Islam in Europe and America
HIS 381, MES 385, RS 390
Fall 2011
Dr. Denise A. Spellberg
GAR W 3:00-6:00
Office: GAR

Course Description
The seminar provides an introduction to the representation of Islam and Muslims in European and American thought from the medieval era to the present. Particular attention will be paid to how Muslims figured in Christian discourses about persecution and religious toleration. Although the European emphasis will focus on Italy, Germany, and Britain, attention will also be paid to the Spanish impact on these questions in both Iberia and South America. Most of the emphasis on “America” in the course, however, implies North America.

The last portion of the class traces the experiences of real Muslims in both early modern and contemporary Europe and America, with particular attention to questions of slavery, race, gender, and ethnic diversity in a dynamic minority population. The seminar is designed as a reading course, a survey of important extant secondary material with selected samples of key primary texts that challenge this historiography. No prior study of the subject is assumed.

*Religious observances are always understood as excused absences, but the instructor must be informed 14 days prior, as per UT policy.
*Services for Students with Disabilities 471-6259
http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssl/ should be contacted along with the instructor directly if special arrangements are necessary.

Grades
40% First Essay Due 12 October
40% Second Essay Due 30 November
10% each student will outline/query and present one or two week’s reading for distribution; their choice.
10% Informed, weekly class participation

Readings:
All books are required and available at the University Co-op. (Cheaper online.) They are all also on reserve in PCL, together with a packet of required readings available for purchase from Speedway (Dobie Mall), but also on reserve in PCL.

I. **August 24:** Introduction

II. **August 31:** John Tolan, *Saracens: Islam in the Medieval European Imagination.* *(This is an electronic book, but cannot be read online by more than one student at a time.)*

III. **September 7:** David Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages.*
IV. September 14: Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*

V. September 21: In xerox packet, Stuart B. Schwartz, *All Can Be Saved*; Sebastian Castellio (d.1563), *Concerning Heretics* and Sebastian Franck (d. 1543), excerpts.


**FIRST ESSAY ASSIGNED**

VII. October 5: Nabil Matar, trans, *In the Lands of the Christians: Arabic Travel Writing in the Seventeenth Century*


FIELD TRIP


XII. November 9: Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, *A History of Islam in America: From the New World to the New World Order*

XIII. November 16: Yvonne Haddad, Jane Smith, Kathleen Moore, *Muslim Women in America: The Challenge of Islamic Identity Today* **FINAL ESSAY ASSIGNED along with ONLINE RESEARCH QUESTION**

XIV. November 23: Abdulkader H. Sinno, ed., *Muslims in Western Politics*

XV. November 30: Islam and Politics Closer to Home, Recently **FINAL ESSAY DUE IN CLASS**