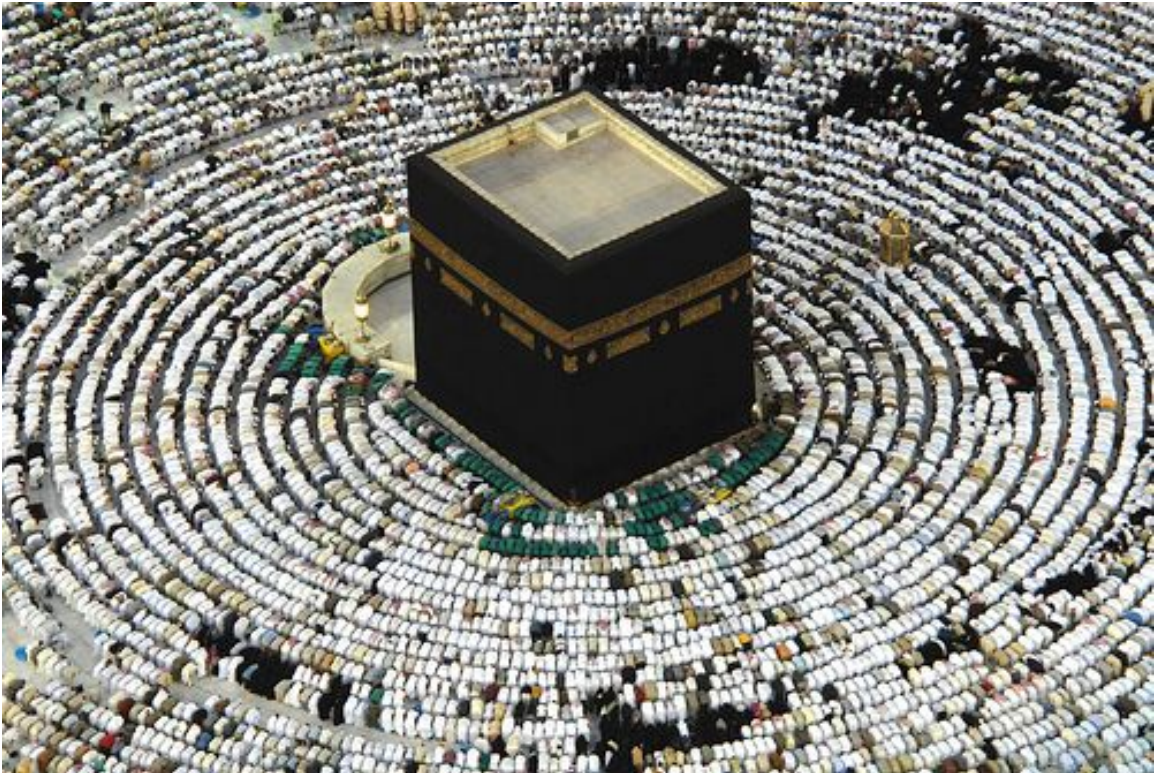


# *Global Islams*

PHR-535/INT537GI / Spring 2019  
Phillips Academy



**Instructor:** Mr. Prescott  
**Location:** Chapel 016  
**Email:** kprescott@andover.edu

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

With nearly two billion adherents globally, Islam is one of the fastest growing religious traditions in the world today. Yet, with less than 1 percent of the U.S. population identifying as Muslim, it is also one of the most misunderstood. What exactly do Muslims believe? How does the enduring legacy of colonialism continue to frame the ways in which Muslim identity is negotiated in an increasingly globalized world? This course aims to introduce students to the vast internal complexities of the Islamic tradition through a combination of primary and secondary sources in history, scripture, law, art, and popular culture. In addition to exploring the origins of the tradition in the Middle East and its subsequent expansion, students will also examine a variety of contemporary issues, such as the rise of Islamophobia in West; the role of gender, jihadist, and fundamentalist movements; and Muslim immigration in the United States.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS, EVALUATION, AND POLICIES

### I. Required Texts:

1. Edward E. Curtis IV, ed., *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008).
2. Carl W. Ernst, *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2003).
3. Additional readings will be made available as handouts in class and posted on Canvas

**II. Assessment and Evaluation** - The final grade you receive in this course should reflect your *understanding* of the subject matter. To that end, there are four summative assessments that will increase in value as the term (and your knowledge) develops:

- **Unit 1 Essay: Media Analysis (15%)** - Due Thursday, April 4
- **Unit 2 Essay: Islamic Sects (20%)** - Due Friday, April 19
- **Unit 3 Essay: Gender, Sexuality, and Islam (30%)** - Due Tuesday, May 14
- **Final PSA (35%)** - Due during finals block

**III. Revisions** - Making mistakes is not just an important component of the learning process: it is a *necessary* one. Indeed, we learn best when we have the opportunity to reflect on *why* we made certain mistakes and then respond accordingly. With that in mind, you may choose to revise any essay/project in the course. When completing a revision, you must also submit responses to the revision reflection questions with the revised draft (see Canvas). Once the revision is submitted, the grade of the revised essay will replace the original grade on the assignment. Please note that assignments receiving less than a 4- must be revised.

