History 363 – Muslims in the West

Overview

This seminar will examine the history of the formation and growth of Muslim communities in North America and Europe (with special focus on the United States, Germany, France and the United Kingdom). It will explore the colonial heritage which has impacted the immigrants and the countries they left behind, the history and the dynamics of Muslim community development in a Western context, the creation of an Islamic minority perspective and the challenges the communities face as well as the development of Muslim public intellectuals, musicians, novelists and other contributors to the arts. It will also explore the development of Islamophobia, “demographic and security threats,” the aftermath of 9/11, and the homegrown terrorist cells.

The goal is to introduce students to the breadth and depth of the encounter between Muslims and the West providing a comparative study of past and contemporary societies and cultures, and to develop their ability to conduct research, analyze and assess evidence, and articulate sound conclusions both orally and in writing. Students will acquire knowledge and skills that help them develop as informed, engaged, and thoughtful citizens.

The seminar emphasizes discussion and engagement with both primary sources and the interpretations of various scholars to prepare them to engage in rigorous historical inquiry and debate. Students will be equipped to analyze and integrate historical evidence relating to politics and states, production and work, environment and society, culture and religion, gender and family. They will acquire a strong foundation in historical knowledge and an ability to balance global and local perspectives and the ability to develop an original historical argument and to communicate complex historical arguments both orally and in writing.

Students will learn how to evaluate scholarly arguments by analyzing responses to previous contributions, investigating use of primary evidence, weighing logical construction and development, and assessing rhetorical style. They will hone their skills in conducting research, familiarizing themselves with library holdings, digital databases, and tools for identifying and acquiring access to published material. They will be able to assess the extent of available published materials on any specific historical topic in their field. Students are expected to write a research paper that makes an original contribution to scholarship. They will learn how to lead discussions; they will have the opportunity to make presentations and they will work closely with faculty.
Honor System
Upon application Georgetown University, all students pledged to abide by Georgetown University’s Honor System. The pledge reads: “I commit myself to be honest in any academic endeavor and to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System.” Each student is to be familiar with the University’s Honor System, especially topics covered under “Standards of Conduct” which is found in the Undergraduate Bulletin or online at: . This section of the Bulletin covers cheating, committing plagiarism, using false citations, and so on.

This course is a Doyle Seminar:
The Doyle Seminars, part of the Doyle Engaging Difference Program, a campus-wide curricular initiative, are intended to deepen student learning about diversity and difference through enhanced research opportunities, interaction with thought leaders, and dialogue with the Georgetown community and beyond. The Doyle Seminars give faculty the opportunity to enhance the student research component of upper-level seminars. The course topic addresses themes of difference (religious, national, social, cultural, moral, or other forms) and equips students with skills to better engage different peoples, viewpoints, cultures, and ideas.

Writing Center
Since writing is a valued part of this class, students are encouraged to visit the Writing Center (217a Lauinger) and work with one of the Center’s trained tutors. Just as I share my own writing with people I trust before making it public, you can share your writing with student peers at the Writing Center before submitting drafts for this seminar. While you will always be solely responsible for the writing you submit and the Center’s tutors won’t do your work for you, Writing Center tutors can talk you through any stage of your writing process, from brainstorming a thesis and organizing your thoughts to revising, editing and proofreading. It’s a terrific, free service. To set up an appointment, visit http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu.

Research Librarian: Brenda Bickett email: bickettb@georgetown.edu
Bibliographer for:
Prince Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding
Center for Contemporary Arab Studies
Center for Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies (Eurasian Studies Only)
Dept. of Arabic & Islamic Studies
Dept. of French
Div. of Eastern Mediterranean Languages
Lauinger Library
Georgetown University
Box 57-1174
voice: 1-202-687-4482

Requirements
1. Regular attendance and participation in class discussion is expected (attendance will be taken). The discussion is to reflect your familiarity with the reading material. (25%)
2. Mini research presentation [20 minutes] (topic to be selected with approval of the professor) (15%)
3. Book review of *In Search of Fatima* (no more than 3 pp.) (10%)
4. Mini project on Islamophobia (10%)
5. A final research paper (15-page, undergraduate; 25-page, graduate), double spaced. The paper must be analytical and creative. Topics to be determined in consultation with the instructor (40%)

**Textbooks:** (available at the bookstore and on reserve)

- Kundnani, Arun, *The Muslims are Coming: Islamophobia, Extremism and the Domestic War*, 139781781685471
- Karmi, Ghada, *In Search of Fatima: A Palestinian Story*, Verso, 1-85984694-7
- OR

Assignments with (er) designation are available on electronic reserve; (Bb) designation are on Blackboard; (Jstor) are available through the Library website.

