

**WOMEN AND ISLAM –Course Assignments
UNDERGRADUATE
Spring 2018**

Mondays: 10th Period– (5:10 PM – 6:00 PM) AND 134
Wednesdays: 10th & 11th periods (5:10 -7:05PM)–AND 134

Please Note: Some of you might want to purchase a Qur'an for your personal use or you may simply want to use the Qur'an on line from time to time. You do not NEED to purchase a Qur'an for this class but if you want one, I recommend the Yusef Ali Translation of the Qur'an as it has a very good Commentary that combines history, hadith narratives and material from the *Sira* (biographies) of the Prophet and his companions if you plan to purchase one. There are full translations on line with recitations in both Arabic and English. I think these are useful as you HEAR the Qur'an which is how it is really supposed to be experienced.

Class One, Monday January 8th Introduction of the syllabus for the class and the members of the Class.

Class Two, Wednesday. January 10th Topic: The cultural/religious backdrop for the emergence & development of Islam: Viewing First Segment of *Inside Islam* w/discussion. I am sending a pdf of the book: *A Brief History of Islam* for your perusal. I urge those who have not taken an Intro to Islam class and are not Muslim to read this text. I am also sending a link to this film which is on You tube. Please view the complete film on your own time. I am posting Study Questions for the Film on Canvas and sending via our Class List. which will help you focus on the most important information in the film.

**Monday. January 15th Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Observed**

Class Three Wednesday January 17th Topic: Women's Role & the Rise of Islam
Reading from *Women and Gender in Islam*
Introduction & Part I -*The Pre-Islamic Middle East*, Chpts.
1 & 2 Pgs. 1-37.

Class Four Monday. January 22nd Reading from *Women and Gender in Islam*.
Part Two – *Founding Discourses*, Chpt.3, "Women and
The Rise of Islam," pgs. 41-63 & Chpt 4, The Transitional
Age, pgs 64-79

Class Five Wednesday. January 24th Topic: Women's Loss of Status in Islamic Societies

Reading from *Women and Gender in Islam*, Part Two –
Founding Discourses cont'd, Chpt 5 - pgs. 64- 101 &
 Chpt. 6 pgs. 102-124. View Documentary: *Islam Empire of Faith Part I – The Messenger*

Hand in or E-mail the four Dates you have selected for writing your reaction papers. Also from these four dates, give me your 1st and 2nd choice for your oral presentation of the readings for that class date. I will prepare the master list from your submissions and e-mail the list to the class.

Class Six Monday, January 29th View documentary: Title: *Islam: Empire of Faith, pt. 3, The Ottomans*

Class Seven Wednesday, January 31st **Topic Women in Islamic Societies in the Modern Era: 19th & 20th Century:** Reading from *Women and Gender in Islam* Part 3 “*New Discourses*” pgs. 125-127 & Chpt 7, “*Social And Intellectual Change*” pgs. 127-143, & Chpt 8 “*The Discourse of Veil,*” pgs. 144-168.

Class Eight, Monday, February 5th Readings from *Women and Gender in Islam*, Chpt. 9 “*The First Feminists,*” pg 169-188, & Chpt.10 “*Divergent Voices,*” pgs. 189-207.

Class Nine Wednesday. February 7th Reading from *Women and Gender in Islam*, Chpt. 11, “*The Struggle for the Future,*” pgs. 208-234 & Conclusion, pgs. 235-243. **Topic: Women’s Status in Islamic Law,** Readings from *Sexual Ethics & Islam* (new book) “*Introduction,*” pgs. xxii-xxviii, Chapter 1, “*Marriage, Money and Sex,*” pgs. 1-23.

Class Ten Monday, February 12th **Topic: Women’s Status in Islamic Law,** Readings from *Sexual Ethics & Islam*, Chpt. 2 “*Lesser Evils: Divorce in Islamic Ethics,*” pgs.24-38 & Chpt 3, “*What Your Right Hand Possess...*” pgs.39-55.

Class Eleven Wednesday February 14th **Topic: Same Sex Intimacy in Islamic Law** Readings from *Sexual Ethics & Islam*, Chpt. 4, “*Prohibited Acts & Forbidden Partners:...*” pgs.56-74 & Chapter 5, “*Don’t Ask; Don’t Tell...*” pgs.75-96. Documentary TBA

Book titles for book review are due today. I suggest that this Book be your primary source for your Research Project. The title can be given to me printed or e-mailed to me.

Class Twelve Monday. February 19th **Topic: - Female Genital Mutilation** Readings from *Sexual Ethics & Islam*, Chpt. 6, “*Reduce but do not destroy*”...pgs. 97-111 & NY Times Series of Articles on FGM: Type link into your browser -

<https://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/female-genital-mutilation>

Class Thirteen, Wednesday. February 21st Topic: Female Bodies & Male Agency

Readings from *Sexual Ethics & Islam*, Chpt. 7, "If you have touched women," pgs.112-134
Chpt.8, "The Prophet Muhammad, his Beloved Aishah and Modern Sensibilities", pgs.135-150

.Class Fourteen Monday. February 26th Topic: – Sexual Ethics

Readings from *Sexual Ethics & Islam*, Chpt.9, "Toward an Islamic Ethics of Sex," pgs. 151-157.
Topic: History of Muslim Women's Feminism
Readings from *Feminism in Islam (new book)*
"Introduction –Part I: Egypt – Late 19th C to end of The 20th C: First Century of Feminism," pgs. 1-16.

