ANT 310L / EUS 306 / ISL 311 MUSLIMS IN EUROPE

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**Instructor:** Sofian Merabet (sofian.merabet@austin.utexas.edu)
Office Hours: Thursday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
or by appointment in SAC 5.164

**Course Description:**

The topic of the course is the complicated politics of ethics and leadership among Muslims in contemporary France and Germany. This class is intended to expose students to ethical issues pertaining to religious identity formation in two different countries of the European Union. Moreover, in an effort to apply ethical reasoning in real-life situations, we will work to grasp the similarities and differences regarding everyday religious politics of ethics and leadership among Muslims living in France and Germany today, especially as these are shaped by historical processes associated with colonialism and nation-state-building, as well as by the power of representations mobilized in a global world. While the perspective of this course will be primarily anthropological, it will also be informed by historical, sociological, and legal approaches in an attempt to engage perspectives across various social science disciplines and the law. Based on the close reading of four recently published ethnographies about Muslim life in France and Germany, we will discuss how a consideration of current debates about religion and the state helps us understand the ethical relationship between the recognition of a lasting Muslim presence, the ways in which the state tries to institutionalize it in an effort of cooptation and control, and the challenges of circulating counter-discourses of European Muslim identity today. Moreover, the course will draw on cinematographic materials that illustrate some of the current debates surrounding Muslim identity formation in Europe.

**Information Literacy:** Throughout the semester we will visit and discuss the use of archives and various online resources. Included are assignments to prepare students for and offer feedback on their research strategies. We will utilize the Librarian-created resources for undergraduate classes including the assignments “Creating a Research Plan” and “Compare a Scholarly and Non-Scholarly Article” as well as the tutorials and guides “Find Articles” and “Local Information.”

**Gems of the University:** The course will incorporate the UT Libraries, visits to the Gender and Sexuality Center, and the Blanton Museum.

**University Lecture Series:** With prior consultation of the instructor, students are required to attend at least one lecture organized by the Fall 2015 University Lecture Series (http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/uls) and write a two-page report on it. University
Lecture Series are designed to create a campus-wide conversation, the University Lecture Series gives first-year students an opportunity to interact with leading members of our faculty—scholars, scientists, and civic leaders who are nationally and internationally renowned. All students, faculty, alumni, staff and community guests are invited, but the events will be aimed at entering first-year students. The University Lecture Series is generously brought to UT Austin by the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Excellence Fund for Undergraduate Studies.

**Fall 2015 Lectures:**

**Monday, September 21**  
6:30pm-7:30pm & 8:30pm-9:30pm (two shows)  
**Hogg Memorial Auditorium**  
**“Two Guys On Your Head”**  
Speakers: Dr. Robert Duke – School of Music & Dr. Art Markman – CoLA.  
What’s going on in that head of yours? Most everyone has a mind, but very few people know how the mind works. As a result, the ways that people study, learn, and use knowledge are often less than optimal. In this talk, we’ll examine core principles of learning, and consider elements of motivation that influence what people learn in and out of school. We’ll also discuss ways to connect information across disciplines and to make the transition from being a good student to becoming a good thinker.

**Tuesday, September 22**  
6:30pm-7:30pm & 8:30pm-9:30pm (two shows)  
**Hogg Memorial Auditorium**  
**Lessons in Leadership**  
Speakers: Dr. Andrea Gore – College of Pharmacy, Dr. Richard Reddick – College of Education, & Professor Daron Roberts – Center for Sports Leadership and Innovation  
**Dr. Andrea Gore** will discuss her research, teaching, and outreach activities related to her work on hormones and the brain, and how environmental chemicals disrupt neurodevelopment and behavior. As Editor-in-chief of the journal, Endocrinology, and through service to the US government, she has had additional opportunities to influence the future of science. Dr. Gore is chair of UT-Austin’s faculty council and will provide some perspective on the changes taking place on our campus.  
**Dr. Richard Reddick** will discuss Leadership in the #BlackLivesMatter Era using The Forty Acres as a living laboratory for cross-cultural understanding. For the past two years, young people have engaged in discussions and activism addressing systematic inequities in the criminal justice system, education, and many aspects of our society. Drawing on his research on campus diversity and mentoring, Dr. Reddick hopes to examine how to exhibit leadership in a time of profound differences in American society, as well as what opportunities students may encounter on campus.  
**Professor Daron Roberts** will examine leadership as a contact sport. The art of shepherding people to a desired destination begins with rigorous introspective work. After understanding “self”, the leader can craft a blueprint for success. Professor Roberts will focus on three essentials for cultivating an effective leadership style.
Alternatively, students can attend a lecture (and report on it) organized by either the UT Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the UT Center for European Studies, or the UT Center for Women’s and Gender Studies and write a one-page report on it (for more information, look at the CMES, CES, and CWGS websites: http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/mes/center/cmes.php, http://www.utexas.edu/cola/european_studies/, and http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/). Lectures that are organized by other UT Centers or Departments, but which address the topic of gender in the Muslim world, do qualify as well.

