Course Description: *

This course examines some of the ways in which Muslim religion, thought, and practices have responded and adapted to the modern age (defined here as the colonial, post-colonial, and contemporary periods). We will begin by surveying the notions of modernity and secularism as they relate to religion generally and then to Islam in particular, focusing on the debates surrounding the relationship and supposed tensions between Islam and modernity. Part of the class will be spent analyzing and comparing the intellectual responses to colonialism and modernity articulated by various influential 19th, 20th, and 21st-century Muslim thinkers. The remainder of the class will investigate three themes: (1) Muslims living in the “West” (defined here as the United States and Europe) and Western images of Muslims and Islam; (2) Muslim masculine and feminine gender constructions in light of Western feminist and secularist ideals; and (3) the role of Islam and Muslims in the “Arab Spring” democracy movements. We will explore these three topics as case studies of how the beliefs, values, and practices of Muslims residing in the West and in Muslim countries have adapted to modernity, secularism, and globalization.

Course Materials

In addition to the required textbooks, other assigned readings will be either posted on Gaucho Space (indicated by “(GS)” or accessible online through the electronic reserve (ER) or the e-library.

Required Textbooks


* The syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

**Selected Readings and Reference Works**


5) Brill’s *Encyclopaedia of the Qur’an* and Brill’s *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, Second and Third Editions (Available on the online databases of the library)

6) Internet History Sourcebook Project (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/)

7) The Qur’an and the Hadith. M. H. Shakir’s English translation of the Qur’an is accessible online from the University of Michigan website: http://quod.lib.umich.edu/k/koran/

    Listen to Qur’anic recitation at the Islamicity.com website: http://www.islamicity.com/multimedia/radio/ch100/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

    The Hadith collections of Muslim, al-Bukhari, Malik, al-Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud and al-Nasa’i, as well as al-Nawawi’s Forty Hadith are accessible online via the ahadith.co website: http://ahadith.co.uk/

8. Links to other useful websites on Islam and Islamic Studies may be found at http://islam.uga.edu/

**Course Requirements**

1. Being up-to-date with readings and other assignments.
2. Attendance of lectures; active participation in sections 20%
3. One Oral Presentation in section 20%
4. Two Critical Thinking Essays 30% (10/30, 11/29)
5. Final Examination 30%

Attendance and *active* participation are fundamental for this class. The discussion grade will be based primarily upon contributions to discussions in section, lecture attendance, and the attendance of one of CMES & UCSB events about Islam and Middle East, which will be announced in class. The willingness to share views in classroom discussions, the insightfulness of your comments and questions about assigned readings or visual materials, as well the constructiveness of your comments to the oral presentations of fellow classmates (see below) will all be taken into account when evaluating your participation. To receive credit for the attendance of a CMES or UCSB course-related event, a one-page response paper must be submitted in class. The response paper should be submitted no later than December 4.
Oral presentations. Each student is required to make an oral presentation in section. The presentations will preferably be done in pairs, although individual presentations may be permitted at the discretion of the section leader. The oral presentation may be based upon the readings OR of a primary source text by a prominent Muslim thinker or activist. Alternatively, it could be an exposé on some aspect of one of the special themes to be dealt with in class: Muslims in the West; Islam, modernity, and gender; or Islam and the Arab Spring.

Two Critical Thinking Essays. One of the essays should be a critical assessment of one of the assigned theoretical readings on the problem of modernity, secularism, and Islam or religion in general. The second essay will be a review of a relevant source (book, journal article, podcast, or film) dealing with Islam, Muslims, and modernity (check with instructor and TA). Each paper should be between 800 and 1000 words. Guidelines for essays will be provided in class.

The Final Examination is scheduled for December 13th and will be comprehensive.

Cell-Phones and Other Electronic Devices

All personal cellular and electronic devices are to be disabled and NOT used during class and lab hours unless expressly permitted by the instructors.

