

**WOMEN AND ISLAM –Course Assignments  
UNDERGRADUATE  
Spring 2015**

**Tuesdays: 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> periods – AND 034**

**Thursdays: 9<sup>th</sup> period –AND 134**

**Please Note: Some of you might want to purchase a Qur'an for your personal use as we are reading the book: Women in the Qur'an. Or you may simply want to purchase a copy on line. 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. Also, 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, Tues. January 6<sup>th</sup> Introduction of the syllabus for the class and the members of the Class. Viewing First Segment of Inside Islam w/discussion**

**Class Two, Thurs. January 8<sup>th</sup> Topic: The cultural/religious backdrop for the emergence of Islam: Cont'd viewing of part of the film: "*Inside Islam*."**

**Class Three Tues. January 13<sup>th</sup> 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. . Completion of the film, "*Inside Islam*"

**Class Four Thurs. January 15<sup>th</sup> Reading from Women and Gender in Islam.**  
Part Two – *Founding Discourses*, Chpt 3 *Women and The Rise of Islam*, pgs. 41-63. Completion of the film, *Inside Islam*.

**Class Five Tues. January 20<sup>th</sup> Reading from Women And Gender in Islam, Part Two – *Founding Discourses* cont'd, Chpts 4 -5, pgs. 64- 101. View Documentary: *Islam Empire of Faith Part I – The Messenger***

**Class Six Thurs. January 22<sup>nd</sup> CLASS CANCELED**

**Class Seven Tues. January 27<sup>th</sup> Hand in or E-mail the four Dates you have selected for writing your reaction papers. Also from these four dates, give me your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

**Topic: Women's Loss of Status in Islamic Societies:**

Reading from Women And Gender in Islam, Chpt. 6, *Medieval Islam*, pgs. 102-125 and Readings from Women in the Qur'an, Introduction, pgs. 3-9. View Documentary: TBA

**Class Seven Thurs. January 29<sup>th</sup> Topic: Women in Sacred History**

Reading from Women in the Qur'an, Part I, *Women in Sacred History*, Chpt 1, *The Qur'an*, Chpt 2, *The Chapter of Eve*, Chpt 3, *The Women of Noah, Lot, and Abraham*, Chpt 4 *The Chapter of Zulaykha*, pgs. 13-56.

**Class Eight Tues. February 3<sup>rd</sup> Topic: Women in Sacred History**

Reading from Women in the Qur'an, Part I, *Women in Sacred History*, Chpt 5, *The Women in the Life of the Prophet Moses*, Chpt 6, *The Chapter of Bilquis, Queen of Sheeba*, Chpt 7, *The Chapter of Mary*, pgs. 57- 84. View documentary: *Islam: Empire of Faith, pt. 2 – The Awakening*.

**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 Nine Thurs. February 5<sup>th</sup> Topic: - The Prophet's Wives viewed as role models:**

Readings from Women in the Qur'an, Part II, *The Prophet's Wives*, Chpt 8 & 9, pgs. 85-118,

**Class Ten Tues. February 10<sup>th</sup> Topic: - Women In Islamic Societies in the Modern Era: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century:**

Reading from Women And Gender in Islam Part 3 "New Discourses" pgs. 125-127 & Chpt 7, "Social and Intellectual Change" pgs. 127-143, View Documentary, Title: *Islam: Empire of Faith, pt. 3, The Ottomans*.

**Class Eleven Thurs. February 12<sup>th</sup> Topic:- Women In Islamic Societies in the Modern Era: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century cont'd:**

Reading from Women And Gender in Islam, Chpt 8 *The Discourse of the Veil* pgs. 144-168 & Chpt 9, "The First Feminists" pgs. 169-189,

**Class Twelve Tues. February 17<sup>th</sup> Topic: - Women In Islamic Societies in the Modern Era: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century cont'd:**

Reading from Women And Gender in Islam , Chpt 10, *Divergent Voices* pgs 189 -208 & from Women in the Qur'an, Chpt 10 *Modern Muslim Interpretations* pgs. 119-135.

**Class Thirteen Thurs. February 19<sup>th</sup> Topic: - Women In Islamic Societies in the Modern Era: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century cont'd:**

Reading from Women And Gender in Islam, Chpt 11, *The Struggle for the Future & Conclusion*, pgs 208-248 & "Gender Issues & Contemporary Qur'an Interpretation" by Barbara Stowasser. Pgs. 30-44. (This reading is from

*Islam, Gender and Social Change*, eds. Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad & John L. Esposito. It will sent via the Course List)

**February 24<sup>th</sup> DEADLINE FOR STUDENTS RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC & BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Class Fourteen Tues. February 24<sup>th</sup> Topic: - Muslim Women's Reflections on Islamic Texts**  
**Texts:** Reading from Sexual Ethics & Islam, *Introduction*, Chpt I, *Marriage, Money, & Sex* pgs. xii-24 & Chpt 2, *Lesser Evils: Divorce in Islamic Ethics*, pgs. 24-38. View Documentary, Title: *Divorce Iranian Style*.

