

HARTFORD SEMINARY, FALL 2020

**Muslims in North America and Europe:
Discourses and Practices (HI-627)**

Wednesdays 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm via Zoom

Timur Yuskaev

Phone: 860.509.9554

Email: yuskaev@hartsem.edu

Office: Budd Building, Room 8

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Description:

This course offers an introduction to the recent history of Muslim communities in North America and Western Europe, roughly post-World War II and until the early twenty first century. We will approach the subject through examples of Muslims' intellectual discourses that address the issues of race, gender, politics, local and global connections, and interpretations of sacred texts. While utilizing secondary literature, we will emphasize analysis of primary sources, including online, audio and video.

Learning outcomes:

- To demonstrate the ability to relate theory and practice in the social contexts in which a religion's communities exist (MARS 5)
- To demonstrate the knowledge, capacities, and willingness to respectfully engage other religions and world views (MARS 2)
- To demonstrate knowledge and skills for dialogical and constructive engagement with diversity (MARS 4)
- To demonstrate knowledge of the larger social and cultural dynamics affecting religious life and organizations in the 21st century and their implications for ministry setting. (DMIN 1)
- Competence to produce and engage in original research and writing to advance the scholarship on Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations for the benefit of faith communities, academy, and society (PhD 2)

Required Texts:

The following books are to be purchased, borrowed or accessed for free via Digital Theological Library (DTL):

- 1) Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, *A History of Islam in America: From the New World to the New World Order* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) ISBN 978-0-521-61487-0
- 2) Bruce B. Lawrence, *New Faiths, Old Fears: Muslims and Other Asian Immigrants in American Religious Life* (Columbia University Press, 2002) ISBN: 9780231115216
- 3) John R. Bowen, *Can Islam be French? Pluralism and Pragmatism in a Secularist State* (Princeton University Press, 2010) ISBN: 978-0-691-15249-3
- 4) Juliane Hammer, *American Muslim Women, Religious Authority, and Activism: More Than a Prayer* (University of Texas Press, 2013) ISBN: 978-0-292-75440-9
- 5) Katherine Pratt Ewing, *Stolen Honor: Stigmatizing Muslim Men in Berlin* (Stanford University Press, 2008) ISBN 978-0804759007
- 6) Tariq Ramadan, *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam* (Oxford University Press, 2004) ISBN 978-0-19-518356-6

Additional material may be assigned and posted in CANVAS.

Evaluation

Grading will be based on

1. Weekly reflections/"talking points" (30%)
2. Mid-term essay (20%) – **date TBD**
3. Class presentations (10%)
4. Final essay (30%) – **date TBD**
5. Class participation (10%).

Logistics

1) Weekly Reflections:

You will be expected to analyze and discuss the assigned readings at each session. Weekly reflections will be your "talking points." They will help you organize your thoughts and prepare for each class.

Our class meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. You are required to email me your reflection by 12:00 pm on the day of the class. Each reflection must be 1 to 2 pages long. Approach each

reflection as a dialogue between you and the readings. In other words, what are your thoughts on one or two points an author makes? What are some questions that have arisen while you read the assignment?

It is up to you to shape each reflection. Some possible ways may be to

- Reflect on an idea you found intriguing
- Explore how an author presents a particular theme
- Think through implications of a particular idea (don't make it too broad)
- Compare between this and previous weeks' readings.
- Trace how this week's reading speaks to a theme we have encountered earlier.

End each reflection with 2 or 3 questions you would like to ask in class.

You will be required to start submitting reflections as of our 2nd session. The grade for this assignment will be based on the quantity and quality of your submissions. I will return copies of your reflection with some comments and a grade of either a "+" ("pass") or a "-" ("fail").

The scale for the final evaluation will be as follows:

- A=11 passing entries
- B=8 passing entries
- C+ = 6 passing entries
- C=5 passing entries
- F=4 or fewer passing entries.

No late submissions will be accepted. There will be no way to make up for missed reflections.

Note that each student will be asked to formally present their reflection and serve as a respondent to another student's reflection once during the semester.

2) Midterm and Final Essays:

You will have to submit two essays during the semester. The midterm essay should be 5-7 pages in length. The final essay should be 10-12 pages.

I will assign the topic for the midterm paper. However, you will be responsible for selecting the subject of your final essay.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas for both papers at any stage of preparation.