Class Fifteen Wednesday. February 28th Topic: History of Muslim Women's Feminism

Readings from *Feminism in Islam*, Chpt 1, "Competing Agenda: Feminism, Islam, and the State In 19th & 20th Century Egypt," pgs. 17-54, Chpt 2, "Women, Qasim Amin, and the Rise of Feminist Discourse," pgs. 55-64.

February 28th DEADLINE FOR STUDENTS RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC & BEGINNING BIBLIOGRAPHY (Turned in or e-mailed to me)

**SPRING BREAK
MARCH 3RD – 10TH
ENJOY**

Class Sixteen, Monday, March 12th Topic: - History of Muslim Women's Feminism Cont'd

Readings from *Feminism in Islam*, Chpt 3, "From Consciousness to Activism," pgs. 65-89 & Chpt. 4, "Expressing Feminism and Nationalism in Autobiography," Pgs.90-115.

Class Seventeen Wed. March 14th Topic: - History of Muslim Women's Feminism Cont'd

Readings from *Feminism in Islam*, Chapter 5, "Independent Women," pgs.116-140, Chpt.6, Gender Activism, Chpt.6, "Gender Activism," pgs. 141-167 & Chpt. 7," Body Politics," pgs.168-191. Film Doc. TBA

Class Eighteen, Monday, March 19th Topic: - Part II: Muslim World – Late 20th -21st Centuries in History of Muslim Women's Feminism cont'd: Readings from *Feminism in Islam*, Chpt. 9,

“Towards Islamic Feminisms,” pgs. 215-241 & Chpt. 10, “Islamic Feminism: What’s in a Name?” pgs. 242-252.

Class Nineteen Wed. March 21st Topic: - Rethinking Male Authority in Islam

Readings from *Men in Charge?* (new book), Forward, Pgs. vii-x, Introduction, pgs. 1-12, Chpt 1. “Muslim Legal Tradition & the Challenge of Gender Equality,” pgs. 13-43 & Chpt. 2, “The Interpretative Legacy of *Qiwamah* as an Exegetical Construct,” pgs. 44-64.

Class Twenty Monday, March 26th Topic: - Rethinking Male Authority in Islam

Cont’d. Readings from *Men in Charge?* Chapter 3, “An Egalitarian Reading of the Concepts of *Khilafah*, *Wilayah*, & *Qiwamah*, pgs. 65-87 & Chpt. 4, “Producing Gender-Egalitarian Islamic Law,” pgs 88-107.

Class Twenty-One Wed. March 28th Topic: - Rethinking Male Authority in Islam

Cont’d. Readings from *Men in Charge?* Chpt.5, “Islamic Law, Sufism and Gender,” pgs. 106-131, Chpt.6, *Qiwamah* and *Wilayah* as Legal Postulates,” pgs. 132-162 & *Are We Up To The Challenge? The Need for A Radical Re- Ordering of the Islamic Discourse on Women* by G. Z. Simmons, pgs 235-247. The chapter will be sent as a pdf file via our Course List & posted on Canvas.)
View Documentary, Title: *The Muslims I know*.

Class Twenty-Two Mon. April 2nd – Topic: Rethinking Male Authority in Islam

Cont’d. Readings from *Men in Charge?* Chpt.7, “Islamic Law Meets Human Rights,” pgs. 163-197 & Chpt 8, ‘Men are the Protectors & Maintainers of Women,’ pgs. 197-219.

Class Twenty-Three Wed. April 4th Topic: Rethinking Male Authority in Islam

Cont’d. Readings from *Men in Charge?* Chpt 9, “Understanding *Qiwamah* & *Wilayah* through Life Stories,” pgs. 219-256 & Chpt 10, “The Ethics of *Tawhid* over the Ethics of *Qiwamah*,” pgs.256-274.

Class Twenty-Four Mon. April 9th

Printed Copy of Book Reviews Due Today

Students will begin making their oral presentations of their Book Reviews with hand-outs today.

Class Twenty-Four Wed. April 11th

Continue with student presentations of book reviews

Class Twenty-Five Mon. April 16th

**Continue with student presentations of book reviews
AND
Begin Presentation of Research Topics with Hand-outs**

Class Twenty-Six Wed. April 18th

Continue Presentations of Research Topics

Class Twenty-Seven Mon. April 23rd

**Continue Research Paper Presentations &
BEGIN WRAP UP DISCUSSION**

Class Twenty-Eight Wed. April 25

**LAST DAY OF CLASS
WRAP UP DISCUSSION & CLASS PARTY**

**RESEARCH Papers ARE DUE IN MY OFFICE
Monday April 30th by 5:00 PM**

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