

THEOLOGY 365-001

Spring Semester 2008

Theology 365 is not a Core Course in Theology

Women, Gender and Embodiment in Islam

TTh 1 – 2:15 PM

IC-111

Instructor: Dr. Marcia Hermansen

Office: Crown Center 441

Phone: 508-2345

Office Hours: T 2:30-3:30 or by appointment

E-mail mherman@luc.edu

Course Outline and Requirements:

Textbooks: Available at Campus Barnes and Noble or Becks Books

Leila Ahmed Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate.

Amina Wadud Quran and Woman

Fatima Mernissi Dreams of Trespass

Kecia Ali Sexual Ethics in Islam

Mohja Kahf Girl in the Tangerine Scarf

Leila Aboulela Minaret

Readings Package—see instructor

Website Blackboard

This class will be supported by images, sounds, and texts available through the class Website on Blackboard. Consult the Website in order to prepare for every class. Assignments and materials are available there under the “outline” function.

Consult the class Website regularly for more information and updates.

Course Content:

This course will consider women and gender roles in Islam as articulated in normative religious and legal systems and as embodied during various historical periods in a range of Muslim societies. In addition to reading a number of the most important academic studies in this field, we will consider anthropological and cultural materials including films and short stories that disclose Muslim practices and concepts of masculinity, femininity and gender relations. The role of women in Islam has been a source of perplexity and criticism in the eyes of the West. We will critically consider some current Western views of Muslim women as victims before reading translated Islamic texts on gender and examining evidence about women’s religious and social activities throughout Islamic history. These works include the Qur’an, legal texts, and biographies of women warriors, political leaders, religious scholars and Sufi mystics. Muslim apologists and feminists have used such materials in varying ways. In terms of examining embodiment in Islam, attitudes toward the body - involving sexuality, purity, segregation and seclusion - will be viewed in a comparative context. Finally, we look at Muslim women’s participation in contemporary religious and political movements worldwide, including in the West.

Course Objectives:

- *learn about Muslim women's lives in various regions and historical periods
- *understand religious and legal authority in Islam and its impact of the construction of gender
- *critically interpret and analyze information about Muslim women presented in various media such as short stories, novels, film, and academic studies--this will include understanding the background of contemporary intellectual and political movements in the Muslim World and globally, as well as academic currents such as Orientalism, feminism, and post-modernism
- *learn about contemporary issues impacting women and gender roles in Muslim societies

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Do all the readings and come to class on- time and prepared.

10%	For each class there will be 2 students assigned as resources or presenters on the readings (or other topics) and 2 as questioners. Points will be awarded for presence and quality of participation. Excessive absences or arriving at class consistently late will be penalized. Excused absences require notification of instructor ahead of time.
25%	Brief written summaries/reaction papers based on readings/films
20%	2 brief (4-5 page) papers
10%	Oral report
35%	2 Take Home Exams. Answers to be based on the readings, presentations, films, etc.
100%	TOTAL

Grading Scale

I compute grades based on a point system. Each paper and exam is assigned a certain number of points. For each exercise you will receive a number out of the total points possible based on your performance. These will be totaled up at the end of the semester and a number grade out of 100 points will be the result. This will be converted to the final letter grade according to the scale below. Assignments will lose a point for every day they are late.

A	93-100	C	72-74.5
A-	89-92.5	C-	69-71.5
B+	86-88.5	D+	66-68.5
B	81-84.5	D	58-65.5
B-	78-80.5	F	Below 58
C+	75-77.5		

Readings and Assignment Schedule

Note* This schedule is tentative. The pace of a class is affected by the quality of student preparation and involvement with the material. Classes that ask more questions and discuss more will proceed through the material more slowly, but gather depth along the way.