**Class Fifteen Thurs. February 26<sup>th</sup> Topic: - Muslim Women's Reflections on Islamic Texts cont'd:** Reading from Sexual Ethics & Islam, Chpt 3, *What your right Hand possess: Slave Concubinage in Muslim Texts & Discourses*, pgs. 39-55 & Chpt 4, *Prohibited Acts & Forbidden Partners: Illicit Sex in Islamic Jurisprudence*, pgs. 6-74.

**SPRING BREAK**  
**MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**ENJOY YOUR BREAK!**

**Class Sixteen Tues. March 10<sup>th</sup> Topic: - Muslim Women's Reflections on Islamic Texts cont'd:** Reading from Sexual Ethics & Islam, Chpt 5, *Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Same Sex Intimacy in Muslim Thought*, pgs. 75-96 & Chpt 6, *Reduce but do not destroy: Female Circumcision in Islamic Sources*, pgs 97-111. View Documentary, Title: TBA

**Class Seventeen Thurs. March 12<sup>th</sup> Topic: - Muslim Women's Reflections on Islamic Texts cont'd** Reading from Sexual Ethics & Islam, Chpt 7, *If you have touched Women: Female Bodies and Male Agency in the Qur'an*, pgs. 112- 131 & *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, (This reading is from *Progressive Muslims*, ed. by Omid Safi. The chapter will be sent as a pdf file via our Course List.)

**Class Eighteen Tues. March 17<sup>th</sup> Topic:- Muslim Women's Reflections on Islamic Texts cont'd** Readings from Sexual Ethics & Islam, Chpt 8, *The Prophet Muhammad, his Beloved Aishah, & Modern Muslim Sensibilities*, pgs. 135-150 & *Progressive Muslims and Islamic Jurisprudence: The Necessity for Critical Engagement*

with *Marriage & Divorce Law*” by Kecia Ali, pgs 163-189.  
(This chapter is from *Progressive Muslims*, ed. by Omid Safi  
and will be sent as a pdf file via our Course List.) View  
Documentary: *The Muslims I Know*

**Class Nineteen Thurs. March 19<sup>th</sup> – Topic: Topic: The Veil: Goings & Comings**  
Readings from *A Quiet Revolution*, Part I, “The Islamic  
Resurgence and the Veil,” & Chpts 1-3, pgs, 1-92.

**Class Twenty Tues. March 24<sup>th</sup> - Topic: The Veil: Goings & Comings, Cont’d**  
Readings from *A Quiet Revolution*, Chpts 4-5, pgs 93-130  
View Documentary: *The Mosque in Morgantown- Part I*

**Book Reviews Due Today**

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

**Class Twenty-One Thurs. March 26<sup>th</sup> – Topic: The Veil and Islamists**  
Readings from *A Quiet Revolution*, Chpts 6-8 pgs,  
131-192 . View Documentary: *The Mosque in  
Morgantown- Part II*

**Continue with student presentation of book reviews**

**Class Twenty-Two Tues. March 31<sup>st</sup> - Topic: The Veil and Muslim Women in America**  
Readings from *A Quiet Revolution*, Part II, Chpts 9-  
10, Pgs 193- 264. View documentary: *Four Women of  
Egypt*.

**Class Twenty-Three Thurs. April 2<sup>nd</sup> Topic: Crimes Against Women cont’d:**  
Readings from *A Quiet Revolution*, Chpt.11, pgs 265-  
303 & Reading from *What Men Owe to Women, Islam  
& Gender Justice: Beyond Simplistic Apologia* pgs.  
187-210 (This chapter will be sent as a pdf).

**Class Twenty-Four Tues. April 7<sup>th</sup> Topic: Women Claiming Islam**  
Readings from *Women Shaping Islam, Introduction  
& Chpt 1, Discussing Islam, Discussing Gender* pgs.  
1-49. (These readings will be sent as a pdf via e-mail)  
View Documentary: *Honey and Ashes*.

**Class Twenty-Five Thurs. April 9<sup>th</sup> Topic: Women Claiming Islam**  
Readings from *Women Shaping Islam, Chpt 2,  
Competing in Goodness: Muhammadiyah & Nahdlatul  
Ulama, & Chpt 3, Aisyiah’s Jihad*, pgs. 50-130. (These  
readings will be sent as a pdf via e-mail)  
**Begin oral reports on Research Projects**

**Class Twenty-Six Tues. April 14<sup>th</sup> Oral Reports on Research Projects**

**Class Twenty- Seven Thurs. April 16<sup>h</sup> Oral reports on Research Projects Cont'd &**

**Class Twenty- Eight Tue April 21<sup>nd</sup> – WRAP UP DISCUSSION & CLASS PARTY**

**Research Papers Due in my office**

**Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 PM**

**Enjoy the Summer !!!!!**

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