Our Standard of Academic Honesty and Responsibility: Students must adhere to the standards of academic honesty and responsibility as defined in The Student Code of Conduct. Class assignments and exams are designed to enhance a student’s overall intellectual growth, as well as his or her mastery of a subject. Plagiarism, the unauthorized submission of someone else’s work as one’s own, completely undermines the learning process and is treated as a serious infraction of student conduct by the university. Any student who commits plagiarism will receive a FAIL for the course and, if warranted, we will ask the Dean of Students and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies to suspend them from the university. Make certain that in your essays you provide complete citations for all sources (including materials from the web) cited directly or indirectly, verbatim or paraphrased.

Lectures & Readings

27 Sept- 2 Oct  Introduction to the Course. Introduction to Islam

Readings: Elias, Islam, chaps. 1, 2, 3, and 4

4 Oct  Modernity, Secularism, and Religion


Also accessible online: http://socrel.oxfordjournals.org/content/60/3/303.full.pdf


**9-11 Oct**  
**Islam and Modernity: Framing the Debate**

**Readings:**  
- Ernst, *Following Muhammad*, chapter 2.  
- Masud et al, *Islam and Modernity*, chap.2

**16-18 Oct.**  
**Colonialization of the Muslim World and its Responses**

**Readings:**  
- Elias, *Islam*, chap. 5  
  Ernst, *Following Muhammad*, chap. 4  
- “Colonialism,” in Campo, *Encyclopedia of Islam*

**Primary Source Readings: Reformers, Modernists, Nationalists, and Socialists* (GS).**

  Muhammad Iqbal, “A Separate Muslim State in the Subcontinent,” in *Islam in Transition*, 91-93 (GS)  

**23-25 Oct**  
**Muslim Responses to Colonialism (cont’d); Modernity and Islam**

**Readings:**  
- Masud et al, *Islam and Modernity*, chap. 6  
- Safi, Omid, “Islamic Modernism and the Challenge of Reform,” in *Voices of Islam*, vol. 5, xvii-xxiii (GS)

**Primary Source Readings on Islamic Socialism and Revivalist Islam**

  al-Qaradawi, Yusuf, “Priorities of the Islamic Movement in the Coming Phase”  
  Online: [http://web.youngmuslims.ca/online_library/books/poimitcp/index.htm](http://web.youngmuslims.ca/online_library/books/poimitcp/index.htm)
30 Oct - Progressive Islam and Progressive Muslim Activists

Readings:


SPECIAL TOPICS ON ISLAM AND MODERNITY

6-8 Nov. Theme 1: Muslims, Islam, and West; Islamophobia and Muslim Responses

Readings for Islam and Muslims in/and the West:
- Elias, *Islam*, chap. 6

- Ernst, *Following Muhammad*, chaps. 1 and 5

- Halman, Hugh Talat, “Sufism in the West: Islam in an Interspiritual Age,” in *Voices of Islam*, vol. 5, chap. 8, 169-198 (GS)

- Safi, Omid, “I and Thou in a Fluid World: Beyond ‘Islam versus the West,’” in *Voices of Islam*, vol. 5, chap. 9, 199-222 (GS).

Readings for Islamophobia and Muslim Responses:

- Asad, Talal, “Free Speech, Blasphemy, and Secular Criticism,” in *Is Critique Secular?* 20-65. Accessible on eScholarship, University of California, [http://www.escholarship.org/uc/item/84q9c6ft#page-6](http://www.escholarship.org/uc/item/84q9c6ft#page-6)


[http://tvn.sagepub.com/content/early/2012/09/05/1527476412453948.full.pdf+html](http://tvn.sagepub.com/content/early/2012/09/05/1527476412453948.full.pdf+html)

### 13-15 Nov. Theme 2: Islam, Modernity, and Gender: Part I - Women

**Readings:**
- Masud et al, *Islam and Modernity*, chap. 4


### 20-22 Nov NO CLASS – AAR MEETING / HAPPHY THANKSGIVING!

### 27-29 Nov Islam, Modernity and Gender: Part II - Men

**Readings.**


### 4-6 Dec. Theme 3: Islam and the Arab Spring: The View from Tunisia

**Readings:**


More to come!