

Islamic Studies: Islam in North America

March – May 2019

B Period

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Muslims have been in America for hundreds of years. These numbers began to increase dramatically in the 20th century through immigration and through the conversion of significant numbers of African-Americans. The immigration acts of the 1960's saw another large number of Muslims immigrate to this country. Now, mosques are an integral part of the American religious landscape, and Muslims will soon be the largest American religious minority. In this course, we will learn, read about, research, and discuss these changes.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (for reference only)

- Austin, Allan D. *African Muslims Antebellum America*. 1 edition. New York, NY: Routledge, 1997.
- Bruggeman, Jeroen. *Social Networks : An Introduction*. New York: Routledge, 2008.
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/toc/ecip087/2007051263.html>.
- Chan-Malik, Sylvia. *Being Muslim : A Cultural History of Women of Color in American Islam*. New York: New York University Press, 2018.
- Diouf, Sylviane A. *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas, 15th Anniversary Edition*. Anniversary edition. NYU Press, 2013.
- GhaneaBassiri, Kambiz. *A History of Islam in America: From the New World to the New World Order*. 1 edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Khabeer, Su'ad Abdul. *Muslim Cool : Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States*. New York: New York University Press, 2016.
- Read, Jen'Nan Ghazal, and John P. Bartkowski. "To Veil or Not to Veil? A Case Study of Identity Negotiation among Muslim Women in Austin, Texas." *Gender and Society* 14, no. 3 (2000): 395–417.
- Said, Omar Ibn. *A Muslim American Slave: The Life of Omar Ibn Said*. Edited by Ala Alryyes. 1 edition. Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011.
- Smith, Jane. *Islam in America*. Second edition edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.
- Turner, Richard Brent. *Islam in the African-American Experience, Second Edition*. Second Edition edition. Bloomington, Ind: Indiana University Press, 2003.
- Yuskaev, Timur R. *Speaking Qur'an : An American Scripture*. Speaking Quran : An American Scripture / Timur R. Yuskaev. Columbia, South Carolina: The University of South Carolina Press, 2017.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Homework and small writing assignments 30%
- First Essay 10%
- Midterm Essay 15%
- Final Essay 20%
- In-class participation 25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit #1 – What is Islam?

(By end of week students will be able to contextualize the basic tenets of Islam within its own historical development and in relation to Christianity and Judaism)

Wednesday March 27

In class: Self introductions and reflections

Thursday March 28 – NO CLASS

Monday April 1

Home: Smith 1-21

In class: Discussion 5 pillars breakdown

Unit #2 – Islam, Slavery, and Early America

(By end of week students will be able to identify the diversity of opinions, beliefs, and experiences of some of the first Muslims who came to the U.S. as slaves)

Wednesday April 3

Home: Turner 25 – 46

In Class: Split up into groups each taking a figure discussed in the reading and discuss their life

Thursday April 4

Home: Writing Assignment

In Class: Watch *Prince Among Slaves*

Monday April 8

Home: Continue written assignment

In Class: Discuss text, movie, and writing assignment

Wednesday April 10 – NO CLASS

Thursday April 11

Home: Listen to Not Even Past podcast about Thomas Jefferson's Quran

In Class: Discuss complexities of early Islam in America

Unit #3 – Post Civil War, Race, Religion, Identity

(By end of week students will be able to identify the Muslim responses to what it meant to be American in the last half of the nineteenth century in the aftermath of the U.S. Civil War and begin to relate these ongoing public conversations to current public discourse)

Monday April 15

Home: None

In Class: GhaneaBassiri 95- 113

Wednesday April 17

Home: GhaneaBassiri 113 - 134

In Class: Discussion of GhaneaBassiri

Thursday April 18

Home: Mohammed Alexander Russel Webb, *The Spirit of Islam*, 34 – 41; read and bring in an article from the past three years about Muslims in America – How has the discourse changed? How is it the same?

In Class: Discussion of Webb and then sharing of articles

Unit #4 –Muslim immigration to the U.S.A

(By the end of this week students will be able to classify the diverse groups of Muslim migrants to the U.S.A and contextualize the obstacles that they faced in relation to other migrant groups of the time)

Monday April 22

Home: None

In Class: Continue presentations or explore NYT database and articles & discuss first paper about primary source analysis Excerpts from NYT articles: “Moussa Daoud Their Leader, June 4, 1894; “Turkish Subjects: Declares that Prejudice Exists Against their Becoming American Citizens” October 3 1909;

Wednesday April 24

Home: 2-3 paper ideas due with potential document plus 2-3 book bibliography

In Class: GhaneaBassiri 135 – 150

Thursday April 25

Home: GhaneaBassiri 150 – 164

In Class: Listen to Ottoman History Podcast: Syrian in Sioux Falls and discuss the reporting style and content

Week #6 - Malcolm X, the Nation of Islam, and Civil Rights

(By the end of the week students will be able to describe and relate the role that Islam played in civil rights and post WWII identity politics in the U.S.)

Monday April 29 – No Class

Wednesday May 1

Home: Paper #1 Due

In Class: Excerpts on Malcolm X, NOI, Ahmadiya - read and start group presentation project

Thursday May 2

Home: Group Presentations

In Class: Group presentations

Unit #6 – ‘Islams’ Today: Culture

Monday May 6

Home: Santiago 115-126

In Class: Text blowout

Wednesday May 8

Home: Santiago 127-138

In Class: Continue text blowout and analysis – finding the argument and outlining it

Thursday May 9

Home: Something from Muslim Cool

In Class: Discussion of text and talk about next paper

Unit #7 – ‘Islams’ Today: Politics

Monday May 13

Home: Yuskaev 111 - ?

In Class: Theory – building an argument

Wednesday May 15

Home: Yuskaev ?-?

In Class: Continue discussion about text and argumentation

Thursday May 16

Home: Final paper topic / short abstract due

In Class: Go through article and Interview of “Where Islam and Nationalism Collide” or look at one of X’s speeches and see when we analyze it if our findings are the same as Yuskayev’s or different....

Unit #8 – ‘Islams’ Today: Gender

Monday May 20

Home: Paper work, bibliography

In Class: Frontline interview with Amina Wadud

Wednesday May 22

Home: Paper

In Class: Library day, writing, bibliography help

Thursday May 23

Home: Paper

In Class: Discussion + article about America, Islam, and Gender

Unit #9 – Writing Islam

Monday May 27

Home: Paper Draft due

In Class: In class thesis workshop

Wednesday May 29

Home: Paper

In Class: Current news article that analyzes Islam

Thursday May 30

Home: Final Paper Due

In Class: Wrap-up discussion: What did we learn, what more do we want to explore, what tools do we have to do that?