Course Synopsis
This course surveys the key debates in Muslim gender studies and is divided into three thematic cores: (1) Historical Foundations, (2) Feminist Interventions in Texts, and (3) Critical Observations of Practice. The first set of readings will give students a solid grounding in the history of gender in Islam using Leila Ahmed’s *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate* (Yale University Press, 1992) and Nadia Maria El Cheikh’s *Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity* (Harvard University Press, 2015). In the second part of the course, we will examine how feminist scholars intervene in both historical and contemporary Islam by re-interpreting scriptural, legal, and moral-theological texts. Students will benefit from the work of amina wadud (*Qur’an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman’s Perspective*), Kecia Ali (*Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur’an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence*), and Zahra Ayubi (*Gendered Morality: Classical Islamic Ethics of the Self, Family, and Society*). The final set of readings will turn to anthropological scholarship to examine lived religion and situated practices in various contexts, including Senegal, India, and the US. Students will read Joseph Hill’s *Wrapping Authority: Women Islamic Leaders in a Sufi Movement in Dakar, Senegal* (University of Toronto Press, 2018), Katherine Lemons’ *Divorcing Traditions: Islamic Marriage Law and the Making of Indian Secularism* (Cornell University Press, 2019), and Shabana Mir’s *Muslim American Women on Campus: Undergraduate Social Life and Identity* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016). This course is discussion-based and will enable students to conduct research and complete several writing projects.

Required Texts:
- Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate* (Yale University Press, 1992)
- amina wadud, *Qur’an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman’s Perspective* (Oxford University Press, 1999)
• Joseph Hill, *Wrapping Authority: Women Islamic Leaders in a Sufi Movement in Dakar, Senegal* (University of Toronto Press, 2018)

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**
Class attendance is expected, and will be taken at the beginning of each class session. You can miss two sessions without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will detract 50 points from your grade. Excused absences are consistent with university policies as listed in the undergraduate catalog ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)) and require appropriate documentation. Class will begin and end on time. Five late arrivals (anything over 5 minutes) will be considered one absence.

**Assignments/Grade Breakdown:**

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Reading Responses</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Review</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Annotated Bibliography for Final Paper</td>
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<td>Final Paper Workshop and Presentation</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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*Detailed Guidelines for Each Assignment will be provided*

**Grading Scale**

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<td>A</td>
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<td>900-939</td>
<td>90.0-93.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>834-866</td>
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<td>800-833</td>
<td>80.0-83.3</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>767-799</td>
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More information on grades and grading policies can be found here: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/)
Late work will not be accepted. A makeup quiz and makeup final exam will be provided for students who miss either due to extreme, documented circumstances. Students should arrange with the instructor for makeup material.

Class Demeanor
Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all. The use of laptops or tables is only allowed for purpose of note-taking.

Course Evaluations
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Week 1: Historical Foundations, part I
Tuesday 7 Jan
Introduction to the Course; Introductions
Thursday 9 Jan
Leila Ahmed, Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate

Week 2: Historical Foundations, part II
Tuesday 14 January
Ahmed, Women and Gender in Islam
Thursday 16 January
Ahmed, Women and Gender in Islam

Week 3: Historical Foundations, part III
Tuesday 21 January
Nadia Maria El Cheikh, Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity
Thursday 23 January
El Cheikh, Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity

Week 4: Historical Foundations, part IV
Tuesday 28 January
Nadia Maria El Cheikh, Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity
Thursday 30 January
Rana Mikati, “Fighting for the Faith? Notes on Women and War in Early Islam.”
Aisha Geissinger, Gender and Muslim Constructions of Exegetical Authority: A Rereading of the Classical Genre of Qur’ān Commentary (excerpt)

Week 5: Feminist Interventions, part I
Tuesday 4 February
amina wadud, Qur’an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman’s Perspective
Thursday 6 February
amina wadud, Qur’an and Woman

Week 6: Feminist Interventions, part II
Tuesday 11 February
Kecia Ali, Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur’an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence
Thursday 13 February
Kecia Ali, Sexual Ethics and Islam

Week 7: Feminist Interventions, part III
Tuesday 18 February
Kecia Ali, Sexual Ethics and Islam
Thursday 20 February
Kecia Ali, Sexual Ethics and Islam

Week 8 (25 February): Feminist Interventions, part IV
Tuesday 25 February
Zahra Ayubi, Gendered Morality: Classical Islamic Ethics of the Self, Family, and Society
Thursday 27 February
Zahra Ayubi, Gendered Morality

Week 9 (3 March): NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

Week 10 (10 March): Feminist Interventions, part V
Tuesday 10 March
Zahra Ayubi, Gendered Morality
Thursday 12 March
Zahra Ayubi, Gendered Morality

Week 11 (17 March): Anthropological Interventions, part I
Tuesday 17 March
Joseph Hill, Wrapping Authority: Women Islamic Leaders in a Sufi Movement in Dakar
Thursday 19 March
Hill, *Wrapping Authority*

**Week 12 (24 March): Anthropological Interventions, part II**

**Tuesday 24 March**
Hill, *Wrapping Authority*

**Thursday 26 March**
Katherine Lemons, *Divorcing Traditions: Islamic Marriage Law and the Making of Indian Secularism*

**Week 13 (31 March): Anthropological Interventions, part III**

**Tuesday 31 March**
Lemons, *Divorcing Traditions: Islamic Marriage Law and the Making of Indian Secularism*

**Thursday 2 April**
Shabana Mir, *Muslim American Women on Campus: Undergraduate Social Life and Identity*

**Week 14 (7 April): Anthropological Interventions, part IV**

**Tuesday 7 April**
Mir, *Muslim American Women on Campus*

**Thursday 9 April**
Mir, *Muslim American Women on Campus*

**Week 15 (14 April): Paper Workshops & Presentations**

**Tuesday 14 April**

**Thursday 16 April**

**Week 15**

**Tuesday 21 April**—Wrap-Up Discussion

**Final Paper Due Date: 4/26/2020 by midnight**

**Students Requiring Accommodations**
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**University Honesty Policy**
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the
University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center
Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.