

UMBC UGC New Course Request: HIST 379

Date Submitted: 2/20/2019

Proposed Effective Date: Fall semester 2019

	Name	Email	Phone	Dept
Dept Chair or UPD	Amy Froide	Froide@umbc.edu	5-2033	History
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COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Number(s)	HIST 379
Formal Title	“Do Muslim Women Need Saving?” – Women and Gender in Islam
Transcript Title (≤30c)	
Recommended Course Preparation	Any 100-level social science course, any 100-level humanities course.
Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a “D” or better.	NONE
# of Credits Must adhere to the <u>UMBC Credit Hour Policy</u>	3
Repeatable for additional credit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Max. Total Credits	3 <small>This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.</small>
Grading Method(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (Approximately 75 words in length. Please use full sentences.):

This course will introduce students to the study of Islam and gender, explore the evolution of scholarship that uses gender as a category of analysis, and uses case studies to bring theories into everyday lived experiences in Muslim societies. Topics will cover: new interpretations from feminist scholars over the Quran and early Islam, questions of veiling, seclusion, and sexuality in Muslim empires, the status of women in debates over colonialism and nationalism, gender and revolution, masculinities, and Islamism.

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

The History Department just hired Prof. Zaidi as a new tenure-track professor with expertise in Modern Islamic and gender history. The department has not had a specialist in this area before so we need to create new courses for Prof. Zaidi’s teaching rotation.

ATTACH COURSE SYLLABUS (mandatory):

Women and Gender in Islam

Instructor: Professor Noor Zaidi

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4 or by appointment (room 508)

Email: nzaidi@umbc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In 2002, Laura Bush argued that “the fight against terrorism is also a fight for the rights and dignity of women.” For years, the Bush administration would frame interventions in the Middle East as part of an effort to save Muslim women – yet this language was not new. Debates around women and gender have informed how Islam was practiced, taught, critiqued, colonized, and reformed through the centuries.

This course will introduce students to the study of Islam and gender, explore the evolution of scholarship that uses gender as a category of analysis, and uses case studies to bring theories into everyday lived experiences in Muslim societies. The course will begin with new interpretations of the early life of the Muslim community and how feminist scholars have read the Quran and early hadith, covering gendered ideals in the formation of early Islam. We will then use the Ottoman Empire to discuss concepts of veiling, seclusion, and sexuality and how the status of women becomes a central question in debates over colonialism and nationalism the aftermath of the fall of the Ottoman Empire. We will then turn to debates over women and gender in Islam in scholarship, reading classic works from scholars such as Edward Said, Leila Ahmed, and Fatima Mernissi. The course will also try and capture the diverse and varied ways that Islam is practiced in the world for both women and men by analyzing different case studies and exploring the relationships that exist between gender and Islam in particular places. In particular, we will discuss the ties between Islamism and questions of women and gender. Throughout, we will be asking what is “Islamic” about these discussions of gender and women.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Use gender as a category of analysis to discuss key periods in the history of Islam
- Know the social and historical factors that play a role in the construction of gender and sexuality
- Develop an understanding of the broad outlines of the history of women’s position in Islamic societies
- Ask what is specifically “Islamic” about the situations and case studies we discuss
- Learn to read and evaluate key texts in the study of gender and Islam and evaluate how our discourses and language over women, gender, and sexuality have changed over time

REQUIRED TEXTS

Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. Yale University Press, 1992.

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015

Asma Barlas, *Believing Women in Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2002.

Saba Mahmood. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012.

Amina Wadud. *Quran and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

COURSE EVALUATION

Participation and Journals	15%
Presentation	10%
Midterm	15% [to be given in class]
Assignment 1:Movie response	15%
Assignment 2:Analytical Paper	20%
Final Paper/Exam	25%

Assignment 1:
Response to Wadjda movie

Assignment 2:
Analytical paper of 5-7 pages

Final exam:
Analytical essay, 10-12 pages

COURSE POLICIES

Students are required to participate in every class meeting. Please keep in mind that lectures do not duplicate the readings, but rather supplement them. In addition, students are expected to have completed readings and participate actively.

Students will post a short weekly journal on the course Blackboard (BB) site, of approximately 250 words. Students will be asked to post **TWO QUESTIONS** in their journals, based on the readings. These questions should be thematic questions – ie not questions of fact, but questions that engage the themes of the course and other readings. Journals are due **Tuesday at 11 PM each week**.

Extensions are not routinely granted. Without prior approval, late papers will be subject to daily ten-point penalty deduction. To secure prior approval, please bring legitimate and documented explanations.

Other requirements include satisfactory performance on a midterm exam, paper assignments, and a take-home final.

ATTENDANCE

The lectures, readings, and discussion for this course are meant to supplement each other. Therefore, failure to attend classes will result in deductions from the final course grade.

PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Participation for this course means ACTIVE participation in class and engagement with the readings. Please come to class on time, have complete the readings beforehand, and be ready to engage in discussion on the lectures, readings, and clips (where relevant). Students will be expected to connect readings to earlier assignments and major course themes.

Participation grade includes the submission and quality of journal entries.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal.

In addition, please note:

The penalty for academic dishonesty—including plagiarism and other forms of cheating-- in any UMBC History Department course is an "F" for the course. In addition, cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Conduct Committee. For further definitions on what academic misconduct is and how to avoid it at all costs please

See: <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

The use of computers is permitted for lectures, but please be respectful of your fellow students – and me – and pay attention in class. We will cover a good amount of material, and distractions on the laptop will make it more challenging to keep up with the material.

