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HSSB 3074 (office)  
Office hrs: by appt

Lectures TuTh 2:00 to 3:15 p.m.  
Classroom 387 #104

## **Islam in America**

### **RELST 140E**

**Fall 2011**

#### **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 examining narrative accounts, looking at the history of Islam in the "new world" and 19<sup>th</sup> -- 20<sup>th</sup> century America. Next we build an understanding of Islam and Muslims in the U.S. by constructing 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:

- Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, A History of Islam in America (Cambridge, 2010) **GHANEABASSIRI**
- Yvonne Y. Haddad, Jane I. Smith, and Kathleen M. Moore, Muslim Women in America: Challenges of Islamic Identity Today (Oxford Univ. Press, 2011 [2006]) **HADDADSMITHMOORE**
- Yvonne Y. Haddad, Becoming American? The Forging of Arab and Muslim Identity in Pluralist America (Baylor, 2011) **HADDAD** NOTE: Not available until end of October.
- Amina Wadud, Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam (OneWorld, 2006) **WADUD**

In addition required articles are accessible online at [www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu](http://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](http://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):

Grades Points	Grading Scale
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
Total:	200	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. Bi-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 the past two 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 on due date and use them as "talking points" to contribute to the in-class discussion. Four bi-weekly papers are assigned and I will drop the lowest score (so your grade is based on three). BRING PAPERS TO CLASS WITH YOU on due dates. Do not submit weekly papers by email – turn them 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 22 Introduction (read syllabus and purchase books)

Sept 25- Overview: Immigration, Slavery, and Islam's American Roots: Earliest Years

Sept 28 Read: GHANEABASSIRI, pp. 1-94

View in Class: 30 Days (Morgan Spurlock), Muslims and America (2005)

Oct 4-6 History, Demography, and Diversity: a Band of Others

Read: GHANEABASSIRI, pp. 95-164 and Hamza Yusuf in Christian Science Monitor, Sept 26, 2010, "Amid Mosque Dispute, Muslims can look to Irish-Catholics for Hope," accessible at [www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu](http://www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu)

**First weekly paper due in class October 6<sup>th</sup>**

Oct 11-13 Contested Citizenship

Read: GHANEABASSIRI, pp. 165-227 and Kathleen M. Moore, "Pakistani Americans," accessible at [www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu](http://www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu)

Oct 18-20 Post World War II American National Identity and Transnationalism

Read: GhaneaBassiri, pp. 228-326

**Second weekly paper due in class October 20th**

- Oct 25-27 Organizing Muslims in America Post Civil Rights Era  
Read: GhaneaBassiri, pp. 327-381 and Lori Peek, "Becoming Muslim" accessible at [www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu](http://www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu)
- Nov. 1 MIDTERM (bring blue book)
- Nov. 3 In-Class Screening of "The Noble Struggle of Amina Wadud" (2007)
- Nov 8-10 Muslim Women in the United States  
Read: HADDADSMITHMOORE
- Nov 15-17 Islamic Feminism in the United States  
Read: WADUD

**Third weekly paper due in class November 17th**

- Nov 22-24 (Thanksgiving week)
- Nov 29-Dec 3 Becoming American in a Pluralist Society: the end to immigrant memory?  
Read: HADDAD

**Fourth weekly paper due in class November 31st**

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 6	Weekly paper #1
Oct 20	Weekly paper #2
Nov 1	Midterm (in class, bring blue book)
Nov 17	Weekly paper #3
Nov 31	Weekly paper #4
Dec 8	Final exam due (take home)

#### Important Dates

Sept 22	First Day of Class
Sept 30	Last Day to Drop Course (w/o \$3 fee)
Nov 22-24	Thanksgiving Holiday, no class
Nov 31	Last Day of Class
Dec 6-11	Final Exams Week
Dec 8	Take home final exam due by 5 p.m.
Dec 20	Grades accessible on GOLD