**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**August 31 – Do Muslims belong in the West?**

**Reading:** Donald Trump Proposal to Ban Muslims & Responses

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viDffWUjcBA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viDffWUjcBA)

Khan’s DNC Lecture and response


The Bourkini Affair: Check assignment for the day on Blackboard

“A Muslim in the Military:” @

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd6NeLsuffg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd6NeLsuffg)

**September 5 – Labor Day no class**

**September 12 Memories and Histories: The Burden of the Past & the Formation of the Muslim Communities in the West**

**Reading:**

Mojtaba, *Western Civilization through Muslim Eyes* (Bb)

Kundnani, *The Muslims are Coming*, ch1-3
Haddad, “The Globalization of Islam: The Return of Muslims to the West” in John Esposito, edt. The Oxford History of Islam (Bb)
Haddad, Becoming American, Chapter 1 (Bb)

**Supererogatory**

“European Colonialism and the Emergence of the Modern Muslim State” (Bb)
“Islam and Christendom” (Bb)

**September 19 – Islam in African American History:**
**Reading:** “The Autobiography of Omar Ibn Said” (Bb)
Elijah Muhammad, “What the Muslims Want” (Bb)
Nashashibi, “The Blackstone Legacy” (Jstor)
Malcolm X Speech at Harvard (Bb)
Bald, “Overlapping Diasporas,” (Jstor)
Turner, “Islam in the African American Experience” (Bb)
Little X chapter 7 (Bb)

**Supererogatory**
Farrakhan, “Million Man March” (Bb)

**Discussion Leader:** Jawad Pullin

**September 26 – Muslims in the United Kingdom**
**Reading:** Vertovec, “Islamophobia and Muslim Recognition in Britain,” in Haddad, Muslims in the West, ch 1Bb
King, “Tableeghi Jamat and the Deobandi Mosques in Britain,” in Vertovec & Peach (er)
Pipes, “The Rushdie Affair,” (er)
Mainstreaming UK (Bb)

**Discussion Leader:** Ariel Calver

**October 3- Islam in France**
**Reading:** Cesari, “Islam in France: The Shaping of a Religious Minority,” in Haddad, Muslims in the West, ch 2 Bb
Bowen, European States, chs 2-5
Mainstreaming France (Bb)

**Supererogatory**
Bowen, John R. Can Islam Be French? Pluralism and Pragmatism in a Secularist State? Selections Bb

**Discussion Leader:** Rezart Beka

**First Short Paper due**

**October 10 - Columbus Day no class**
October 17 Muslims in Germany

**Reading:** Mainstreaming Germany (Bb)
- “Hospitals as Sites of Cultural Confrontation” (Bb)
- “Islamic Transmigration to Germany” (Bb)
- Habermas, “Islam Debates about 1900” (Bb)
- “Germany Adapts to Becoming an Immigrant State” (Bb)

**Supererogatory** Stowasser, “The Turks in Germany: From Sojourners to Citizens,” in Haddad, *Muslims in the West*, ch 3 (Bb)

**Discussion Leader:** Michael Bergin

October 24 Muslims and Political Integration

**Reading:**
- Haddad and Ricks, “Claiming Muslim Space in American Pluralism” (Bb)
- Klausen, “Muslims Representing Muslims in Europe: Parties and Associations after 9/11” (Bb)
- Bowen, *European States*, 6-8

