

Islam in America RELI 30873

Wednesday 7:00 - 9:40 pm TBH RM 206

Instructor: Dr. Yushau Sodiq
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:30-3.00 p.m. Drop in after these hours are possible.

Course Description:

There are millions of Muslims in America today. Some of them are our neighbors who we know little about. The media gives us a variety of messages about these Muslims. They are often presented to us as other people, whose beliefs and ways of life are somewhat or completely strange and weird. As Edward Said rightly says, "Islam in American media is news of a particularly unpleasant kind." In this course, we will learn about the emergence of Islam in America, examine the stages of development that Muslims went through and how they retain their identity as a distinctive religious group in this multifaceted society. We will also analyze the growth of Islam among African Americans and their relationship with immigrant Muslims, who came from all different parts of the world. We will discuss how Islam is interpreted and practiced in America, and what led to some of the differences among different Muslim groups.

Throughout this course, reference will be made to the portrayal of Islam in the media, particularly after the Iranian revolution of 1979, the World Trade Center and Oklahoma bombs, and the attack on American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in August 1998. Our discussion will also include the role of Islam in the correctional institutions in America. We will examine the contribution of Muslim women to the growth of Islam in America. Special attention will be paid to the efforts of the Black Muslim pioneers, like Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm X, Louis Farrakhan, and Imam Warith Deen Muhammad in the spread of Islam. Finally, we will examine whether American Muslims can be perceived as fundamentalists or terrorists, and to what extent the Muslims in America are related to other Muslim groups or organizations outside the USA.

Course Objectives:

- a) To analyze the growth of Islam in America and explain the causes of conversion to Islam, particularly among the African Americans.
- b) To study the biographies of the American Muslim pioneers, like Elijah Muhammad, Alexander Webb, Malcolm X, Louis Farrakhan, Imam Warithu Deen Mohammed, and others.

c) One research project (case study) on any aspect of Islam in America. Your topic must relate to Islam in America and must be approved by the instructor. Your outline and list of your references must be shown to me for approval before you begin writing, otherwise, you may be asked to choose another topic. Topics on comparison between Islam and other traditions are discouraged. Each student will present his/her project in class. Presentation will be in April. Your presentation carries 5% of your grade for your research. Any late paper will be penalized. **I must approve your topic before you begin writing. Unapproved project will not be accepted.**
Research outline is due on February 23rd, 2000. 25%

d) Final exam will be on Wednesday May 10th, 2000. It will be cumulative and essay questions. A study guide will be distributed prior to the exam. Get yourself prepared. 30%

All papers submitted to me must be typed and double spaced. No credit for untyped papers. You must proofread your paper before you submit it to me. No lateness. Students are not allowed to eat in my class. They are not allowed to put their legs on other chairs or tables beside or in front of them or point their feet to the instructor. We should respect one another and behave well. Your cooperation on these matters is appreciated. If you have problem with this, please let me know.

Please, No cellphones, No headphones, No newspapers will be allowed in this class.

Course Outline:

- Jan. 19th A short introduction on the basic tenets of Islam. (General)
 Smith, Jane. Islam in America, chapters 1 and 2.
- Jan. 26th The advent of Islam in the New World
 Smith, ch. 3; Haddad, Y and Esposito, John, Muslims on the Americanization Path? Introduction by John Esposito, pp. 3-17.
- Feb. 2nd History of the early pioneers of Islam in America.
 a) the Muslim slaves
 b) the role of Mr. Alexander Russell Webb.
 Turner, Richard. Islam in the African American Experience, ch 1 & 2;
 Smith, ch. 3.
- Feb. 9th Islam among the African Americans:
 a) the Moorish Temple and its founder Noble Drew Ali
 b) the birth of the Nation of Islam and its founder Wallace Fard.
 c) Elijah Muhammad Turner, ch.3; Smith, ch. 4.

- Feb. 16th Islam under Honorable Elijah Muhammad and his disciples:
 - a) Islam during the reign of Malcolm X (Alhaj Malik Shabbaz)
 - b) Islam under Warith Deen Muhammad
 - c) Islam under Minister Louis Farrakhan.
 Turner, ch. 5 & 6.

- Feb. 23rd The Islamic Identity in America
 (Haddad, Yvonne. **The Muslims of America**, ch. 1;
 Haddad, Y. **Muslims on the Americanization Path?** Ch. 1.
Research Outline is due today. (Wednesday Feb. 23rd)

- Mar. 1st The establishment of the Muslim youth organization:
 - a) The Muslim Students Association (MSA)
 - b) The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)
 - c) Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
 - d) Muslim Youth Association of North America (MAYA)
 - e) Other Muslim organizations.
 (Haddad, The Muslims of America, ch 2 & 3)

- Mar. 8th Muslim sects in the USA.
 - a) The Ansarullah Group.
 - b) The Billalian Group
 - c) The Sunnis and the Shi'ites
 - d) The Ahmadiyyah Movement.
 - e) The Sufi group (Bawa Muhyideen Movement in Philadelphia)
 Turner, ch 4.