**IV. Habits of Work** - What exactly are good work habits? These are things like doing your homework, showing up to class on time, participating in discussions, keeping up with your journal, collaborating with

your peers, coming to conference period, starting your essays early, revising essays, and engaging in regular communication. It shouldn't come as a surprise that good habits of work often lead to a stronger performance on formal assessments, which is why you will receive a "Habits of Work" grade at the midterm and at end of the course. This grade **does not** factor into the calculation of the final grade in the course, but I think you will find that they are closely related. Specifically, the "Habits of Work" grade is meant to help you locate and address various factors that might be influencing and/or shaping your performance on formal assessments.

**a. Participation** - Active participation in class discussions and other classroom activities is one of the best ways to deepen your understanding of the subject matter in this course (see "Habits of Work" above). This means that you should come to class prepared and ready to engage with your peers. While you will not receive a formal grade for participation, you will receive regular feedback from me on how best to develop and hone this component of your learning process.

**b. Student Journal** - In order to develop the understandings necessary for success on formal assignments, you will need to engage with the subject matter of this course on a regular basis (again, see "Habits of Work"). To help facilitate said engagement, all students are expected to maintain a journal (on Google Docs) that houses responses to assigned readings, in-class prompts, and other informal writing. The student journal is **not** graded, though you will receive regular feedback from me on these entries.

**V. E-mail/Technology** – Two words on technology: first, there is good research showing that even the presence of a turned-off cell phone on a person's desk reduces their cognitive functioning. Because we are here to learn, I ask that you drop your phone off at "Cell Phone Daycare" when you enter the classroom. Take some time to talk to others in the room! Second, I kindly ask that you limit e-mail use to requests for in-person meetings or to communicate emergencies. I will respond to these e-mails within 24 hours, though please note that any e-mail sent after 7:00 PM will not receive a response until the following morning. Please plan ahead!

**VI. Absences** - There are many legitimate reasons why you may need to miss class. Andover is a busy place! I first and foremost ask that you communicate with me if you aren't going to be present. For absences related to religious observances, please contact Ms. Ralston ([gralston@andover.edu](mailto:gralston@andover.edu)) to have the absence excused. In the event of illness, please coordinate with Skyes. For college visits, please coordinate with the Dean of Students Office.

**VII. Accommodations** – Students with learning, physical, or psychiatric disabilities who may require accommodations in the classroom are encouraged to contact Dr. Warner ([lwarner@andover.edu](mailto:lwarner@andover.edu)) at the Academic Skills to receive appropriate documentation.

## SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

### *Unit 1: Islam, Orientalism, and the Colonial Legacy*

#### WEEK 1 – APPROACHING ISLAM FROM “THE WEST”

##### TUESDAY, MARCH 19 – INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

- No assigned readings

##### THURSDAY, MARCH 21 – LOOKING THE MIRROR

- Take the “Arab/Muslim” test on Project Implicit (<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>)
- Journal Entry (before reading): When you hear the word "Islam" or the word "Muslim," what are the first images that come to your mind? Where do you these images come from?
- Read: Carl W. Ernst, “Preface,” *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), pp. xiii-xxv.

##### FRIDAY, MARCH 22 – THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM

- Read: Carl W. Ernst, “Islam as Part of the Contemporary World,” *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), pp. 2-11.

#### WEEK 2 – THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM

##### TUESDAY, MARCH 26 – ISLAM AND “THE WEST”

- Read: Chandra Muzaffar, “[Interview with Chandra Muzaffar](#),” *Frontline*, October 10, 2001.

##### THURSDAY, MARCH 28 – MEDIA REPRESENTATIONS OF MUSLIMS

- Read: Evelyn Alsultany, “Introduction,” in *Arabs and Muslims in the Media: Race and Representation After 9/11* (New York: New York University Press, 2012), 1-13.

##### FRIDAY, MARCH 29 – UIGHURS IN CHINA

- Read: 3-5 Articles on the Uighur Crisis in China from the New York Times
- Journal: See canvas

#### WEEK 3 – NEO-ORIENTALISM AND THE MEDIA

##### TUESDAY, APRIL 2 – NEOCOLONIALISM AND THE WESTERN MEDIA

- Read: Selected news articles

##### THURSDAY, APRIL 4 – TBD

- Due: Essay #1

##### FRIDAY, APRIL 5 – ORTHODOXY AND ORTHOPRAXY

- Read: Reza Aslan, *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam* (New York: Random House, 2006), 144-151.

