

HISTORY 281 The Muslim World

Spring '07 University of Wisconsin-Superior Main 316 MWF 2-2:50

Professor: Dr. Priscilla E. Starratt Sundquist 221 X8510

Office Hours MW 11-12 and TTH 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

- I. **The Course Content:** A Course on the Muslim World in one semester can only consider a handful of possible topics. This one will include topics of the introduction of the faith and its historical development, gender roles in Islam, the spread of Islam in the United States in particular and the west in general, political applications of Islam using the example of Afghanistan and the impact of the Wahhabi doctrine in the modern world. We will learn from a variety of texts and films, newspapers and out of class experiences.

- II. **The Course Goals:** Student in this class will be able to
 1. understand the geographical distribution of the world's Muslims
 2. understand some basic theological premises of the religion of Islam
 3. learn some fundamental chronological concepts of the major periods of the history of the religion
 4. appreciate the origins and development of American Islam
 5. appreciate the diversity of views in the faith on matters such as gender roles, the interaction of religion and politics and the use of violence
 6. apply their new knowledge to understanding news from the Muslim world

- III. **Method of assessment:**

You may earn points towards your grade in a variety of ways:
Attendance 20% most highly recommended
test on terms and geography, and historical development of the faith 10%
A test on Islam in the West and gender roles 20%
An Essay and study guides on the interaction of religion, politics & gender in Afghanistan 20%
An out of class learning experience 10%
A final test the intersection of politics, religion and violence 20%

IV. University Policies:

a. Weather Policy: In case of bad weather call the UWS weather hot line for information about cancellations . It is (715) 394-8400.

b. accommodation of religious belief: Please notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester if there are special dates that need accommodation due to your sincerely held religious beliefs.

c. disabilities accommodation: materials, readings, testing and evaluations may be modified for students who inform the instructor about their disabilities requirements at the beginning of the semester

V. Course Policies:

a. Attendance: Because this is class about which few students have prior expertise, as an incentive to attend regularly, your attendance count 20% of your grade. UWS faculty, however, recognize that there are cases of personal illness, bad weather, sports participation, illness of a family member or other civic or religious responsibilities that can prevent any serious student from attending one class now and then. You do not need to worry over for an absence or two. But recognize poor attendance will let your group members down and hurt your grade, even while it is not required.

The grade for attendance will be:

<u>classes attended</u>	<u>grade</u>	<u>classes attended</u>	<u>grade</u>
44	100%	39	85
43	97	39	82
42	95	37	77
41	92	36	75
40	87	37	72

If you find you will miss more than 9 classes, please consider taking the class again, later.

b. Plagiarism. Put simply, plagiarism is turning in work that is not your own. It may have been borrowed from the Internet, a book or another student’s work. Students may use materials from the Net or books by citing their sources with correct documentation. All undocumented borrowing of others sources will result in an F on the assignment and may result in an F on the course. Use of another student’s work, whether from your own or previous classes will usually result in an F on the course . DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. Running out of time on an assignment? Ask for an extension. the “official excuse” is that your car broke down and I will assume it did, and you can have an extension of a reasonable period.

VI. Text Books Please purchase the following 5 books. They are available in the UWS bookstore as well as through other booksellers and websites. They are, in order of use:

1. 2001. Ziauddin Sardar and Zafar Abbas Malik, *Introducing Islam* , NY: Totem Books, 2001 dist by national book Network, Inc. 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706 1-84046-363-5

Not only is this a good introduction to the religion of Islam, but the book is beautifully illustrated and the author has a great sense of humor . This is often unusual when people talk about religion.

2. 2002. Hasan, Asma Gull, *American Muslims: the New Generation*. NY: Continuum International Publishing Group. 0 8264 1416 8

This book is written by an American Muslim woman who not only tells us the history of Islam in the UW, but comments on its status today in many aspects.

3. Zoya with John Follain and Rita Cristofari, *Zoya's Story*, NY: William Morrow/Harper Collins 0-06-009783-3

The relationship between Islamic faith and the government has many different examples from Libya to Iran and Afghanistan to Indonesia. The plight of the women of Afghanistan under the Taliban government caught the attention of many western journalists.

4. 2004. Abukhalil, As'ad. *The Battle for Saudi Arabia*. NY: Seven Stories Press. 1583226109

So how did it happen that the tolerant, generous faith we studied at the beginning of the course produced the Taliban? Read about the origins of the Wahhabiyya doctrine in Saudi Arabia to find out.

