**IAFS 3010: Islam, Geopolitics and Society**

**Course Description**

This course will examine Islam, geopolitics and society through the lens of gender, race, and culture in various locations throughout the globe, such as Afghanistan, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel/Palestine, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Yemen. We will explore questions about geographic space, gender, and Islam such as: What constitutes a Muslim Space or the Muslim World? Who decides and defines these spaces? How are theses spaces gendered, demarcated by racial categories and influenced by political Islam, Islamic practice, Islamic Feminism and counter-Islamic politics? How do men and women’s experiences of Islam vary and in what ways are they represented and contextualized by personal practice in comparison with political action? How does the gendering of places differ by context, custom, beliefs, or power structures in different locations? We will also explore how geopolitically contingent discourses shape representations of Muslim people and places associated with Islam.

The course materials will address the following topics:

1. Understanding Islam and Setting the Historical Context
2. Gender, Identity and Islam
3. Do Muslim Women Need Saving?
4. Body Politics: Geopolitics, Gender and Islam
5. Islamic Masculinities: Gender, Culture, Migration, and Politics

*Dr. Jennifer Fluri (Ph.D, Pennsylvania State University) is a feminist political geographer, with a concentration in conflict, security, and aid/development in South and Southwest Asia. Her doctoral research focused on the use of public and private space by the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), a clandestine feminist-nationalist organization. Her post-doctoral research project examined the spatial arrangements, interactions, and gender roles within the international "community" in Kabul, Afghanistan in comparison with the "local" Afghan population. Her current research focuses on the geopolitics and geo-economics of gender, security, and violence in the regions of biometrics, biotechnologies, and gender-based military operations.*