

WINTER 2010

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 6
ISLAM, GENDER, AND MODERNITY**

ROOM: HSSB 1173

**TTH: 9:30-10:45 (LECTURE)
M (DISCUSSION)**

PROFESSOR JANET AFARY
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TH: 3:00-4:00 PM

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This course will examine the gendered history, politics, and culture of several Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) societies. Western media and politicians often portray a highly subservient image of women in the Muslim MENA. In contrast we will explore a wide range of roles played by women of the region, by looking at different geographical and class situations, and seeking to understand women's multi-faceted activities and writings. Readings are organized around the following core issues: The rise of the women's movement in the early twentieth century; Muslim women's interactions with nationalism and anti-colonial movements, socialism, and radical Islamism; changes in sexual practices and the institution of marriage; the politics of veiling, unveiling, and revealing; new gender expectations and democratic reforms at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

TEXTS

Shaarawi, Huda. *Harem Years: The Memoirs of an Egyptian Feminist* Trans. Margot Badran. New York: Feminist Press, 1993.

Abouzeid, Leila. *Year of the Elephant: A Moroccan Woman's Journey Toward Independence*. Trans. Barbara Parmenter. Austin, Texas: Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2009.

Mernissi, Fatima. *Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in Modern Muslim Society*. Indiana University Press, 1987.

Moaveni, Azadeh. *Lipstick Jihad*. Public Affairs, 2006.

DATES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 (January 5-7): Introductions; 19th century Egypt
Monday, January 11th Discussion

Week 2 (January 12-14) HAREM YEARS (pp. 1-82)
Monday, January 18th HOLIDAY

Week 3 (January 19-21) HAREM YEARS (pp. 83-155)
Monday, January 25th Discussion

Week 4 (January 26-28) YEAR OF THE ELEPHANT
Monday, February 1st Discussion

Week 5 (February 2-4) MIDTERM
Monday, February 8th Discussion

FEB 2: EXAM
FEB 4: FILM

Week 6 (February 9-11) BEYOND THE VEIL
Monday, February 15th HOLIDAY

Week 7 (February 16-18) BEYOND THE VEIL
Monday, February 22nd Discussion

Week 8 (February 23-25) LIPSTICK JIHAD
Monday, March 1st Discussion

Week 9 (March 2-4) LIPSTICK JIHAD
Monday, March 8th Discussion

Week 10 (March 9-11)
General Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. EXAMS

There will be a midterm and a final exam, Exams will include short essay questions and multiple-choice questions. Details will be discussed in class. **60 percent**

1. *Leading Discussions*

20 percent

Participation in Class Discussions

Students will facilitate discussions after lecture. First, I will ask 5-6 students to sign up for a particular week of discussion. Second, at least one week before your selected date, read the chapters. Third, come up with three questions for each chapter relevant to discussion. Fourth, set up a suitable time for the group to go over each other's questions either in person or over e-mail. Fifth, once the group has decided on the final discussion questions, pass them by the TA no longer than three days before the class discussion. You can do this by e-mail or by meeting with her during office hours. This part is required so she can give you feedback on the questions and recommend discussion strategies. Finally, the TA will email your questions to others before class, so they come prepared to engage in discussion. The purpose of this assignment is for groups to work together to raise important issues about the readings and to get the rest of the class to engage in discussion. **Be creative with your questions. Please provide me with a print copy of the questions you have produced on the day of your presentation. Everyone is expected to take notes on the discussions. All of this material will be part of the exams. Other students should note that INFORMED participation in class, by discussing questions posed by your classmates, can help your grade.**

2. *Participation in Monday Discussion Sections*

20 percent

3. EXTRA CREDIT

You may receive extra credit in two ways:

- A. Volunteer for a multimedia presentation (20 minutes). The instructor will provide you with a list of possible subjects. PLEASE KEEP TO THE ALLOTTED TIME. You are expected to create a power point presentation. On the day of the presentation bring the instructor a print copy of your presentation.
Up to 5 Points
- B. You may also receive extra credit for attending relevant lectures on campus and writing a brief (one page) summary of each event. **Please hand in your summary to the TA no later than the following Monday after the event. In case of a holiday please bring it to class the following Tuesday.** For details please contact the TA ahead of time.
Up to 5 Points

Up to 5 Points

One event that could earn you extra credit is the following: “Covering the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in 2010: A Report from the Ground,” at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8 in UCSB Campbell Hall. **Other events will be announced in class.**

4. Current Events

Students are expected to read the *New York Times* and follow news about the Middle East. You should also become familiar with other journals/ web sites on MENA. This will dramatically enhance your understanding of the issues discussed in class.

5. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Daily attendance in both class and discussion sessions is mandatory. **More than two (2) excused, or unexcused, absences will bring your grade down automatically by one letter grade.** Regular attendance may enhance your final grade in some cases.