

History/NES/WS 445/545
Fall 2003
TTh 12:30-1:45
Psych 204

Prof. Linda Darling
SS 231: 621-9754
Office Hours: T-2-5 and by appt.
ldarling@u.arizona.edu

WOMEN IN ISLAMIC HISTORY

This course is a combined graduate and undergraduate course covering the roles women have played in Islamic history and also the changing discourse in the Islamic community about women and their roles. No prior knowledge of the Middle East or of women's history is assumed, but those without any must be prepared to acquire some during the course. We will study the organization of the Islamic community and the place of women in it from the time of Muhammad to the present day, emphasizing public life and politics rather than the domestic sphere. We will identify changes over time in the activities of women and in Islamic legal and cultural positions regarding them. Finally, we will analyze the effects that the changing political and economic circumstances of the modern era have had on the place of women in Islamic society and on discussions about women and women's issues.

At the same time, we will become acquainted with the sources of evidence about women in Islamic history and the ways that evidence has been used to make arguments about gender. Islamic women's history is a contentious field, and opinions derived from personal commitments must be distinguished from arguments based on historical evidence. Students will be introduced to the ways in which Muslims recorded their own history and the problems that these records pose for modern historians.

The course will alternate between lecture and discussion. Lectures will outline the course of Islamic history and how to study women's place in it; discussions will focus on women's roles and activities and how they can be interpreted. Your presence and contribution are expected at all classes. Both lectures and discussions will assume that students have read the readings; for any discussion to be fruitful rather than frustrating, the assigned readings must be done before the class for which they are listed. Class participation will be evaluated for contributing to the issue, sticking to the point, knowledge, clarity, and courtesy. Short essays (about 2 pages) will be written in preparation for some discussions. Midterm and final exams will be in essay format. Undergraduates will also write a term paper due on the last day of class. Graduate students will have additional readings and additional meetings to discuss them; instead of the term paper they will write a research paper or bibliographical essay on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. Written work will be evaluated for addressing the question, accuracy and clarity, appropriate use of readings, proper spelling, grammar and usage, and original thought; late papers will be graded down. Plagiarism is against University rules and good academic practice and has disciplinary consequences. Grades will be determined as follows:

Final exam	30%	30%
Midterm	20%	20%
Graduate research paper	30%	30%
Undergraduate term paper	25%	25%
Class participation and short essays	25%	25%
	<u>Undergraduates</u>	<u>Graduates</u>

TEXTS FOR THE COURSE:

Required texts available in the bookstore and on reserve:

Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam*
 Fatima Mernissi, *The Forgotten Queens of Islam*
 Nikki Keddie and Beth Baron, eds., *Women in Middle Eastern History*
 C. Benard and E. Schaffer, *Veiled Courage: Inside the Afghan Women's Resistance*
 Recommended texts available in the bookstore and on reserve (required for grad students):
 Deniz Kandiyoti, *Gendering the Middle East*
 Margaret Meriwether, *A Social History of Women and Gender in the Middle East*
 Albert Hourani, *The History of the Arab Peoples*

Readings on reserve; individual articles below on electronic reserve:

Arberry, *The Koran Interpreted*
 Beck and Keddie, *Women in the Muslim World*
 Chaudhuri and Strobel, *Western Women and Imperialism*
 Esposito, John, *Women in Muslim Family Law*
 Fernea and Bezirgan, *Middle Eastern Muslim Women Speak*
 Hamby, Gavin, *Women in the Medieval Islamic World*
 Helly & Reverb, *Gendered Domains: Rethinking Public and Private*
 Johnson-Odim and Strobel, *Expanding the Boundaries of Women's History*
 Mazzaoui and Moreen, *Intellectual Studies on Islam*
 Mendus and Rendall, *Sexuality and Subordination*
 Mernissi, Fatima, *Beyond the Veil* (2nd ed., 1987)
 Olson and Ani, *Islamic and Middle Eastern Societies*
 Roded, Ruth, *Women in Islamic Biographical Collections*
 Said, Edward, *Orientalism*
 Sonbol, Amira, *Women, the Family, and Divorce Laws in Islamic History*
 Stowasser, Barbara, *Women in the Qur'an, Traditions and Interpretation*
 Walther, Wiebke, *Women in Islam*
 M. Smith, "The Woman Saint in the Dev. of Islam," *Muslim World* 17(1927):130-38
 M. Shatzmiller, "Aspects of Women's Participation in the Economic Life of Later Medieval Islam," *Arabica* 35 (1988): 36-58
 Graduate reserve in SS 217 and/or electronic reserve:
 J. Cole, "Feminism, Class, and Islam," *Int. J. of ME Studies* 13 (1981): 387-407
 J. Elias, "Female and Feminine in Isl. Mysticism," *Muslim World* 78(1988):209-24
 M. Fadel, "Two Women, One Man," *Int. J. of Mid. East Studies* 29(1997):185-204
 M. Hatem, "The Politics of Sexuality and Gender in Segregated Patriarchal Systems," *Feminist Studies* 12 (1986): 250-74
 A. MacLeod, "Hegemonic Relations and Gender Resistance," *Signs* 17 (1992): 533-57
 L. Peirce, "The Family as Faction," *Soliman le Magnifique et son temps*, 105-16
 D. Spellberg, "The Politics of Praise," *Literature East and West* 26 (1990): 130-48
 F. Zarinebat, "Economic Activities of Safavid Wm," *Iranian Stud.* 31(1998): 249-61