**Ethics and Leadership:**
This course carries the Ethics and Leadership flag. Ethics and Leadership courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving ethical issues and the process of applying ethical reasoning to real-life situations. It is not the goal of this class to teach you a specific code of ethics or a particular understanding of what constitutes “right” and “wrong” behavior. Rather, the goal is to teach ethical reasoning – how to think critically about, and apply values to, situations involving ethical decision-making.

**Required Texts:**

Books (listed alphabetically by the author and ordered at the University Co-Op, www.universitycoop.com, 2246 Guadalupe St, Austin, (512) 476-7211):


Herding, Maruta (2014) *Inventing the Muslim Cool: Islamic Youth Culture in Western Europe*. Transcript Verlag.


**Feature Films:**


*The Edge of Heaven* (2007) movie by Fatih Akin (director), 122 mins.
Course Requirements for Registered Students:

This course relies on the intellectual commitment and active participation of all students. In order for the class to be effective, all students must have the reading assignments completed and ready for in-depth discussion before each meeting.

The use of laptops or all other electronic devices is strictly prohibited!

Regular attendance is required, and so is active participation. Students are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to the discussion during all meetings as well as during the various visits to academic units across campus. Again, you must come to class having carefully read all materials and be prepared to discuss, question, and argue about issues raised in the readings. It will be beneficial for you to take excerpts/notes on any material that you find enlightening, controversial, or objectionable. You should also take notes in class on themes, key terms, and debates we discuss. These note-taking strategies will be crucial when you write your various assignments. In short:

- Attend all classes (including the various visits across campus).
- Do all assigned readings (while taking excerpts/notes!) by the date indicated on the syllabus and participate actively in the discussion.
- Two written Take-Home-Exams to be handed in in class on Tuesday, September 22nd and Tuesday, October 20th that cover a theoretical question based on the assigned readings [exactly 3-pages (double-spaced/12 point Times Roman font)]. Assignments will be posted on blackboard/Canvas and sent to you via email on the previous Friday. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS!**
- One two-page Report (to be handed in anytime before the Thanksgiving break!) based on the attendance of a lecture organized by either the Fall 2015 University Lecture Series, the UT Centers for Middle Eastern, European, or Women’s and Gender Studies, or by another UT Center/Department (e.g. the South Asia Institute, the Law School, the Gender and Sexuality Center, etc.), but which address a topic akin to the themes discussed in class.
- One Four-page paper based on a short group research project to be provided to the instructor on Thursday, December 3rd after class. Each group should have around 5 students.
- A preliminary one-page research outline will have to be handed in on Tuesday, November 3rd. The Project will be based on a topic that focuses on some aspect of Muslims in Europe. It can include the discussion of a written text (e.g. a novel, an ethnography, or a blog), a movie, a photography collection, an art installation, etc. All projects need to first be discussed with and approved by the instructor.
- 15-minute group presentations on the respective final paper projects during the last weeks of classes. They are intended to give general feedback (by the instructor and fellow students) to be incorporated in the final version of the written paper.
All writing assignments are designed to develop critical reading, analytical, and writing skills. Evaluation criteria include: critical and integrative analysis of texts, clarity of thought, ability to synthesize readings and class discussions into your own argument, and ability to formulate a theoretical grounding for it. Students will receive feedback by the instructor and, on occasion, by their peers.

A visit to the University Writing Center (UWC: http://uwc.utexas.edu/) is highly encouraged! The University Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. The writer works with a trained consultant to define goals for the session, for example:

- deciding on a topic.
- clarifying and organizing ideas.
- researching, drafting, and revising.
- improving grammar, punctuation, and usage.
- citing sources properly.

Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance we provide is intended to foster students’ resourcefulness and self-reliance. Each student determines how to use the consultant’s advice and makes all decisions regarding his or her writing. We cannot guarantee better grades, nor do we proofread or edit essays for students; rather we encourage students to take an active part in the consultation and become more confident writers. Any currently enrolled undergraduate at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. Our services are not designed to fix writing “problems.” Instead, we support students as they hone their skills; getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. We work with students from all UT colleges and departments, for both academic and non-academic writing. Whether a student is writing a lab report, a resume, a term paper, a statement for an application, or a work of creative writing, our consultants will be happy to help.

The new Student Honor Code states: “As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity.”

PLAGIARISM:

Anyone plagiarizing will first be given an “F” (Fail) and a report will be forwarded to the appropriate university authorities.