Grading standards for the essays will be:

- A = Excellent. Excellent presentation and analysis that demonstrates original interpretation.

- B = Good. Solid command of facts and good attempt at analysis.
- C+ = Adequate in the sense of doing minimal compliance with the assignment.
- C = Poor; did not complete the assignment adequately but shows some effort.
- F = Failing; did not complete the assignment.

3) Class Presentation:

At the end of semester, we will hold three sessions where each student will present and defend their proposal for the final essay. In the week when you present your proposal, you will not be required to submit a reflection. Instead, you will e-mail me your proposal, which must include: a) preliminary title; b) thesis statement (1 paragraph); c) brief outline of your analysis; d) bibliography.

Schedule:

Week 1:

- Moustafa Bayoumi, “Preface,” (pp. 1-12) and “Akram,” (pp. 115-148) from *How Does It Feel To Be A Problem*. (Posted in CANVAS)
- Teju Cole, “Unmournable Bodies,” *New Yorker*, January 9, 2015:
<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/unmournable-bodies>

Week 2

- GhaneaBassiri, Introduction and Chapters 1 – 4, pp. I – 164

Week 3

- GhaneaBassiri, Chapters 5-8 and Epilogue, pp. 165 – 382

Week 4

- Lawrence, *New Faiths, Old Fears* (entire book)

Week 5

- Timur Yuskaev, Chapter 3 from *Speaking Qur`an: an American Scripture* (posted in CANVAS)
- Listen to:

Audio recording of Imam W.D. Mohammed, “Live in Harlem, NY. New Africa: A New Mind, A New Life, A New Beginning for Black People in America.” (Posted on Canvas)

(Those who may not be able to listen to the recording, can instead find a transcript of one of W.D. Mohammed's speeches on www.newafricaradio.com. Please look into the speeches from 2008, which can be located here:

<http://www.newafricaradio.com/articles/index.html>, select one, and read it.)

Week 6

- Carolyn Moxley Rouse, "Gender Negotiations and Qur'anic Exegesis: One Community's Reading of Islam and Women," in Carolyn Moxley Rouse, *Engaged Surrender: African American Women and Islam* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004), pp. 37-80. (posted in CANVAS)
- Hammer, *American Muslim Women*, Introduction and Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-76

Week 7

- Hammer, *American Muslim Women*, Chapters 4-9, pp. 77-208
- Hortense J. Spillers, "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe An American Grammar Book," *Diacritics*, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 64-81 (posted in CANVAS)

Week 8

Midterms are due during this week

Instead of a weekly reflection, please submit your midterm. Assignment to be explained in class. It will entail analysis of the primary texts assigned for this week.

- Amina Wadud, *Inside the Gender Jihad*, Chapter 4, pp. 120-157 (posted in CANVAS)
- Zaid Shakir, "An Examination of the Issue of Female Prayer Leadership," from Edward Curtis, ed., *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, pp. 239-245. (posted in CANVAS)

Week 9

- Ewing, Introduction and Chapters 1-4, pp. 1-150

Week 10

- Ewing, Chapters 5-7 and Epilogue, pp. 151-228

Week 11

- Bowen, Chapters 1-6, pp. 1-132

Week 12

- Bowen, Chapters 7-9, pp. 133-198

Week 13

- Ramadan, *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam* (entire book)

Week 14

- Yuskaev, Chapter 4 from *Speaking Qur'an* (posted in CANVAS)
- View two online videos by Hamza Yusuf
 - a) “Making Sense of Our Past” (There are many places one can find it. One of them is on <http://www.aswatalislam.net/FilesList.aspx?T=Video&C=Lectures&T1=Hamza%20Yusuf>)
 - b) “Give and Take for God’s Sake” (you can find this one easily on YouTube and elsewhere)

Note: this week, instead of a reflection, please post your final paper proposals in CANVAS by 12:00 pm on the day of the class.

Proposals should include:

- a) preliminary title (include subtitle);
- b) indication of the material/case study the paper will analyze (2-5 sentences);
- c) central analytical question (1 sentence);
- d) thesis statement (answer to the analytical question; 1-3 sentences);
- e) brief outline of your analysis (3-10 sentences)
- f) annotated bibliography (under each title, provide a brief, one sentence explanation of how that material will be used in the paper).

Final Papers due date TBD (email to yuskaev@hartsem.edu)