

History/NES 381B

**Global Islam:
History of Muslim Societies**

**Instructor: Leila Hudson
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-4:45pm
Harvill 203**

Islam is a religion based on principles of unity and universality. In becoming the faith of one fifth of the world's population, however, it has assimilated a myriad of different world cultures, and beyond the unifying core of its "five pillars," Islam has many different faces around the world. This class will examine how different societies - from the Middle Eastern heartland of Islam, to the most populous Muslim countries of Southeast Asia, to Africa, Central Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and minority communities in China and in the Western hemisphere have adopted and adapted this world religion. The class will be offered simultaneously with Arizona State University in video-linked classrooms, co-taught by a Middle Eastern specialist and an Indonesian specialist, and will include a series of guest lectures by the affiliated faculty of UA's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and the Department of Religious Studies and Center for Southeast Asian Studies at ASU. This class is supported by a University of Arizona New Learning Environments and Instructional Technology Grant, and students will have the opportunity to integrate web and video technology into their assignments and projects.

SYLLABUS

(this syllabus is subject to change)

Required Readings

Clifford Geertz – *Islam Observed*

Elizabeth Fernea – *A Street in Marakesh*

Barbara Metcalf (ed) – *Making Muslim Space*

Coursepack on electronic reserve to be updated weekly

Course Requirements

Ethnography of your religious culture – 25%

Research Project for web – 25%

Video project or research project – 25%

Final exam - 25%

Schedule

Unit 1 (Thursday, January 11) – Course overview and Introduction – Week 1

Lecture – Overview

Activity – Optional tour of Multimedia lab

Readings – Electronic Reserve

Unit 2 (January 16, 18) – Islamic Unity and Orthopraxis – Week 2

Lectures – Unity and Expansion

Control of Tradition

Video – Hajj

Readings – Electronic Reserve

Unit 3 (January 23,25) – Sufism – Week 3

Lectures – Psychology of Mysticism

Mysticism and Assimilation

Video – I am Sufi, Dervishes of Kurdistan

Readings – Electronic Reserve

Unit 4 – Ethnographies of Islam (Five weeks)

Gender, the ethnographer, technique

Java – Week 4 (January 30, February 1)

Lectures – Geertz's Java

Woodward's Java

Readings – Geertz, *Islam Observed*

and sections from Woodward, *Islam in Java* on electronic reserve

Maghrib – Week 5 (February 6, February 8)

Lecture – Dr. Julia Clancy-Smith, UA Department of History

Reading – Fernea, *A Street in Marrakech*

Video – Saints and Spirits

Iran and South Asia – Week 6 (February 13, 15)
Lecture – Dr. Anne Betteridge, UA Department of Anthropology
Lecture – Dr. Richard Eaton, UA Department of History
Reading – Loeffler, *Islam in Practice* on electronic reserve

Central Asia – Week 7(February 20,22)
Lecture – Dr. David Damrel, ASU Department of Religious Studies
Lecture – Post-soviet world
Possible guest lecture by Dr. Clifford Geertz, School for Advanced Study, Princeton University

Africa – Week 8 (February 27, March 1)
Lecture – Dr. Sani Umar, ASU Department of Religious Studies
Lecture – Dr Rudi Gaudio, UA Department of Anthropology
Reading –Launay, *Beyond the Stream*, on electronic reserve

Unit 5 – Analyzing Visual Ethnography – Week 9 (March 6, 8)
Lecture - Film in Anthropology
Video - El-Moulid
El-Sebou
Reading – *Making El-Sebou*

SPRING BREAK March 10-18

Unit 6 – Islam and Local Politics – Week 10-11 (March 20,22, 27,29)

Lecture – Islam in Syria
Lecture – Islam in Singapore
Lecture – Islam in the Arab Israeli Conflict
Lecture – Islam and Secularism in Turkey
Readings – on electronic reserve

Unit 7 – Globalization – Week 12 (April 3, 5)

Lecture - Information Technology in Islamic World
Controlling Religious Tradition in the 21st century
Video Project Discussion
Readings – Anderson and Eickelman on electronic reserve.

Unit 8 – Diaspora and Community Building – Week 13 (April 10,12)
Lecture – Islam in the West
Readings – Metcalf, *Making MuslimSpace* (selections)
Video – Islam in France

Unit 9 – Student Presentations – Week 14 (April 17,19, 24,26)

