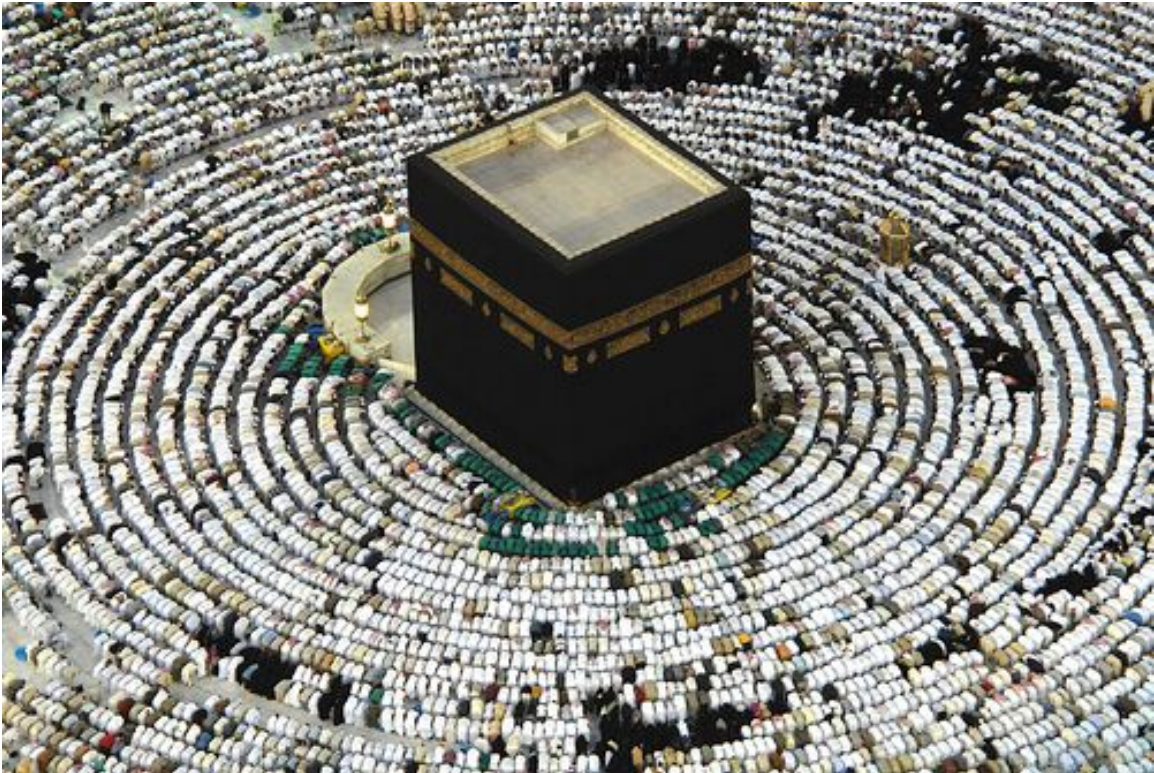


Global Islams

PHR-535-2 / Fall 2018

Phillips Academy



Instructor: Mr. Prescott
Location: Chapel 016
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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 is Islam? Where is it practiced? What do Muslims believe? 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, *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. Evaluation

i. Classroom Participation (25%) – Much of this class will proceed as a seminar, which means careful reading of assigned work, regular attendance, and participation in class are all essential in order to succeed in the course. A separate handout/rubric will be distributed regarding expectations for classroom participation/discussion.

ii. Essays (50%) – Two different analytical/argumentative essays will be assigned throughout the term. More specific information about the expectations for these assignments will be provided in a separate handout.

- a. In-Class Essay on Muslim Belief/Practice (10%)** – Due Wednesday, September 26
- b. Essay on Muslims in the Media (20%)** - Due Tuesday, October 9
- c. Essay on Gender/Sexuality (20%)** – Due Monday, November 5

iii. Student Journal (10%) – Students are expected to maintain a journal throughout the course, which will be collected and assessed for effort and completion at four different points throughout the term.

iv. Final Reflection (15%) - All students will complete a final reflection (due during finals week) that draws from material in their journals.

III. Extensions – Generally speaking, I do not grant extensions. In addition to allocating class time for papers, prompts are also handed out at least one week in advance of the due date, so the expectation is that students will plan ahead and manage their time appropriately. The only exception to this policy is when a student has three or more **major** assignments due on the same day, in which case students are expected to follow the protocols outlined on p. 51 of the Blue Book under “Workload & Assignments” (which includes 24-hours advance notice).