- Mar. 8th **Mid -term test is today. We will spend the first session for the exam and then have a break for 10 minutes and resume for the 2nd session.**

- Mar. 22nd The role of women in spreading Islam in America.
 Haddad, ch 12 & 13; Smith, ch.5; Haddah, **Muslims on the Americanization Path?** Ch. 7, article by Carol Anway, **"American Women Choosing Islam."**

- Mar. 29th The Islamic institutions: mosques, Islamic centers, full-time and part-time schools, human services facilities, and medical facilities for Muslims. (Haddad, ch 6,7, & 8; Smith, ch. 6.

- Apr. 5th Islam in American correctional institutions and the Muslim chaplains.
 Haddad, ch 10; Smith, ch 7.
Presentation of students' research papers.

- Apr. 12th : Islam and the American media: friends or foes?
Haddad, ch 3 & 4; Haddad, **Muslims on the Americanization Path?**
Ch 11 on ***Muslims and the American Press*** by Greg Noaker.
Presentation of students' research papers.
- Apr. 19th Muslim participation in American politics.
Haddad, **The Muslims** ch 8, 14, & 15; Haddad, ***Muslims and Identity: Politics in America*** by M. A. Muqtadeer, ch. 4
in **Muslims on the Americanization Path?**
Presentation of students' research papers.
- Apr. 26th Muslim-Christian relationships and the future of Islam in America.
Haddad, **The Muslims**, ch 16; Smith, ch. 8 and the Profiles.
Presentation of students' research papers.
- May 3rd Review of the course.
- May 10th **Final Examination. It is comprehensive and essay questions.**

(Throughout the course, reference will be made to Christianity and Judaism and their adherents.)

The grading scale for this course will be:

A = Excellent work	91-100
B = Superior work	80-90
C = Satisfactory work	70-79
D = Inferior work	60-69
F = Failing work	01-59

There is no re-take for any test.

If you find any aspect of this course to be difficult to understand, do not hesitate to ask me for help in class, or in my office, or through e-mail or phone.

I would like to meet with each student in March to discuss his/her progress in my class. Make appointment with me.

One Final Note:

"At this stage in your education, you must learn to empower yourself. You are in charge of your life. It is your responsibility to complete your work as specified and turn it in on time. In order to perform well, you must read and listen carefully all times to know what is expected of you. I trust that you will allow yourself to devote your energy to this class and your university career. I wish you good luck and look forward to your success. Learning in your duty in this class."

Internet Resources on Islam

There are a wealth of information on Islam and Muslims which you can log onto at any time. They cover nearly all subjects on Islam and each Muslim country has its own web site. Nearly all recognized scholars in the Muslim world also have their web sites. Following are a few addresses on Islam and Muslims.

American Muslim Alliance	http://mercury.hypersurf.com/ama/
Islamic Web Sites	www.mpac.org/network.html
Islam in general	www.islam.org
	www.al-Islam.com
	www.albany.edu/jmmh/
Muslim American Society	www.worldforum.com/islam.htm
American Muslim Council	www.ew3.att.net/usmuslim
Council of American and Islamic Relations	www.cair.org
Islamic Society of North America	http://w3.one.net~dtvman/one.html
Islamic Circle of North America	www.icna.com/main.html
Quran and Sunnah Society	www.qss.org
Council of Islamic Schools	www.posttool.com/cisna
Islamic Software	www.islamsoft.com
Council of Am.Muslim Professionals	www.campline.com
Ask the Imam	www.islamicity.org:81/imam/default.htm
Islamic Knowledge	www.knowledge.co.uk/xxx/
University of Al-Azhar, Cairo	www.alazhar.org; www.arabweb.com;
Arab Webs	www.arabiaweb.com; www.arabia.com
	www.arabview.com
Iranian Web	www.bayynat.org.lb
Medieval and Muslim Empire	www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html
Islam TV and Audio	www.islam.org/radio/default.htm
	www.Islam.org/cybertv
Islamic Educational Training	www.islamist.com
Islamic World to 1600	www.ucalgany.ca/hist/tutor/islam
Nation of Islam	www.noi.org
Muslims online	www.muslimsonline.com
Muslim Teachers College	www.maummah.com/mtc.htm
News of the Muslim World	www.angelfire.com/il
Sufism	www.ias.org/
The Sufi Group	www.naqshabandi.net
Voice of Islam	www.islamicvoice.com; www.islamicity.org/voi/
Islam in cyberspace	www.islamicity.org
Islamic Intellectual Forum	www.islamforum.org/
Muslim Student Network	www.mpac.org/msn.html
Muslim Women's league	www.win.net/mwl/
The Shi'a Home page	www.shia.org/
Cyber Bookstore	www.islamicity.org/bookstore/default.htm
Economic and Business Plaza	www.islamicity.org/economic/default.htm
Muslim Matrimonial Link	www.matrimonials.com/MML/? ; www.ummah.net/comfort/
Islamic Human Rights	http://members.tripod.com/
Mosques and Muslin Inst.	www.mpac.org/network/mosques.html
Interfaith Gateway	www.mpac.org/network/interfaith.html
Islamic City Chat and Conference	http://islam.org/Chat/default.htm
Education Parkway	www.islamicity.org/education/default.htm
New	www.islamicity.org/media/default.htm
Holy Qur'an	www.islamicity.org/Mosque.htm
Cyber Yellow Pages	http://islam.org:81/cybergages/FMPro?-db=yellow pages

