

-Prof. Kathleen M. Moore
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HSSB 3074 (office)
Office hrs: MWF 11 to 11:50 a.m.
(or by appt)

Lectures MWF 10 to 10:50 a.m.
Classroom North Hall 1105

Islam in America RELST 140

Fall 2010

Course Description

This quarter we will study what it means to be Muslim in America. We will look carefully at the challenges facing Muslims in the United States, where many are enveloped in a uniquely 'American' religious experience. The course begins by deconstructing our notions of Islam and Muslims by looking at narrative accounts. Next we build an understanding of Islam and Muslims in the U.S., construct an understanding of race and religion in the U.S. and, finally, relate theories of race and religion to Islam in America.

Course Goals

By the end of the quarter will be able to:

- Analyze representations of Islam and Muslims in American culture, and comprehend how those representations are framed, and why
- Understand the history of Islam and Muslims in the United States and be able to express that understanding clearly in written and verbal communication
- Demonstrate your grasp of important concepts about race and religion in the United States as they apply to the situation of Muslims in the United States

Course Requirements

Please become familiar with the following course requirements and policies. If there is a component that is not understood, please ask for clarification.

Required Readings:

These titles are available for purchase at the UCEN Bookstore, the I.V. Bookstore, and from online booksellers. They are also on reserve (2 hour loan) in Davidson Library:

- Manning Marable and Hishaam D. Aidi, eds., *Black Routes to Islam* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) (Marable and Aidi)
- Yvonne Y. Haddad, Jane I. Smith, and Kathleen M. Moore, *Muslim Women in America: Challenges of Islamic Identity Today* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2006) (Haddad, Smith and Moore)
- Geneive Abdo, *Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America after 9/11* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2006) (Abdo)

- Selcuk Sirin and Michelle Fine, *Muslim American Youth: Understanding Hyphenated Identities through Multiple Methods* (2008) (Sirin and Fine)

In addition required articles are accessible online at www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu and are listed below in the **course schedule**.

Gauchospace:

The Gauchospace web-based course management system will be used to post grades, messages and reading assignments that are required in addition to the four books.

Required readings (except for the four books) are accessible on the website:

www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu.

Evaluation:

Your grade is based on how well you synthesize readings, lectures, and audiovisual materials. Success depends on your engagement with the materials. Coming to class prepared to discuss the readings is essential. Components of the grading scale are as follows (200 point scale):

<i>Grades Points</i>		<i>Grading Scale</i>
Midterm Exam	60	A: 177 -- 200
Final Exam	100	A-: 171 -- 176
Participation	40	B+: 165 -- 170
		B: 158 -- 164
		B-: 152 -- 157
		C+: 146 -- 151
<i>Total:</i>	<i>200</i>	C: 139 -- 145
		C-: 133 -- 138
		D: 114 -- 132
		F: 0 -- 113

Exams: The midterm (30% of course grade) and final exam (50% of course grade) will include fill-in-the-blank and essay questions. These exams will be on the reading assignments, lectures, and audio-visual materials introduced in class meetings and on the Gauchospace website. Please bring a blue book to exams.

Participation: Your participation (20% of course grade) will be evaluated on the basis of **in-class discussions** and **short weekly papers**. Weekly papers (typed, double-spaced) will consist of one paragraph about the main thesis of the authors assigned for the week; one paragraph about how this week’s readings relate to previous weeks’ materials; and two questions or comments you have about the assigned readings for the week. The goal is to synthesize the materials so that you can raise analytical questions. Bring weekly papers **to class** every Friday and use them as “talking points” to contribute to the in-class discussion. **Six** weekly papers are assigned and I will drop the lowest score (so your

grade is based on five). BRING PAPERS TO CLASS WITH YOU on due dates. Do not submit weekly papers by email – you must turn in during class. Due dates are indicated below.

Attendance at class is very important. You are responsible for materials presented in lectures and discussion.

To avoid any confusion, here is what I expect for various grades:

- A: Superb ability to offer original and insightful analysis of the facts.
- B: Solid, very good work. The facts have been grasped and significant moves have been made to analyze the materials.
- C: Reasonable efforts made to attend class, and a fair grasp of the materials has been demonstrated. Analytical level is fair – not original, missing certain important facts, but essentially correct about the facts covered.
- D: A simplistic familiarity with the material is demonstrated by the student’s work, but much of what is presented could have been gleaned from media (not course assignments)
- F: Little or no attempt made to engage with the materials, to respect the requirements of the course and its schedule, or to complete assignments on time.

