

**WOMEN AND ISLAM –Course Assignments  
UNDERGRADUATE  
Spring 2014**

**Tuesdays: 4<sup>th</sup> period- Matherly 0009  
Thursdays: 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> periods – Matherly 0105**

**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 7<sup>th</sup> Introduction of the syllabus for the class and the members of the Class.**

**Class Two, Thurs. January 9<sup>th</sup> Topic: The cultural/religious backdrop for the emergence of Islam: Lecture On “The Muslim Community in History.”  
Class viewing of part of the film: “*Inside Islam*.”**

**Class Three Tues. January 14<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.**

**Class Four Thurs. January 16<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 21<sup>st</sup> View Film on your own (Title TBA)**

**Class Six Thurs. January 23<sup>rd</sup> Reading from Women And Gender in Islam, Part Two – *Founding Discourses* cont'd, Chpts 4 -5, pgs. 64- 101**

**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:**

**Class Seven Tues. January 28<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Class Seven Thurs. January 30<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 4<sup>th</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.

**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 typewritten or e-mailed to me.**

**Class Nine Thurs. February 6<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, documentary: *Islam: Empire of Faith, pt. 2 – The Awakening*

**Class Ten Tues. February 11<sup>th</sup> 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,

**Class Eleven Thurs. February 13<sup>th</sup> Topic:– Women In Islamic Societies in the Modern Era: 19th & 20th 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, documentary: *Islam: Empire of Faith, pt. 3, The Ottomans*.

**Class Twelve Tues. February 18<sup>th</sup> Topic: - Women In Islamic Societies in the Modern Era: 19th & 20th 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 20<sup>th</sup> Topic: - Women In Islamic Societies in the Modern Era: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20th 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 be posted on Sakai & sent via the Course List)

**February 25<sup>th</sup> DEADLINE FOR STUDENTS RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC & BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Class Fourteen Tues. February 25<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.

**Class Fifteen Thurs. February 27<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. View Documentary: *Divorce Iranian Style*.

**SPRING BREAK**  
**MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ENJOY YOUR BREAK!**

**Class Sixteen Tues. March 11<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.

**Class Seventeen Thurs. March 13<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 posted in Sakai and sent as a pdf file via our Course List.) Documentary TBA

**Class Eighteen Tues. March 18<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 posted on Sakai and sent as a pdf file via our Course List.)

**Class Nineteen Thurs. March 20<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.  
Documentary TBA

**Class Twenty Tues. March 25<sup>th</sup> - Topic: The Veil: Goings & Comings, Cont’d**  
Readings from A Quiet Revolution, Chpts 4-5, pgs 93-130

**Book Reviews Due Today**

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

**Class Twenty-One Thurs. March 27<sup>th</sup> – Topic: The Veil and Islamists**  
Readings from A Quiet Revolution, Chpts 6-8 pgs,  
131-192 . View Documentary: *Honey and Ashes*

**Continue with student presentation of book reviews**

**Class Twenty-Two Tues. April 1<sup>st</sup> Topic: The Veil and Muslim Women in America**  
Readings from A Quiet Revolution, Part II & Chpts 9-10,  
Pgs 193- 264.

**Class Twenty-Three Thurs. April 3<sup>rd</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 posted on Sakai & sent as  
a pdf).  
View documentary: *Four Women of Egypt*

**Class Twenty-Four Tues. April 8<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 posted on Sakai & sent as a  
pdf via e-mail)

**Class Twenty-Five Thurs. April 10<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.

**Class Twenty-Six Tues. April 15<sup>th</sup> Begin oral reports on Research Projects**

**Class Twenty- Seven Thurs. April 17<sup>th</sup> Oral reports on Research Projects Cont’d &  
CLASS PARTY**

**Class Twenty- Eight Tue April 22<sup>nd</sup> – WORK ON RESEARCH PROJECT DAY – No Class**

**Research Papers Due in my office**

**Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 PM**

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

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