



THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

HIS/SOC 304A

3 credits (45 contact hours)

MUSLIM PRESENCE IN EUROPE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an overview of the long-term interaction between the Muslim world and the West, not as two separate entities, but with emphasis on their historic commonality, and their dialectic relation. The course focuses on the debates regarding the Muslim population in Europe, covering concepts of religion and secularism, the history of Muslim populations in Europe, legal issues, human rights, feminism, and modernity. Field studies will take us to specific quarters in Marseille, historically linked with the Muslim community.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course will provide students with a basic knowledge of the Islamic religion and of the major issues involving Muslims in Europe. The knowledge acquired in the course will enable students to critically evaluate information sources on Islam and Muslims from the media, political discourse, and the academy. It will likewise provide them with an analytical framework to understand a range of issues, including Islamism in the post-9/11 era, the recent attacks in France, and current affairs in Europe as well as in the Middle East.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course

- Students should understand the history of Muslim Presence in Europe.
- Students will learn about the Muslim minorities/communities in Europe.
- Students should critically evaluate the information on Islam & Muslims provided by the media and by politicians.
- Students should acquire the skills to discuss issues concerning Muslims in Europe.
- Students shall be able to compare Muslims in Europe with Muslims in the US.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

- The course is structured around lectures and discussion.
- **Field study** to Marseille
- Watching the **movie**: *Cartouches Gauloises*.
- Presence in class and participation.
- Completing the assigned readings *before* the class.
- **Quizzes** based on the assigned readings.
- **Midterm** exam.

- **Final exam.**

EVALUATION AND GRADING

- Quizzes and presentations 50%
- Mid-term Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%

ATTENDANCE

- Students are required to attend all classes. Attendance will be part of the final grade.
- Unexcused absences have a negative impact on the final grade. Each unexcused absence above two will **lower the final** grade by a half-letter grade.
- IAU College excused absences = absences linked to IAU excursions; sickness (a medical certificate is **required**); emergencies.
- You **MUST** email the instructor in case you are going to miss a class or arrive late.
- More than **15-minute** late arrival = **absence**
- More than **15-minute** early departure = **absence**

IMPORTANT RULES

- Cellphones, laptops, iPads are NOT allowed in class.
- You are **NOT** allowed to leave the classroom during lecture time (not to the WC nor to get water)
- You **CANNOT** use pencil during quizzes and exams; **use black or blue pen.**

GRADING SYSTEM

A	95-100%
A-	90-94%
B+	88-89%
B	84-87%
B-	80-83%
C+	78-79%
C	74-77%
C-	70-73%
D+	68-69%
D	64-67%
D-	60-63%
F	59-0%

CLASS SCHEDULE

This outline is subject to modification

WEEK 1

Class 1 Orientation NO CLASS

Class 2 Study Tour NO CLASS

Class 3 Introduction and survey of the course

Readings

- No Readings

Class 4 What is Islam and what is to be a Muslim?

Readings

- Christopher Partridge (ed.), *Introduction to World Religions*, 2005, pp. 356-393 (Part Eleven: “Islam”) in the Reader entitled “Session 2”

Class 5 Recent and Current Affairs in Europe and Islamophobia

Readings

- Bleich, Erik. “Defining and Researching Islamophobia.” *Review of Middle Eastern Studies* 46, no. 2 (Winter 2012): 180-189.in the Reader entitled “Session 3.1”
- Gottschalk, P. & Greenberg G. *Islamophobia: Making Muslims the Enemy*. UK: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008, pp. 1-11 & 143-151 (“Introduction” and “Conclusion: Common Denominators versus Essential Difference”).in the Reader entitled “Session 3.2”
- Shatz, Adam. “Magical Thinking about Isis.” *London Review of Books*, Vol. 37 No. 23, 3 December 2015, pp. 11-14. in the Reader entitled “Session 3.3”
<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v37/n23/adam-shatz/magical-thinking-about-isis>
- Farhad, Khosrokhavar. “Jihad and the French Exception.” *The New York Times*, July 19, 2016.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/20/opinion/jihad-and-the-french-exception.html>

WEEK 2

Class 1 Muslim Presence in Europe: 8th-15th centuries

Readings

- TBA

Class 2 French colonization of North Africa and colonial discourse on Islam

Readings

- Bruke, Edmund III. “Theorizing the histories of colonialism and nationalism in the Arab Maghrib – Beyond Colonialism and Nationalism in North Africa.” *Arab Studies Quarterly* (Spring 1998).
- Moawad, Sarah. ““Ancient and Dazzling Cultures”: Why Western Journalism is STILL Failing the Middle East.” *Muftah*, December 25th, 2015.
<http://muftah.org/ancient-and-dazzling-cultures-why-western-journalism-is-still-failing-the-middle-east/#.Vp-kUVnm6uC>

Class 3 Muslim Presence in France

Readings

- Cesari, J. *When Islam and Democracy Meet: Muslims in Europe and in the United States*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2004, pp. 21-42. (Chapter 2: “Islam as Stigma”).

Class 4 French Laïcité (secularism): social and historical context

Readings

- Fetzer, J. & Soper J. *Muslims and the State in Britain, France, and Germany*. Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 62-97 (Chapter 3: “France: Laïcité and the Hijab”).