Notice regarding academic dishonesty (e.g. Plagiarism)

- Honor Code or statement of ethics.
  - University of Texas Honor Code: Each member of the university is expected to uphold The University of Texas Honor Code through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.
According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to “plagiarize” means
• to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own.
• to use (another's production) without crediting the source.
• to commit literary theft.
• to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

*All of the following are considered plagiarism:*

• turning in someone else's work as your own.
• copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
• failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
• giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation.
• changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.
• copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules).

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your readers with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

• Web site for more information:
  • http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism

**Grading Procedure:**

Grading Breakdown:

1. Attendance and Participation: 5%
2. Two Three-page Take-Home Exams: 50% (25% each)
3. One Two-page Lecture Report: 20%
4. 15-minute Presentation on the Final Paper Project: 5%
5. Four-page Final Paper: 20%

**Grading Distribution** (Letter Grade: Points):

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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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F: 59 and below.
Documented Disability Statement:

• Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd. Students need to inform the instructor and the teaching assistant(s) about their disability right at the beginning of the semester.

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives.

Reading Schedule: (this schedule is tentative and subject to possible revision)

Week 1: Muslims in Europe
- Thursday, August 27th Introduction and Orientation

Week 2:
- Tuesday, September 1st Introduction to Inventing the Muslim Cool: Islamic Youth Culture in Western Europe, pp. 9-23
- Thursday, September 3rd “Setting the Scene” in Inventing the Muslim Cool: Islamic Youth Culture in Western Europe, pp. 25-82

Week 3:
- Tuesday, September 18th “Portez vos valeurs’: Manifestations of Islamic Youth Culture” in Inventing the Muslim Cool: Islamic Youth Culture in Western Europe, pp. 83-121
- Thursday, September 10th “Living Islamic Youth Culture: Observations Among Consumers” in Inventing the Muslim Cool: Islamic Youth Culture in Western Europe, pp. 123-144
Week 4:

- Tuesday, September 15th
  “Introduction to College Writing” Class visit of a staff member of the Undergraduate Writing Center | FAC 211 | 1 University Station (G3000), Austin, TX 78712-3000 | Phone: 512.471.6222

- Thursday, September 17th
  Introduction and Chapter 1 of *The Politics of the Veil*, pp. 1-41

Week 5:

- Tuesday, September 22nd
  Chapter 2 of *The Politics of the Veil*, pp. 42-89
  *1st Take-Home Exam to be handed in!*

- Thursday, September 24th
  Chapter 3 of *The Politics of the Veil*, pp. 90-123

Week 6:

- Tuesday, September 29th
  Chapter 4 of *The Politics of the Veil*, pp. 124-150

- Thursday, October 1st
  Visit of the Gender and Sexuality Center, Student Activity Center, Room 2.112 (2201 Speedway)

Week 7:

- Tuesday, October 6th
  Introduction to *The Republic Unsettled: Muslim French and the Contradictions of Secularism*, pp. 1-28

- Thursday, October 8th
  “Field Notes I” and “One” in *The Republic Unsettled: Muslim French and the Contradictions of Secularism*, pp. 29-67

Week 8:

- Tuesday, October 13th
  “Two” in *The Republic Unsettled: Muslim French and the Contradictions of Secularism*, pp. 69-99

- Thursday, October 15th
  “Field Notes II” and “Three” in *The Republic Unsettled: Muslim French and the Contradictions of Secularism*, pp. 101-144
Week 9:
- Tuesday, October 20th
  “Four” in The Republic Unsettled: Muslim French and the Contradictions of Secularism, pp. 145-180
  2nd Take-Home Exam to be handed in!
- Thursday, October 22nd
  Visit of the Perry Castañeda Library (PCL 1.124)

Week 10:
- Tuesday, October 27th
  A Prophet
- Thursday, October 29th
  A Prophet

Week 11:
- Tuesday, November 3rd
  Introduction and Chapter I of Being German, Becoming Muslim: Race, Religion, and Conversion in the New Europe, pp. 1-50
  One-page Outline of the Final Group Project due!
- Thursday, November 5th
  Visit to the Blanton Museum | 200 E Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Austin, TX 78701 | (512) 471-7324

Week 12:
- Tuesday, November 10th
  Chapters 2 and 3 of Being German, Becoming Muslim: Race, Religion, and Conversion in the New Europe, pp. 51-86
- Thursday, November 12th
  Chapters 4 and 5 of Being German, Becoming Muslim: Race, Religion, and Conversion in the New Europe, pp. 87-131

Week 13:
- Tuesday, November 17th
  The Edge of Heaven
- Thursday, November 19th
  The Edge of Heaven
Week 14:

- Tuesday, November 24th  READING PERIOD
- Thursday, November 26th  Thanksgiving

Week 15: Student Presentations

- Tuesday, December 1st  - Final Group Project Presentations
- Thursday, December 3rd  - Final Group Project Presentations

Paper version of the final Group Project due after class on Thursday, December 3rd!