Introduction to the Course

Tues. Jan. 15	Introduction to Course Theories of Gender	
Thurs. Jan. 17	Video "Paradise is at the Feet of the Mother"	L. Ahmed (text) 11-37

Part One: NORMATIVE SOURCES: DOCTRINE

Tues. Jan. 22	Early Muslim Women Heroines and Role Models	L. Ahmed 41-63 Kecia Ali 135-150
Th. Jan. 24	Normative Doctrines: Qur'an Eve and Creative stories	Wadud (text) 1-43 Riffat Hassan web
Tues. Jan. 29	Women in the Qur'an (Mary, Zulaykha, etc.)	Wadud 44-105
Thurs. Jan. 31	Women in Islamic Law (Marriage)	Kecia Ali 1-23 Haeri article on Mut'a RP. pp. 1-11
Tues. Feb. 5	Women in Islamic Law (Divorce)	Kecia Ali 24-38 Film: Divorce Iranian Style
Thurs. Feb. 7	Women/Gender in Islamic Law (Lawful and Unlawful Sex)	Kecia Ali 56-74

Part Two: HISTORY AND ISSUES

Tues. Feb. 12	History-Early Muslim Women	Leila Ahmed 1-37, 64-78 Kecia Ali 39-55 (slaves)
Thurs. Feb. 14	Women in Medieval Islam Sufi Women	L. Ahmed 102-123
Tues. Feb. 19	Female Purity and Embodiment	Carol Delaney "Mortal Flow" "Untangling the Meaning of Hair" RP.12-37
Thurs. Feb. 21	Gender Identity/LBGT Muslims	Kecia Ali 75-96 article on "Gendering" R. P. 38-48
Tues. Feb. 27	Muslim Women (20 th C. Biography)	Mernissi 1-64
Thurs. Feb. 29	Muslim Women	Mernissi 67-155

Tues. March 4/6 Study Break

Tues. March 11 TAKE HOME DUE	Muslim Women	Mernissi 157-242
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Part III: MODERNITY, WOMEN AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Thurs. March 13	Muslim Women and Modernity Islamic Feminism(s)	L. Ahmed 127-188
T. March 18	Female Leadership and Women in Islamic Movements	L. Ahmed 189-248
Th. March 20	Novel- <u>Minaret</u>	1-106

T. March 25	Novel- <u>Minaret</u>	106-207
Thurs. March 27	Novel- <u>Minaret</u>	207-276
Tues. April 1	Movie: <u>Family Ties</u>	
Th. April 3	Issues-Veils and Veiling	Ahmed 144-168 Film
Tues. April 8	Issues -FMG (Circumcision)	Kecia Ali 97-111
Thurs. April 10	Issues-Honor, Power, and Class	Readings Pck. 2 stories from Pakistan 49-63 "Masculinities" R.P. 64-71
T. April 15	Kahf- <u>Girl in the Tangerine Scarf</u>	Kahf 1-148
Th. April 17	<u>Girl in the Tangerine Scarf</u>	Kahf 149-313
T. April 22	<u>Girl in the Tangerine Scarf</u>	Kahf 314-441
Th. April 24	Final Discussion	

Final Exam Date Friday May 2 1:00-3:00 PM

Note:

Essays: Each essay assignment is to be typed, double-spaced, and is to include paginated citations of texts used in support of each of your arguments. Papers must be handed in on time.

I urge you to meet with me to discuss your ideas, outlines and first drafts for the final paper and for the shorter assignments as well. I am willing to review rough drafts with you, since criticism and revision will improve the quality of work submitted for a grade.

Writing assignments and academic honesty. It is your responsibility to ensure that work you submit as your own is in fact your own, and that you properly acknowledge any sources from which you have taken ideas or phrasing. I will comply with Loyola University policies regarding plagiarism as outlined in the statement on the University website.

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml

This semester we will be using the Turnitin system to vet your assignments before you submit them

Student Instructions are at:

http://www.turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii_student_qs.pdf

Turnitin ID for this class is #2135807 Password is gender

Suggestions for Reading Assignments:

Read the selections assigned for each class session before the actual class. At first you may wish to quickly review the material so as to isolate the main issues.

When you do your own preparatory reading, take notes, highlighting the ideas which you find most important. Note ideas with which you disagree.

If you have any questions, if there are concepts or terms which you don't understand, note them down and bring your questions to class.

Bring these materials to class so that they will be available to you during the lectures and discussion.

I encourage any student needing to request accommodations for a disability to meet with me and contact **Services for Students With Disabilities** (Sullivan Center Suite 260) at your earliest convenience to ensure timely and appropriate accommodations.