Islam from mainstream, primary, authentic and alternative news and academic sources.
- 12-LOCATE on campus initiatives, academic programs, study abroad opportunities, and classes that focus on Islam, the Mediterranean and Middle East regions.
- 13-ANALYZE critically a film or the speech of guest speakers addressing an issue related to the Muslim world.

COURSE MATERIAL

Books, Articles, Reports and Films

- o What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam by John Esposito (The Oxford University Press – 2nd Edition or later)
- o *The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050: Why Muslims Are Rising Fastest and the Unaffiliated Are Shrinking as a Share of the World's Population*. Pew Research. 2015. <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/>
- o Select readings passages from the Qur'an and collection of the Hadith. <http://www.islamicity.org/quransearch/>;
<http://www.islamicity.org/topics/hadith-and-sunnah/>
- o Excerpts from the Prophet Muhammad's Farewell Sermon. <http://islamicity.com/Mosque/lastserm.HTM>
- o Muhammad's Charter of Privileges to Christians: Letter to The Monks of St. Catherine Monastery.
- o Muslim History: 570 – 1950 C.E. by A. Zahoor and Z. Haq Maryland. 2000. p. 167.
<http://www.cyberistan.org/islamic/charter1.html>
- o *A is for Arabs* – Salon, January 8, 2002 <http://www.salon.com/2002/01/08/alphabet>
- o "The Mathematical Legacy of Islam" by Keith Devlin – Mathematical Association of America – July-August 2002
https://www.maa.org/external_archive/devlin/devlin_0708_02.html
- o 1001 Inventions and the Library of Secrets. <http://www.1001inventions.com/media/video/library>
- o The issue of veil in Europe - Aljazeera - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLhHd1GLovk>
- o "Marathon: from Boston to Palestine" - Maher Abukhater – Los Angeles Times - April 21, 2013 - <http://www.latimes.com/news/world/worldnow/la-fg-wn-palestinian-marathon-20130421,0,469151.story>
- o "The Meaning of Rachel Corrie of Dignity and Solidarity" – Edward Said – Arab- American Anti-Discrimination Committee Annual Conference – Keynote Speech 2003. <http://adc.org>
- o "The Logic Behind Suicide Bombing" – Robert Pape - The American Conservative - July 18, 2005 <http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/the-logic-of-suicide-terrorism/>
- o "Muslim Americans: A National Portrait: An in-depth analysis of America's most diverse religious community"
Mohamed Younis - Gallup Poll – Gallup World Poll – March 2009 - <http://www.gallup.com/poll/116260/muslim-americans-exemplify-diversity-potential.aspx>
- o "Malcolm X: Make It Plain" in Amy Goodman - Democracy Now. May 19, 2005 - http://www.democracynow.org/2005/5/19/malcolm_x_make_it_plain
- o Chaplain Yee – in Democracy Now – October 6, 2005 - http://www.democracynow.org/2005/10/6/fmr_army_chaplain_james_yee_on

- “Thomas Jefferson Quran” – Sebastian Prange – Aramco World Magazine - July-August, 2011.
<http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/201104/thomas.jefferson.s.qur.an.htm>
- “The Statue of Liberty Was Originally A Muslim Woman: The New Colossus was actually born in Egypt.” Erin Blakemore – November 24, 2015
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/statue-liberty-was-originally-muslim-woman-180957377/>
- Growing in Faith: California Muslim Youth Experiences with Bullying, Harassment, and Religious Accommodations in Schools. Council on American Islamic Relations. 2013 - <http://ca.cair.com/downloads/GrowingInFaith.pdf>
- Ground Zero Mosque – in Keith Olbermann - MSNBC – http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38730223/ns/msnbc_tv-countdown_with_keith_olbermann/
- A lesson in empathy: A Radical Experiment in Empathy. Sam Richards – Ted Talk. October 2010 -
http://www.ted.com/talks/sam_richards_a_radical_experiment_in_empathy.html
- Occupation 101 – A Documentary Film – Directors: Abdallah Omeish, Sufyan Omeish – 2006
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGogkbpRw&list=PLD6D247076445907C>
- Islam Empire of Faith. With Ben Kingsley - A PBS Production – 2000. <http://www.pbs.org/empires/islam/film.html>
- Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People – With Jack Shaheen - Director Jeremy Earp, Sut Jhally – Media Education Foundation – 2006
<http://www.mediaed.org/transcripts/Reel-Bad-Arabs-Transcript.pdf>
- “How Trump changed Americans’ view of Islam – for the better” – Shibley Telhami – Washington Post – January 25, 2017.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/01/25/americans-dont-support-trumps-ban-on-muslim-immigration/?utm_term=.c780830fb48d