Selected Bibliography of Books on Islam in America

- Austin, Allan D. *African Muslims in Antebellum America: Transatlantic Stories and Spiritual Struggles*. 1997.
- Braswell, George W., Jr.. *Understanding Sectarian Groups in America: The New Age Movement, the Occult, Mormonism, Hare Krishna, Zen Buddhism, Baha'i, Islam in America*. 1994.
- Dodds, Elreta. *The Trouble with Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam: Another Message to the Black Men in America*. 1997.
- Esposito, John L. *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality*. Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Haddad, Yvonne. *Century of Islam in America (Muslim World Today Occasional Paper No. 4)*. 1986.
- Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck, and Smith, Jane Idleman. *Mission to America: Five Islamic Sectarian Communities in North America*. 1993.
- Haddad, Yvonne and Esposito, John. *Muslims on the Americanization Path?* 1998.
- Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck. *The Muslims of America (Religion in America)*. 1993.
- Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck, and Smith, Jane Idleman. *Muslim Communities in North America*. SUNY Series in Middle Eastern Studies, 1994.
- Hussain, Asad. *Muslims in America: Opportunities and Challenges*. 1995
- Kepel, Gilles. *Allah in the West: Islamic Movements in America and Europe*. 1997.
- Kozegi, Michael A.. *Islam in North America: A Sourcebook (Religious Information Systems)*. Vol. 8, 1992.
- Lincoln, C. Eric. *The Black Muslims in America*. 1994.
- Mallon, Elias D. *Neighbors: Muslims in North America*. 1989.
- McCloud, Aminah Beverly. *African American Islam*. 1995.
- Muhammad, Amir N.. *Muslims in America: Seven Centuries of History, 1312 - 1998: Collections and Stories of American Muslims*. 1998.
- Nathari, Amin Bin Qasim. *Islam in America 1995: 20 Years A.E.* 1995.
- Poston, Larry. *Islamic Da`wah in the West: Muslim Missionary Activities and the Dynamics of Conversion to Islam*. 1992.
- Rashad, Adib, Sulayman S. *Islam, Black Nationalism and Slavery: A Detailed History*. 1995.
- Richardson, E. Allen. *Islamic Cultures in North America: Patterns of Belief and Devotion of Muslims from Asian Countries in the United States and Canada*. 1981.
- Turner, Richard Brent. *Islam in the African American Experience*. 1997.

Wormser, Richard. *American Islam: Growing Up Muslim in America*, 1994.

Yasin, Iman Abdallah. *Islamizing America*. 1996.

Youssef, Michael. *America, Oil, and the Islamic Mind: The Real Crisis is the Gulf
Between our Ways of Thinking*. 1991.

MORE ON RESEARCH PAPER

"A work that aspires, however humbly, to the conditions of art, should carry its justification in every line. And art itself may be defined as a single-minded attempt to render the highest kind of justice to the visible universe, by bringing to light the truth, manifold and one, underling its every aspect."
Joseph Conrad

1. Choose a topic that relates to African religions; a topic that you care about and be specific. I do not want topics on comparison between African traditions and Islam or Christianity.
2. Read as many books and articles as possible on your topic. If you need help, let me know. Discuss your topic with me before you begin writing.
3. What I want to know is how seriously you take this assignment. Do you do thorough research? Do you think about what you read? Do you come up with modest insight? Is your work something interesting to read, to think about? A good writer is one who cares about his/her work. Are you proud of this work or you just want to get out of it?
4. Your paper should be 10-12 pages (not 15 as stated before). It should be typed, double-spaced, numbered, and stapled. Please proofread your work before you submit it. Otherwise, I'll return it.

NOTES ON FORMAT

Title page correct.

Introductory paragraph(s) must be interesting to read

Thesis is intriguing and well-articulated.

Thesis is supported by arguments or evidence

Each argument or evidence is substantiated by solid example(s).

Transitions between arguments, ideas, concepts should be effective.

Express your opinions clearly. What contribution are you making to the subject or topic?

Your footnotes should be handled correctly. Use MLA or Turabian 5th Edition.

Long quotes should be single spaced and indented. (Of course, there are other formats).

Short quotes are put in quotation marks.

Your conclusion should restate your thesis. The conclusion answers the question, **So What?**

Your conclusion does not only sum up your thesis, but consider the implications of your work.

All the books in bibliography are cited in footnotes. The bibliography should be handled correctly.

Ask yourself "Is this a well written research?" If your answer is **YES**, turn it in. If your answer is **NO**, put more effort and improve it. I wish you good luck.

Begin your research now. Don't wait until the last minute.