5. 2003. Shehadeh, Raja. *When the Birds Stopped Singing: Life in Ramallah Under Seige*. South Royalton, VT: Steerforth Press. 1 58642 069 0

The biggest problem between the West and the Muslim world, many feel, is the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. Originally a conflict over land and political power, the issue is perceived by many as a religious issue between Muslims and Jews. THIS Palestinian author is a Christian-what does he say about the conflict?

VII. Class schedule:

Before the spring break, the class will cover topics where discussion will be led by the professor. After the mid-term, more emphasis will be put on student led learning.

Week of January 22

Introducing the course and ourselves

Geographic considerations and numbers of Muslims in the world,

The life of the Prophet, religious diversity in the USA and Europe

read *Introducing Islam* p.3-28 *American Muslims* ix-13 & 27-34

film: *Islam Empire of Faith* part I

Week of January 29

Basic tenets of the Muslim faith and practice

Read *Introducing Islam* 30-68, 92-94, *American Muslims* 48-61

Film: *Mosque, Inside Mecca*

Week of February 5

The Rightly-Guided Caliphs, Early Caliphates, the Shiite Split, Sufism

Read *Introducing Islam*: 68-91, 95-125, *American Muslims* 23-26
Film: *Baghdad During the Abbasid Dynasty*

Week of February 12

Read *Introducing Islam* 95-125, handouts The Crusades, Ibn Battuta, Ibn Khaldoun, Muslim Spain Film: *Islam Empire of Faith II, Muslim Spain*

Weeks of February 19

Group Work: Read handouts and do study guide on
The early modern empires: Ottoman, Mughal, Safavid and Timurid
Film: *the Challenge of the Past*

February 26

The decline, stagnation and the closing of the door of rational reinterpretation,
& colonialism read *Introducing Islam* 126-148
Midterm Test on historical developments since to WWII on Friday 3/2

Week of March 5

On Islam and gender read:
Introducing Islam 160-162 and *American Muslims* 35-47, 107-148
Film: *Paradise Lies at the Feet of the Mothers*

Week of March 13

American Muslims p.50-75, 189-203, *Introducing Islam* 151
Muhammad; Legacy of a Prophet
Film *Islam in America* part I

Week of March 20 Spring break

Week of March 27

American Muslim: 14-22, 62-79, and 126-187, *Introducing Islam* 152
Film: *Islam in America* part II, *Malcom X* selections

Week of April 2

Test #2 on Islam in American and gender issues in Islam
The intersection of religion, politics & gender in Afghanistan
read *Zoya's Story* 1-100
film: *Osama*

Week of April 9

Finish *Zoya's story* 101-235
Film *Women in Afghanistan*
oral reports on newspaper article

Week of April 16

Hand in Study guides on Osama, Women in Afghanistan and Zoya's Story attached to your and a 3-5 page essay on the question:

"What factors contributed to the emergence of the Taliban government in Afghanistan that was so rigidly conservative in its interpretation of Islam with regard to women's rights, political rights, religious diversity, entertainment and sports?"

Film *Among the Unbelievers*

begin to read *The Battle for Saudi Arabia* to p. 137

Friday April 20

complete the Experiential Learning Component by writing two pages about your experience after:

- a. bringing a Muslim speaker to the class at an arranged date
- b. visiting and reporting on the Islamic Society of the Twin Ports
- c. visiting the mosque and Islamic school in Minneapolis-you are welcome to bring any friend, member of your family or children along with you. Even infants and toddlers are also welcome. Plan ahead if you wish to attend. There is an opportunity to eat Middle Eastern Food on Central Avenue at Holy Lands Bakery for late lunch or Jerusalem Restaurant on Nicollet for dinner. At the mosque, all visitors (except young children) MUST observe the dress code.

Written component is 2 pages: What did you see? 1 page; What did you learn, including was it what you expected or were you surprised? 2nd page. Due by April 25 in class or earlier.

Week of April 23

read *The Battle for Saudi Arabia* 138-213

film: Inside the Kingdom

out of class learning experience is due Wednesday

Week of April 30

Read Start *When the Birds Stopped Singing*

film: *Children of Shatila* and *Gaza Ghetto*

Week of May 7

Finish *When the Birds Stopped Singing*

film: *the Last Crusade* and *Struggling with Modernity*

Week of May 14th

Do class evaluation and

Final test on 5/18 on Saudi Arabia and Palestine and the films since 3-5 PM

NB this exam period starts at 3 not 2 PM !!!!! and a quote from the exam schedule which says : **"NO STUDENT MAY RESCHEDULE EXAMINATIONS."**