During videos and certain discussion periods, laptops will need to be put away.

This course will also cover some material that might feel deeply personal or politically charged. I know we all bring our own background knowledge and experiences to this

course, but ask that you come to class and approach the readings with an open mind. I promise I want to hear your opinions, and in turn I hope you let yourself be challenged by new perspectives.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES (SDS)

UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that may disadvantage students based on disability. Services for students with disabilities are provided for all students qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the ADAAA of 2009, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who request and are eligible for accommodations. The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) is the UMBC department designated to coordinate accommodations that would allow students to have equal access and inclusion in all courses, programs, and activities at the University.

If you have a documented disability and need to request academic accommodations, please refer to the SDS website at sds.umbc.edu for registration information and to begin the process, or alternatively you may visit the SDS office in the Math/Psychology Building, Room 212. For questions or concerns, you may contact us through email at disAbility@umbc.edu or phone (410) 455-2459.

If you require accommodations for this class, make an appointment to meet with me to discuss your SDS-approved accommodations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

* Note: syllabus is subject to changes. I will alert you to them, but also check Blackboard regularly for updates*

Week 1: Introduction

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015. Introduction and Chapter 1.

Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Analysis"

Week 2: Textual Approaches and Early Islam

Barlas, Asma. *Believing Women in Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an*. University of Texas Press. 2002, Part I.

Amina Wudud *Quran and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. Pg. 29-43.

Week 3: Gender in Early Islam

Nikki R. Keddie and Beth Baron, eds. *Women in Middle Eastern History: Shifting Boundaries in Sex and Gender*, eds.. Yale University Press. ppg. 9-35 (Book One selections)

Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. Yale University Press, 1992, pp. 79 – 120 (Elaboration of the Founding Discourses – New Discourses)

Week 4: The Ottomans

Leslie Pierce, *The Imperial Harem: Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1993, pp. 113-180 (“The Imperial Harem Institution, Shifting Images of Ottoman Sovereignty”)

Week 5: Colonialism, Nationalism, and Gender

Huda Sha’rawi, *Harem Years: The Memoirs of an Egyptian Feminist*. New York: The Feminist Press at CUNY, 1986.

Margot Badran, *Feminists, Islam, and Nation*, introduction and chapter 2

Elizabeth Thompson, *Colonial Citizens: Republican Rights, Paternal Privilege, and Gender in French Syria and Lebanon*. New York, Columbia University Press, 1999, “Introduction”

Week 6: The Orientalist Views

Edward Said, *Orientalism*, “Introduction”

Sarah Graham-Brown, *Images of Women: The Portrayal of Women in Photography of the Middle East, 1860-1950* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1988), Introduction and chapter 2

Week 7: The Study of Gender Evolves: The Classic

Fatima Mernissi, *Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in Modern Muslim Society*. Indiana University Press, 1987. Both Introductions (“Why Does the Veil Scare Europe?” and “Roots of the Modern Situation”) and “The Muslim Concept of Active Female Sexuality”

Mernissi, Fatima. *The Veil and the Male Elite: A Feminist Interpretation of Women’s Rights in Islam*. Reading, Mass: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co, 1991.

Week 8: Beyond “Beyond the Veil”

Suzanne Brenner, Suzanne, “Reconstructing Self and Society: Javanese Muslim Women and “the Veil.” *American Ethnologist*, 23(4), 1996, pp. 673-697.

Afsaneh Najmabadi, *Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards: Gender and Sexual Anxieties of Iranian Modernity*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. Chapter 5 (“Women’s Veil and Unveil”)

Week 9 – Iran

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*, (graphic novel)

Nahid Yeganeh, “Sexuality and Shi’a Social Protest in Iran,” in Nikki Keddie, *Women in the Middle East: Past and Present*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006

Week 10 – Masculinities

Farha Ghannam, *Live and Die Like a Man: Gender Dynamics in Urban Egypt* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2013), Chapters 3 and 4

Rudolf Pell, Gaudio. *Allah Made Us: Sexual Outlaws in an Islamic African City*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009, Chapters 1 and 3

Week 11 – Islamism

Zaynab al Ghazali, “Return to the Pharaoh,” *translated documents*.

Mahmood, Saba. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012, chapter 2 and 3.

Week 12 – Islamism

Lara Deeb, *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi’a Lebanon*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006, Introduction and Chapter 3

Shahnaz Khan, *Zina, Transnational Feminism, and the Moral Regulation of Pakistani Women*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 2006, pp. 56-82 (“Disobedient Daughters, Errant Wives, and Others”)

Week 13 – Women of ISIS

Riverbend. *Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog from Iraq*. New York: Feminist Press at CUNY, 2005 (pp 170-200)

Lughod, “Authorizing Moral Crusades,” (Chapter 3) *Do Muslim Women Need Saving*

Week 14 – Women, Identity, and Fashion

Brent Luvaas, "Shooting Street Style in Indonesia: A Photo Essay." *Clothing Cultures* 1, no. 1 (2014): 59-81

Annelies Moors, "NiqaBitch and Princess Hijab: Niqab Activism, Satire, and Street Art." *Feminist Review* 98, Islam in Europe (2011): 128-35.

Banu Gökarıksel, Anna Secor, "Between Fashion and Tesettür: Marketing and Consuming Women's Islamic Dress," *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 3, Special Issue: Marketing Muslim Women (Fall 2010), pp. 118-148

Viewing selections from "Caramel"