

Dr. Spellberg
 Islam in the United States
 HIS 350R, ISL 372, RS 346

Spring 2011, T 5-8 pm

Course Description

This course is intended to do three things: provide a brief introduction to Islam; define the role of Islam and views of Muslims in the early history of this country; and introduce students to major issues concerning contemporary Muslim Americans. The course surveys the presence of Islam in the United States from the colonial era to the twenty-first century through the use of historical documents and contemporary media.

The course is divided into three sections. The first explores the origins of Islam through primary textual examples. The second section focuses on early American views of Islam in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with an emphasis on the earliest Muslims in the United States. The final section of the course analyzes the diversity of the contemporary American Muslim population. The course is designated as a Writing Flag with a series of assignments designed to improve written communication, including one peer review exercise.

Required Readings

Robert J. Allison, The Crescent Obscured: The United States and the Muslim World, 1776-1815

Allan D. Austin, African Muslims in Antebellum America

Richard W. Bulliet, The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization

John Esposito, What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam

John Esposito, Islam: The Straight Path, 4th edition

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, Jane I. Smith, and Kathleen M. Moore, Muslim Women in America: The Challenge of Islamic Identity Today

Jane Smith, Islam in America, 2nd edition

Xerox documents in a course packet

All books on sale at the University Co-op and on reserve at PCL

Xerox document packet available at Speedway in Dobie Mall and on reserve at PCL

Grading/Requirements: Late Assignments Will Incur Grade Penalties/Final Grades include plus/minus

Journal Entries: 5%, assigned over the semester and due in class. *No late work accepted.*

Attendance Required/Class participation - each unexcused absence will result in a point deduction from the final grade

February 8 Quiz 10%

February 22 First Essay 20%

March 22 Second Essay 20%

19 April Biography peer-reviewed first draft, 5%

3 May Biography final version 20%

3 May Final Essay 20%

*For this class, you **must** buy a spiral notebook of lined paper 8 x 11 inches. (No computers or recording devices will be permitted in this class for note taking.) The

journal will serve for specific required assignments to be checked by the instructor as required. *Students should also bring the document packet with them for discussion.

*Those students with disabilities may register for accommodations at Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259) and should apprise the instructor of any specific arrangements.

*The University honor code will be strictly enforced in this class.

I. ISLAM: ORIGINS

Week 1 January 18: Class Objectives/Assignments

Week 2 January 25: Sources of the Faith

Readings

Esposito, *Straight Path*, xiii-35 (4th edition), [on reserve earlier edition, ix-31]

Smith, *Islam in America*, ix-28 (2nd edition), [on reserve 1st edition, ix-27]

Documents in xerox packet: "Comparison of dialogue and debate," Qur'anic Verses 1 and 2, "Civilizational Imprisonments," and Williams, *Word of Islam*, 1-35 (internal 13-39),

*Journal Assignment #1 due in class

Week 3 February 1: Early History

Readings

Esposito, *Straight Path*, 35-46, [on reserve earlier edition 35-41]

Smith, 28-43 [on reserve earlier edition, 27-42]

Documents: Williams, *Word of Islam*, 36-end; "Pact of Umar," and "How the Jizya Is To Be Collected"

*Journal Assignment # 2 due in class

Week 4 February 8: Islamic Expansion and Cultural Interaction Quiz

Readings

Esposito, *Straight Path*, 46-73

Bulliet, *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization* (all)

Documents: from Hitti, *An Arab-Syrian Gentleman and Warrior in the Period of the Crusades*, *Memoirs of Usamah ibn Munqidh*, excerpt "An Appreciation of the Frankish Character"

*Journal Assignment # 3 due in class

II. ISLAM IN EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Week 5 February 15

Readings

Allison, *Crescent Obscured*, xiii-85

Documents: Images of the "Pope and Turk" and "Mahomet" (internal pages 63-65);

Hayes, "How Thomas Jefferson Read the Qur'an;" Hutson, "The Founding Fathers and Islam"

First Essay Assigned

Week 6 February 22Readings

Allison, *Crescent Obscured*, 87-185

Documents: U.S. Constitution Article 6, paragraph 3; Elliot's *Debates*, "Wednesday July 30, 1788," pp. 191-215, Library Research Guide

First Essay Due

Week 7 March 1Readings

Allison, 187-end

Documents: From *Political Sermons of the American Founding Era*, "Connecticut Dissenter's Strongbox, (1802)" 120-129, "Lawmaker Affirms Muslim Remarks," p. 137 in packet

*Journal Assignment #4

Second Essay Assigned

Week 8 March 8Readings

Austin, *African Muslims* (all)

*Journal Assignment # 5

Week 9 March 15 SPRING BREAK

III. ISLAM IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICA

Week 10 March 22 Diversity

Esposito, *Straight Path*, 73-276

Smith, 44-128

Documents: "Muslims in America, (map)" "Muslim Americans," "We Are Each Other's Business"

Second Essay Due

Week 11 March 29 Muslim WomenReadings

Smith, 129-154

Haddad, Smith, and Moore, Muslim Women in America (all)

Documents: "A Tale of Two U.S. Muslim Women: To Cover or Not?"

* Journal Assignment # 6

Week 12 April 5 Media PortrayalsReadings

Smith, 155-184

Documents: "Promises and Possibilities"

Final Two Assignments Distributed/Individual Meeting Times with Students

Finalized

Week 13 April 12 Student Conferences on Final Assignment
(Class Does Not Meet: Required Individual Student Meetings during Course Time)

Week 14 April 19 American Politics

Esposito, *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam*, all

Esposito, *Straight Path*, 276-end

Smith, 185-end

“How the News Media Covered Religion in the General Election,” “Muslim Voters Detect a Snub from Obama”

First Draft of Biographies Due to Student Reviewer

Week 15: April 26 Student Presentations

Week 16: May 3 Student Presentations

Final Biography and Final Essay Due