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Names preceding page numbers are book authors or editors; names after page numbers (in parentheses) are authors of individual articles within books. Note locations of readings. For those reading Hourani, appropriate pages are listed where they belong.

INTRODUCTION

- Aug. 26 Introduction
- Aug. 28 The Study of Middle Eastern Women
Keddie and Baron, 1-22 (Keddie)
Graduate students also read Kandiyoti, 1-28 (Kandiyoti); Meriwether, 1-24
- Sept. 2 Orientalism and the Muslim Woman - Discussion
Joanna de Groot, "Sex and 'Race': The Construction of Language and Image in the Nineteenth Century" (electronic reserve or Mendus and Rendall, 89-128, on regular reserve); Edward Said, Introduction to Orientalism, 1-28 (electronic or regular reserve)
- Sept. 4 Origins of Islamic History
Ahmed, 1-37; Hourani, 1-37
Graduate students also read Kandiyoti, 29-51 (de Groot); Hatem, "Through Each Other's Eyes" (Chaudhuri and Strobel, 35-58, regular reserve)
- Sept. 9 Women and Gender in the Pre-Islamic Period - Discussion
Keddie and Baron, 23-42 (Kandiyoti)

THE EARLY ISLAMIC PERIOD

- Sept. 11 Religion and State in Islamic Civilization
Ahmed, 39-63; Hourani, 38-79
Graduate students also read Barbara Stowasser, Women in the Qur'an, 13-38, 85-118 (regular reserve)
- Sept. 16 Women and the Rise of Islam - Discussion
Ahmed, 63-78; Arberry, "Selections on Women in the Qur'an" (electronic or regular reserve)
SHORT ESSAY #1 DUE
- Sept. 18 The Development of Islamic Institutions
Mernissi, 1-25; Hourani, 83-97, 147-188
Graduate students also read Ruth Roded, Women in Islamic Biographical Collections, introduction, chs. 3 & 4, and conclusion (regular reserve)

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD: CONCEPTS OF WOMEN

- Sep. 23 **Women and Hierarchies** Ahmed, 79-101; Mernissi, 26-67
- Sep. 25 **A'ishah and the Development of Models for Women - Discussion**
Keddie and Baron, 45-57 (Spellberg); Fernea and Bezirgan, "A'ishah bint Abi Bakr" (electronic reserve or Fernea and Bezirgan, 27-36, on regular reserve)
Graduate students also read Denise Spellberg, "The Politics of Praise" (graduate reserve or on library shelf)
SHORT ESSAY #2 DUE
- Sep. 30 **Women and Islamic Law**
Keddie, 74-95 (Sanders); Wiebke Walthers, "Woman in Islamic Law, in the Koran and in Tradition" (electronic reserve or Women in Islam, 47-72, on regular reserve)
Graduate students also read Mohammad Fadel, "Two Women, One Man" (graduate reserve or on library shelf); and John Esposito, Women in Muslim Family Law, chs. 1 and 2 (regular reserve)
- Oct. 2 **Women and Sufism - Discussion**
Margaret Smith, "The Woman Saint in the Development of Islam (electronic reserve or library shelf); Keddie and Baron, 254-274 (Clancy-Smith)
Graduate students also read Jamal Elias, "Female and Feminine in Islamic Mysticism" (graduate reserve or on library shelf)
- Oct. 7 **Women and Politics**
Mernissi, 71-178; Hourani, 189-205
Graduate students also read Leila al-Imad, "Women and Religion in the Fatimid Caliphate" (Mazzaoui and Moreen, 137-144, graduate or regular reserve); Remke Kruk, "The Bold and the Beautiful" (Hambly, 99-116, on regular reserve)
- Oct. 9 **Women in the Islamic Social Structure**
Keddie and Baron, 233-253 (Tucker); Hourani, 98-146
- Oct. 14 **MIDTERM**

MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN PERIODS: WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Oct. 16 **Women in the Medieval Economy - Discussion**
 Ahmed, 102-123; Maya Shatzmiller, "Aspects of Women's Participation in the Economic Life of Later Medieval Islam" (electronic reserve or on library shelf)
 Graduate students also read Fariba Zarinabaf-Shahr, "Economic Activities of Safavid Women" (graduate reserve or on library shelf)
 PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

Oct. 21 **Mamluk Egypt**
 Keddie and Baron, 122-142 (Petry), 143-157 (Berkey); Susan Staffa, "Dimensions of Women's Power in Historic Cairo" (electronic reserve or Olson and Ani, 62-99, on regular reserve)

Oct. 23 **Women in the Mamluk System - Discussion**
 Keddie & Baron, 99-121 (Lutfi)
 SHORT ESSAY #3 DUE

Oct. 28 **Women in the Ottoman Empire**
 Beck & Keddie, 229-260 (Dengler, Bates; electronic or regular reserve)
 Hourani, 209-262 (esp. 231-242, 253-262)
 Grad students read Leslie Peirce, "Beyond Harem Walls" (Helly, 40-55; on regular reserve); Fariba Zarinabaf-Shahr, "Women, Law, and Imperial Justice in Ottoman Istanbul in the Late Seventeenth Century" (Sonbol, 81-95, on regular reserve)

Oct. 30 **Harems and Power - Discussion**
 Leslie Peirce, "The Family as Faction: Dynastic Politics in the Reign of Süleyman" (electronic reserve); Mervat Hatem, "The Politics of Sexuality and Gender in Segregated Patriarchal Systems" (electronic reserve or library shelf)
 SHORT ESSAY #4 DUE

WOMEN AND MODERNIZATION

Nov. 4 **Imperialism and the Discourse on Women**
 Ahmed, 125-168; Hourani, 265-314 (esp. 299-314)
 Grad students also read Juan Cole, "Feminism, Class, and Islam" (graduate reserve or on library shelf); Meriwether, 63-87 (Hatem)

Nov. 6 **Films**
 Behind the Veil: Afghan Women under Fundamentalism
 Beyond the Veil: Are Iranian Women Rebellious?

Nov. 11	Veteran's Day: no class
Nov. 13	Women in a Changing Economy Keddie & Baron, 161-176 (Quataert), 195-214 (Friedl), 292-309 (Danielson) Grad students also read Keddie & Baron, 310-333 (Nelson); Meriwether, 25-62 (Clancy-Smith)
Nov. 18	Women, Families, and Legal Reform Ahmed, 169-207; Keddie & Baron, 275-291 (Baron); Hourani, 315-349 Graduate students also read Meriwether, 89-139 (Fleischmann), 141-175 (Moors)
Nov. 20	Women amid Conflicting Agendas Ahmed, 208-234; Keddie & Baron, 215-230 (Hegland); Hourani, 353-415 (esp. 373-400) Graduate students also read Janet Afary, "The Debate on Women's Liberation" (Johnson-Odim, 101-121, on regular reserve)
Nov. 25	Women and Cultural Revolution Film: "Divorce, Iranian Style" Ahmed, 235-248; Keddie and Baron, 292-309 (Danielson) Graduate students also read Kandiyoti, 51-68 (Paidar), 107-126 (Sharoni)
THANKSGIVING	
Dec. 2	Women and Islamism - Discussion Benard and Schläpfer, entire; Hourani, 416-433 Graduate students also read Meriwether, 177-212 (Hegland); Ariene MacLeod, "Hegemonic Relations and Gender Resistance" (graduate reserve)
Dec. 4	Women and Democracy? Mermissi, 179-189; Boutheina Cheriet, "Islamism and Feminism: Algeria's 'Rites of Passage' to Democracy" (electronic reserve); Hourani, 434-458
Dec. 9	Summary and Review: Women, Islam and Change Mermissi, "Introductions, "Beyond the Veil", 2nd ed., 1987, vii-24 (electronic reserve)
Dec. 16	TERM PAPERS DUE GRADUATE RESEARCH PAPERS DUE FINAL EXAMINATION 2-4 pm