

Islam in America

HIST 4910

TIME: Mon, Wed, & Fri – 3:30 – 4:20 , Main 301

INSTRUCTOR: Dr Nuri TINAZ
Office: Min 321G
Office Hours: 10am – 5 pm M and F

email: nuri.tinaz@usu.edu
email: nuri.tinaz@isam.org.tr
Phone: 797- 0147

REQUIRED

READING LIST: Smith, Jane. *Islam in America*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999; Haddad, Yvonne Y. & Smith, Jane I. (eds.) *Muslim Communities in North America*, Albany: SUNY, 1994; Haddad, Yvonne Y. & Esposito, John L. (eds.) *Muslims on the Americanization Path?* New York: Oxford University Press, 2000; Haddad, Yvonne Y. (ed.) *The Muslims of America*. New York: Oxford University Press (See the complete reading list & literature on Islam and Muslims in the USA, in Course Schedule & Classes under my name in Dept Webpage)

AIMS OF COURSE:

This course aims to examine the social history of Islam and Muslims in the United States of America. Using various approaches and methods, sociological, anthropological, political sciences and religious studies, “multivariate approach”, the course explores Muslim communities, their social, political, cultural and religious organizations, social and spiritual capitals they produced, ethnic and cultural differences among Muslims. It also examines the place of Muslims in the American religious landscape and Public sphere, their participation in the US politics and the contributions they make to the civic, cultural and societal values of mainstream American society. The aim of this course is for students to gain knowledge of Islam and Muslims in the USA and make them familiar/acquainted with the existence and presence of Muslims in their midst along with other religious communities that reflect multicultural and multi-faith nature of American society.

PROCEDURE:

To achieve the aims outlined above, students will be asked to do many things that will provide them start to do a self-study. The beginning of this process involves focused reading and attention to sources that will be given one week ahead of each seminar. Students are asked to do critical reading and take notes of their findings. The course requires dedication, and reading and writing intensive.

CLASS DECORUM: Please do your best to come to the class on time. It is important to show consideration to your fellow students. If you arrive late, enter the classroom very quietly and if you are supposed to leave early, have a sit nearby the door. Do not turn up and expect to deal with things other than seminar / course materials in classroom. Please turn off your mobile/cell phones before coming to class. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

GRADING: Your overall final grade for this course will be based on three elements: a short essay (2000 words), a long essay (4000 & 5000 words) and class participation & attendance. The grading scale is as follows: if you receive 93% or more of the total points, you will earn an 'A'; 90% an 'A-' and so Forth. There is no curving of grades.

Short essay (2000 words) : 140 points.
Class participation & attendance : 60 points
Long essay (4000 & 5000 words) : 200 points

GRADING SCALE: A+ (100-93) B+ (89-88) C+ (79-78) D+ (69-68) * 'A+' and 'D-' are
A- (92-90) B (87-83) C (77-73) D (67-73) recorded as 'A' or 'D'
B- (82-80) C- (72-70) F below 60 by the university.

NOTE: Please note, it is your responsibility to keep all graded work which his returned to you in case there is a discrepancy in grading.

MAKE-UPS: The Long Essay can be made-up only under the following conditions

- Prior notice is given.
- Proof of a valid excuse is provided, for example, a note from a doctor.

SHORT ESSAY: Short essay will be on a given framework of subject title, 'The Diverse Faces of Islam and Muslims in the United States'. Your short essays would be on Muslims' religious, ethnic, immigrant communities covering their religious, cultural, gender, social and political issues. The length of essay will be 2000 words, seven or eight pages long, and must include proper citation of references, foot and endnotes. In writing your essay, you will use and benefit from the reading list given at the beginning of class, and other literature, sources and database. The aim of short

essay is to encourage students to write on specific topic / issue and help to develop their own arguments / perspectives.

LONG ESSAY: Long essay is relatively extended essay for this course and will count for final exam. It will be on a given framework, mostly the place of Islam and Muslims in American public sphere covering aspects and issues such as American Muslims and Domestic Politics and their participation; Cultural, Religious and Civic Organizations and their objectives, perspectives; and American Muslims' Identity Politics, American Muslims and Gender, (the place of American Muslim Women in Community); Muslim Youths & Young American Muslims. The length of essay will be between 4000-5000 words, twelve and fifteen pages long, and must include proper citation of references, foot and endnotes. The essay is due on final exam day. Please see the Assessment Schedule portion of Syllabus for the final exam due date. For guidance and assistance with style, you can consult the following Writing Guide composed by Professor M. Damen and find it on the web at following link <http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/WritingGuide/00intro.htm> and other academic writing skills guide books in social sciences, and arts and humanities.

CLASS

PARTICIPATION: This class is designed as a seminar class, you must come to class ready to actively participate in discussing the readings that were assigned each week and the reading list given at the beginning of term. In order to contribute to class participation, it not enough to show up, you are supposed to be well-prepared and read literature, and be active participant in the discussion. You are expected to raise questions and contribute to the discussion. Those who do not raise questions, and do not make any point and contribute the class, that means you turned up in the class without any reading and preparation.

FINAL EXAM: The Final Exam is worth 200 point which is your Long Essay. It is designed to make you to create and develop your own arguments regarding issues and problems of Islam and Muslims in America. As the end of the term approaches, I will explain the format of long essay and the points that you need to pay attention while you are writing in greater detail.

STUDY HABITS: Keep up with the readings, plan ahead for short essay and long essay/final exam. Please do not hesitate to see me anytime and immediately if you are having trouble, and need more literature and discuss your essay topics.

ATTENDANCE: Please try to attend class regularly. This is the best way to stay informed and follow the pace of the course; arguments, developments, problems. It is only the way to gain class participation points.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: There is no need to say this. It is just reminding that cheating, copying and even plagiarism of work and study done by other people are against academic honesty. You must follow guidelines in quoting or citing the sources used in your writing. Please see Schedule of Classes for further explanations on what constitutes academic dishonesty and what the penalties are.

NOTE: The syllabus is subject to revision and modification at discretion of the instructor, provided that verbal or written notice is given.