**Discussion Leader:** Ashwin Puri &Ali Judeh

October 31 On Living in a Non-Muslim Environment

**Reading:**
- Abu al-Fadl, “Striking a Balance: Islamic Legal Discourses on Muslim Minorities” in Haddad and Esposito, *Muslims on the Americanization Path?* – Ch. 2 (Bb)
- Isma’il R. al-Faruqi, “Islamic Ideals in North America,” in *The Muslim Community in North America*, pp. 259-270 (Bb)
- Tariq Ramadan, Islam and Muslims in Europe (Bb)
- Abd-Allah, “Islam and the Cultural Imperative” (Bb)

**Supererogatory**

**Discussion Leader:** Baasit Bhutta

November 7 – Islamic Thought in the West

**Reading:**
- Haddad, MOA chs 5-7, 14, 16 (Bb)
- Asad, “Genealogies of Religion,” chs 7&8 (Bb)
Second Short Paper due

Discussion Leader: Habon Ali

November 14 - Islam and Culture in the West
Reading: Warne, “The Impact of World Music in France,” in Hargreaves & McKinney, Post-Colonial Cultures in France, 133-149 (Bb)
Cannon, “Paname City Rapping,” in Hargreaves & McKinney, Post-Colonial Cultures in France, 150-165 (Bb)
Leveau, “The Political Culture of the ‘Beurs,’” in Vertovec and Peach, 147-155(Bb)
Moll, “Screening Faith, Making Muslims: Islamic Media for Muslim American Children and the Politics of Identity Construction” (Bb)
Aidi, “Jihadis in the Hood,” (Jstor) (Bb)

Supererogatory
Oxford Handbook on American Islam, chapters on Media (22), Art (23) Architecture (24) and fashion (25) (on line) (Bb)

Discussion Leader: Caroline Frattaroli

Thesis, Bibliography and Outline of research paper due

November 21 - Muslim Women in Intercultural Perspective
Reading: Muslim Women in America, chs 3, 5-8
Walbridge,”Sex and the Single Shi’ite,” in Family and Gender, pp 143-154 (Bb)
Akbar, "Family Stability among African-American Muslims," in Muslim Families in North America (Bb)
“Do Muslim Women Need Saving?” (Bb)

Supererogatory
“To Veil or Not to Veil? A Case Study of Identity Negotiation Among Muslim Women in Austin, Texas,” Gender and Society, (Bb)
“Diasporic Narratives on Virginity,” in H. Moghissi, Muslim Diaspora: Gender, Culture and Identity. London: Routledge, pp. 186-204. (Bb)

Discussion Leader: Asmaaul Chowdhury

November 28 -- Muslims after 9/11: Are Muslims a Threat to the West?
Reading: Abraham, Howell and Shryock, Arab Detroit 9/11: Life in the Terror Decade, parts 2 & 4 (Bb)
Hermansen, “How to Put the Genie back in the Bottle? “Identity” Islam and Muslim Youth Cultures in America, from Progressive Islam
Modood, chapter 11 (Bb)
“The October Riots in France” (Bb)
Kundnani, chs 4-9
Oxford Handbook of American Islam, ch 29 (available on line) (Bb)

Discussion Leader: Morgan Hines

December 5 -- The Quest for Moderate Islam
Reading: Geaves, “Who Defines Moderate Islam Post September 11?” (Bb)
Hussein, “The Impact of 9/11 on British Muslim Identity” (Bb)
Safi, “Islam, World Peace, and the Discourse of Revenge,” AJISS 18 (Fall2001) 4, v-x (Bb)
Haddad and Balz, “Taming the Imams,” (Bb)
Safi, “The Times they are a changing’ a Muslim Quest for Justice, Gender Equality and Pluralism,” From Progressive Islam (Bb)
An-Naim, “A Kinder, Gentler Islam?” Transition 52 (1991) 4-16 (Bb)
Hasan, Asma Gull, “American Muslims: The New Generation” (Bb)
Saed, “On the Edge of Belonging” (Bb)
Khan, “Guide Us to the Straight Way’: A Look at the Makers of ‘Religously Literate’ Young Muslim Americans (Bb)

Discussion Leader: Eman Abdelfadeel & Nena Beecham

Final Research Paper Due