IV. Late Work Policy – All written assignments are due at the beginning of class (please upload to Canvas). Any work handed in after this point will be counted as late. Please note that problems with technology are **not** an excuse for lateness. Anticipate that the printer will break, that files will be lost, or that your computer will die! **Any work handed in after the due date will receive a grade no higher than a 3+.**

V. Revision Policy – Students may rewrite any essay in the course (except for the final), though note that revisions must be substantial; it is not sufficient simply to plug in the instructor’s feedback. To that end, I strongly encourage students to meet with me if they are electing to complete a revision. The grade for the rewrite will be averaged with the first grade to determine the final grade for the assignment. All rewrites are due one week after the initial essay is returned. Please note that I do not accept rewrites for unauthorized late essays.

VI. Absences - As noted above under Classroom Preparation/Participation, regular attendance is essential if one is to succeed in this course! However, I realize that this course is not your only commitment this term, just as I realize that circumstances inevitably arise that are outside of your control. First and foremost, I ask that you communicate with me (the earlier the better). Please note that students are responsible for all announcements or changes made in class. Regarding **Personal Time**, I ask that students follow the procedures outlined on pp. 54-55 of the Blue Book. Finally, in the event that an assignment is due on the day a student is sick (with an excused absence from the Health Center), said assignment will be due at the beginning of the next class meeting.

VII. E-mail – I will respond to all e-mail within 24 hours. However, please note that any e-mail sent after 7:00 PM will not receive a response until the following morning, so please plan ahead!

VIII. Religious Observances – Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that fall during the term. Should you have a religious observance that conflicts with participation in the course, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations.

IX. Disabilities – Students with learning, physical, or psychiatric disabilities who may require disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to see me as soon as possible to discuss your particular needs. All discussions will remain confidential, though I may consult Student Health Services to discuss appropriate implementation of any accommodation requested.

X. Technology – Although we live in an increasingly digitized world, please note that I do not allow the use of computers/tablet/phones during class unless otherwise specified.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 – INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

- No assigned readings

Unit 1: Muslim Belief and Practice

WEEK 1 – ISLAM 101

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 – 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, “Anti-Islamic Attitudes from Medieval Times to the Present,” *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 11-28.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 – THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD(S)

- Read: Carl W. Ernst, “The Seal of the Prophets: The Prophet Muhammad,” *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 72-92.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – NO CLASS

WEEK 2 – THE HAJJ

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 – THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – INTRODUCTION TO THE HAJJ

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 – 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.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 – EBI FRIDAY

- Note: No Class

WEEK 3 – RAMADAN AND ORTHOPRAXY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 – 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.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 – IN-CLASS ESSAY

- Due: Essay #1 (in-class)

Unit 2: Muslims and the Media

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 – ISLAM AND “THE WEST”

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

WEEK 4 – MUSLIMS AND THE MEDIA: RESEARCH PROJECT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1 – 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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 – THE ORIENTALIST GAZE

- Note: No assigned readings

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5 – CASE STUDY: THE ROHINGYA

- Read: Collect and read 5-10 articles from your assigned news source

WEEK 5 – MUSLIMS AND THE MEDIA: RESEARCH PROJECT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8 – RESEARCH WORKSHOP

- Read: Collect and read 5-10 articles on your chosen topic

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9 – WRITING WORKSHOP

- Note: Tuesday is a Wednesday schedule (no class on Wednesday, 10/10 for PSATs)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12 – WRITING WORKSHOP

- Due: Essay Outline

Unit 3: Gender, Sexuality, and Islam

WEEK 6 – WOMEN AND ISLAM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15 - NO CLASS (FAMILY WEEKEND)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16 – INTRODUCTION TO GENDER AND ISLAM

- Due: Essay #2
- Note: Friday Schedule

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17 – 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, OCTOBER 19 – 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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22 – DO MUSLIM WOMEN NEED SAVING?

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24 – CLASS VISIT WITH REZA ASLAN

- Read: Reza Aslan, "[Reza Aslan Argues: There Is No Divide Between Islam and American Culture](#)," *Foreign Policy*, July 24, 2017.
- Note: Class will meet in the Phillips Room at the Andover Inn

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26 – 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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29 – 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](#)"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31 – WRITING WORKSHOP

- Journal Entry: Take a moment to review and summarize your feedback on your previous essays. What did you do well? What could use some improvement? Regarding the latter point, how do you plan to address these areas in the upcoming essay?

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – WRITING WORKSHOP

- Due: Rough Draft

Unit 4: Neoconservative Islams

WEEK 9 – NEOCONSERVATISM IN THE POSTMODERN AGE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – RUMI AND SUFISM

- Due: Essay #3

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – THE WHIRLING DERVISHES

- Read: Shakina Reinhertz, *Women Called to the Path of Rumi: The Way of the Whirling Dervish (2001)*, in *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV (New York: Columbia, 2008), pp. 348-358.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9 – FUNDAMENTALIST MOVEMENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- Read: Graeme Wood, “What Does ISIS Really Want?” *The Atlantic* (March 2015): 79-94.

WEEK 10 – FINALS WEEK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 – CONFERENCE PERIOD

- Work on final paper

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 – DUE: FINAL REFLECTION

- Due: Final Reflection

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