## Unit 2: Muslim Belief and Practice

### WEEK 4 – ORTHOPRAXIC EXPRESSION

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 9 – RAMADAN: FASTING AND FEASTING

- Read: Jackleen Salem, "Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, and Eid al-Adha: Fasting and Feasting," in *The Practice of Islam in America: An Introduction*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV (New York: New York University Press, 2017), 83-103.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 11 – FILM: "INSIDE MECCA"

- Read: Daa Hadid, "What Muslims Do on Hajj, and Why," *The New York Times*, September 8, 2016.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 12 – MUSLIM VOICES FROM HAJJ

- Read: Malcolm X, excerpt from *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, in *One Thousand Roads to Mecca: Ten Centuries of Travelers Writing about the Muslim Pilgrimage*, ed. Michael Wolfe (New York: Grove Press, 1997), 486-503.
- Read: Betty Hassan Amin, "Hajj in a Wheelchair," *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 339-346.

### WEEK 5 – THE MANY BRANCHES OF ISLAM: RESEARCH PROJECT

#### MONDAY, APRIL 15 – PATRIOTS DAY

- Note: Classes do not meet

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 16 – PHR DEPARTMENT DAY

- Note: Class does not meet

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 18 – NON-SIBI DAY

- Note: Class does not meet

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 19 – THE INTERNAL DIVERSITY OF ISLAM

- Due: Essay #2
- Note: Friday runs on a Thursday schedule

## Unit 3: Gender, Sexuality, and Islam

### WEEK 6 – WOMEN AND ISLAM

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 23 – INTRODUCTION TO GENDER AND ISLAM

- Read: TBD

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 25 – VOICES OF MUSLIMS WOMEN

- Read (Group 1): Damarys Ocana, "Our Stories: A Leap of Faith," *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV, pp. 158-166.
- Read (Group 2): Asma Gull Hasan, "American Muslims: The New Generation," *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV, pp. 207-215.
- Read (Group 3): Azizah al-Hibri, "An Introduction to Muslim Women's Rights," *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV, pp. 215-223.
- Read (Group 4): Amina Wadud, "Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective," *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV, pp. 223-231.

- Read (Group 5): Leila Ahmed, "From Abu Dhabi to America," *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV, pp. 183-188.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26 – MUSLIM WOMEN AND VEILING**

- Read: Carl W. Ernst, *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 142-151.

**WEEK 7 – GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND ISLAM**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30 – DO MUSLIM WOMEN NEED SAVING?**

- Read: Amina Wadud, "[Interview with Amina Wadud](#)," *Frontline*, March 2002.

**THURSDAY, MAY 2 –**

- Read: TBD

**FRIDAY, MAY 3 – QUEER MUSLIM VOICES**

- Read: Khalida Saed, "On the Edge of Belonging," *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV, pp. 231-238.
- Read: Pepe Hendricks, "Snippets of Confusion," *Theology & Sexuality* 22, nos. 1-2 (2016): 114-116.

**WEEK 8 – PROGRESSIVE ISLAM AND HOMOSEXUALITY**

**TUESDAY MAY 7 – THE QUR'AN: PROGRESSIVE AND NEOCONSERVATIVE LENSES**

- Read: Selections of different interpretations

**THURSDAY, MAY 9 – MUSLIM AMERICAN REACTIONS TO PULSE**

- Read: Bilal Quershi, "The Muslim Silence on Gay Rights," *The New York Times* (June 13, 2016).
- Read: "A Joint Muslim Statement on the Carnage in Orlando." June 13, 2016. <http://orlandostatement.com/>
- Watch: CAIR, "[Muslims Stand United with LGBT Community](#)"

**FRIDAY, MAY 10 – WRITING WORKSHOP**

- Due: Rough Draft

*Unit 4: PSA Project*

**WEEK 9 – FINAL PROJECT: RESEARCH**

**TUESDAY, MAY 14 – FINAL PROJECT OVERVIEW**

- Due: Essay #3

**THURSDAY, MAY 16 – RESEARCH WORKSHOP**

- Due: Final Project Proposal

**FRIDAY, MAY 17 – EBI FRIDAY**

- Note: Class does not meet

**WEEK 10 – FINAL PROJECT: CONSTRUCTION**

**TUESDAY, MAY 21 – RESEARCH WORKSHOP**

- No assigned homework; work on PSA project

**THURSDAY, MAY 23– RESEARCH WORKSHOP**

- No assigned homework; work on PSA project

**FRIDAY, MAY 24 – TBD**

- Due: TBD

**WEEK 11 – FINALS WEEK**

**MONDAY, MAY 27 – MEMORIAL DAY**

- Classes do not meet

**TUESDAY, MAY 28 – PSA SHOWCASE**

- Due: Final PSA