Course Schedule

- Sept 24** **Introduction (read syllabus and purchase books)**

- Sept 27-
Oct 1** **Overview: Immigration, Slavery, and Islam’s American Roots**
Read: “Islam in the Americas,” *Encyclopedia of Islam* and “Amid Mosque Dispute, Muslims can look to Irish-Catholics for Hope,” accessible at www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu
Prologue in Abdo, *Mecca and Main Street*
Ch. 1, Marable and Aidi, “The Early Muslim Presence and its Significance”
View in Class: *30 Days (Morgan Spurlock), Muslims and America(2005)*

- Oct 4-8** **History, Demography, and Diversity**
Read: Ch. 1-3, Sirin & Fine
Ch. 1, Abdo, “Imams for a New Generation”

- Oct 11-15** **Youth and Contested Citizenship**
Read: Ch. 4-6, Sirin & Fine
Ch. 2, Abdo
Ch. 13-14, Marable & Aidi

- Oct 18-22** **Muslim Voices – streets and campuses**
Read: Ch 3-5, Abdo
Ch. 7, Sirin & Fine

Conwall and Jooma, "Thwarting Ethnoviolence Against Muslim Women: Performing Identity in Social Action," accessible at

www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu

- Oct 25** Midterm review – bring your questions to class
- Oct 27** MIDTERM (bring blue book)
- Oct 29** CLASS CANCELED (Boo!)
- Nov 1-5** **Civil Rights and Responsibilities**
Read: Ch. 6-8, Abdo
Ch. 11, Marable & Aidi
Erik Love, "Confronting Islamophobia in the United States: Framing Civil Rights Action among Middle Eastern Americans," accessible at
www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu
- Nov 7-12** **Islam and Race Consciousness**
Read: Ch. 1, 2, 5, and 7, Marable & Aidi
- Nov 15-19** **Muslim Women in the United States**
Read: Haddad, Smith and Moore, entire book
View in class: *The Noble Struggle of Amina Wadud (2007)*
- Nov 22-24** **Islamic Feminism in the United States**
Read: Ch 9, Marable & Aidi
(*Thanksgiving week*)
- Nov 29-Dec 3** **Conclusion: the end to immigrant memory?**
Read: Ch. 17, Marable & Aidi
Moore, "Organizing for Islam in America," and Zaid Shakir, "Obsessed with Defamation and Slander," accessible at
www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu

Course Policies

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will be allowed *only in the event of a medical or family emergency and with advance notification*. Documentation is required for all make-up exams. As soon as you know that you will miss an exam you need to get in touch with me to schedule a make-up. A long delay in informing me of your situation may result in not being allowed to take a make-up.

Attendance: Your presence is expected at every class. You are required to turn in your weekly paper in class (I will not accept electronic submissions) and to contribute to in-class discussions.

Extra Credit: Extra credit work will **not** be allowed. If you perform poorly on an exam, you are encouraged to place additional effort toward doing better on the next exam.

Assistance: Please visit during office hours; make an appointment, or e-mail if you require assistance or wish to discuss the class material further.

Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom: Turn off all cellphones and other noise making devices before class. You are allowed to bring a laptop computer to class for the purpose of taking notes. Laptops may not be used for other purposes, such as checking e-mail or surfing the net. If I determine that laptop use is becoming too much of a distraction in class, I will ban their use for the remainder of the quarter.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do you hand out a “study guide” before the exams?
 - No. I strongly encourage you to make your own study guide. Since creating a study guide is a skill I want you to develop, I will not do it for you. I would be glad, however, to help you. After you make a study guide, bring it to my office and I will look over it and make suggestions. This must be done during office hours or by appointment. I will not review study guides submitted via email.
2. I missed class. Did I miss anything important?
 - Yes, if I did not have anything important to say, I would have cancelled class.
3. OK, what did I miss?
 - First, get the notes from a classmate for the class you missed, then (and only then) we can go over the parts that you do not understand during office hours.
4. I did poorly on an exam. Can I retake it or do any sort of extra credit work?
 - No. You should place all your efforts into doing better on the next exam. If you need help, you should take advantage of my office hours, or make an appointment to see me.
5. I am only one point away from a C (or D, B, or A). Since I am so close, is there anyway you can just give me the extra point?
 - No, it would not be fair to the rest of the class to give you an undeserved extra point.
6. I need to talk to you, when would be a good time?
 - During my office hours. If you cannot make my office hours, please email me to set up an appointment. Suggest some times that will work for you.

Due Dates

Oct 8	Weekly paper #1
Oct 15	Weekly paper #2
Oct 22	Weekly paper #3
Oct 27	Midterm (in class, bring blue book)
Nov 5	Weekly paper #4
Nov 12	Weekly paper #5

Nov 19 Weekly paper #6
Dec ? Final exam

Important Dates

Sept 24 First Day of Class
Sept 30 Last Day to Drop Course (w/o \$3 fee)
Nov 25-28 Thanksgiving Holiday, no class
Dec 3 Last Day of Class
Dec 5 Study Day
Dec 6-11 Final Exams Week
Dec 20 Grades accessible on GOLD