Class 5 NO CLASS

WEEK 3

Class 1 Policies of integration of Islam in France I

Readings

- Bowen, J. *Can Islam Be French? Pluralism and Pragmatism in a Secular State*, Princeton University Press, 2010, pp. 15-33 (Chapter 2: “Fashioning the French Islamic Landscape”).

Class 2 Policies of integration of Islam in France II

Readings

- TBA

Class 3 Pattern of exclusion and inclusion

Readings

- Laurence, J. & Vaisse J. *Integrating Islam: Political and Religious Challenges in Contemporary France*. Washington D.C.: Brooking Institution Press, 2006, pp. 49-73 (Chapter 2: “Patterns of Exclusion and Inclusion in French Society”).

Class 4 France’s Riots of 2005

Readings

- Bowen, John. “France’s Revolt: Can the Republic live up to its ideals?” *Boston Review*, 2006.

Class 5 NO CLASS

WEEK 4

Class 1 Introduction on the Islamic headscarf/hijab

Readings

- Scott, Joan Wallach. *Politics of the Veil*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007, pp. 21-41 (Chapter 1: “The Headscarf Controversies”).

Class 2 The French Headscarf Affair

Readings

- Bowen, John R., “Why did the French rally to a law against scarves in schools?” *Droit et Société*, 2008, 1(68), pp. 33-52.

Class 3 The French Niqab (full-face veil) Affair

Readings

- “Niqab,” *BBC – Religion – Islam: Niqab*.
- “The Islamic veil across Europe,” *BBC NEWS*

- “European Court upholds French full veil ban,” BBC NEWS, 1 July 2014.
- *French ban on the wearing in public of clothing designed to conceal one’s face does not breach the convention*, ECHR Ruling (European Court of Human Rights), 01.07.2014.
- Ahmed, Leila. “Feminism, Colonialism and Islamophobia: Treacherous Sympathy with Muslim Women,” *Qantara*, August, 2011.

Class 4 The French Burkini Affair

Readings

- “Planned ‘burkini pool day’ stirs debate in France,” *Aljazeera*, 5 August 2016.
- “Cannes bans burkinis over suspected link to radical Islamism,” *BBC*, 12 August 2016.
- Amanda Taub, “France’s ‘Burkini’ Bans are about more than Religion or Clothing,” *New York Times*, August 18, 2016.
- “France’s Burkini Bigotry,” *New York Times*, August 18, 2016.
- “France’s top court overturns burkini ban in Riviera town,” *France 24*, 26 August 2016.
- Dan Bilefsky, “France’s Burkini Debate Reverberates around the World,” *New York Times*, August 31, 2016.
- France’s pursuit of secularism at the roots of burkini debate,” *France 24*, 3 September 2016.

Class 5 NO CLASS

WEEK 5

Class 1 The Gender Debate in Islam I

Readings

- Milton-Edwards, Beverley. *Islam and Politics in the Contemporary World*. UK: Polity Press, 2006, pp. 118-148 (Chapter 5: “Bringing Down the Barricade: The Gender Debate”).

Class 2 The Gender Debate in Islam II

Readings

- Raissiguier, Catherine. “Muslim Women in France: Impossible Subject?” *3-Postcolonial Sexuality* (May 2008).

Class 3 Second-Generation Muslims in France (*Beurs*)

Readings

- Brouard, S. & Tiberj, V. *As French as Everyone Else? A Survey of French Citizens of Maghrebin, African, and Turkish Origin*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2011, pp. 9-29 (Chapter 1: “Are the New French More Religious and Less Laïque?”).

Class 4 Why and how does Islam become an Identifying Marker?

Readings

- Hashmi, Nadia. “Immigrant Children in Europe: Constructing a Transnational Identity.” In *Between Europe and Islam: Shaping Modernity in a Transcultural Space*. Ed. Höfert A. & A. Salvatore. Brussels: PIE Lang, 2000, pp. 163-173.
- Roy, Olivier, “What is the Driving Force behind Jihadist Terrorism?” *Inside Story*, 23 March 2016.
- Hanna Rosin, “How a Danish Town Helped Young Muslims Turn Away from ISIS,” *NPR*, July 15, 2016.

Class 5 Cultural Expressions among French Muslims: Music

Readings

- Marranci, Gabriele. “A Complex Identity and Its Musical Representation: Beur and Rai Music in Paris.” *Music & Anthropology* 5 (2000).

WEEK 6

Class 1 *Cartouches Gauloises*

Readings

- “A Life Spent Remembering a War France Has Tried to Forget,” *NYT*, March 28, 2014.
- Shepard, Todd. “All is forgotten: The (Muslim Algerian) History of Laïc French Republic.” *Council for European Studies*, 2015.

Class 2 **Cultural Expressions among French Muslims: Cinema**

Readings

- Assouline Stillman, Dinah. “Cinéma Beur Comes into Its Own.” *Middle Eastern Studies Association Bulletin* 42, no. 1 & 2 (Summer/Winter 2008): 71-77.

Class 3 **Review Session**

Class 4 **FINAL EXAM**

