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surveys the presence of Islam in the United States from the colonial era to the twenty-first century through the use of historical documents and contemporary media.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*
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
*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 Warriorin the Period o f 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
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 Women
Readings
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 Portrayals
Readings
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
(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**