

If you are graduating in August 2024 and using this course to fulfill your senior seminar requirement, please contact your IAFS advisor and email me. You will need to complete a research paper of 15-20 pages.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will examine Islam, geopolitics, and society over time and across geographic spaces. We will begin with an overview of Islam as a religion, belief system, legal framework, and method of social and political organizing and influence. This will be followed by an overview of the many manifestations of political Islam both historically and in various contemporary states and by transnational non-state groups. Further examinations of geopolitics and society will include Islam in popular culture, both self-depictions and depictions by non-Muslims. The final section of the class will examine gender and politics.

The course materials will address the following topics:

1. Overview of the Islamic Religion
2. Political Islam
3. Islam and Gender
4. Islam, Geopolitics and Popular Culture
5. Islam and Music

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate a competence of knowledge about Islam and Islamic practice.
- Provide a basic overview of political Islam.
- Explain the complexities of gender, politics and various aspects of Islam in popular culture as they intersect with various Muslim identities.
- All learning outcomes will also be continually evaluated throughout the term in the form of on-line discussion forums, weekly papers, and culminate with a final open book essay/exam.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

- All email correspondences for this course should be sent to: emsw3115@colorado.edu
- Emails will typically be answered Monday through Friday ONLY. I aim to answer emails within one business day, but if I have not responded after a day and a half, please feel free to send a polite follow-up email
 - Emails should be formal, kind, and courteous. It's easy to lose sight of the "human" aspect when we are asynchronous, but keep in mind that there is a real person on the other side of your email! Plus, being kind is always much more helpful when finding solutions to problems.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the [classroom behavior](#) policy, the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. The CU Boulder campus is currently mask-optional. However, if public health conditions change and masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more information, see the policy on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct. If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling safety measures related to infectious disease, please follow the steps in the "Accommodation for Disabilities" statement on this syllabus.

If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, you should stay home and follow the [further guidance of the Public Health Office](#) regarding how long to stay in isolation. If you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19, you do not need to stay home. {Faculty: insert your procedure here for students to alert you about absence due to illness or isolation. Because of FERPA student privacy laws, do not require students to state the nature of their illness when alerting you. Do not require "doctor's notes" for classes missed due to illness; campus health services no longer provide "doctor's notes" or appointment verifications.}

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the [Honor Code website](#).
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination and harassment, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who believe they have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are made aware of any issues related to these policies regardless of when or where they occurred to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and resolution options. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit [Don't Ignore It](#).

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, **please let Professor Swertfeger know the first week of class if you need any accommodations due to religious observances**. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Academic Assessment

Weekly Papers

You are required to complete four short papers responding to questions associated with the readings and/or films assigned each week. **Questions will be provided in the Assignments section on Canvas.**

- Week 1: Paper Due: Monday, June 10, by 1 pm MDT
- Week 2: Paper Due: Monday, June 17, by 1 pm MDT
- Week 3: Paper Due: Monday, June 24, by 1 pm MDT
- Week 4: Paper Due: Monday, July 1, by 1 pm MDT
- Each paper must be:
 1. Typed, **Single spaced** with 1" margins; 12-point Times New Roman font; Left justified.
 2. A minimum of 3 pages and a maximum of 4 pages.
 3. Uploaded to the Canvas assignments by the specified date/time listed above.
 4. Use Chicago-style footnote citation, with a bibliography at the end

Participation in on-line Discussions

- Discussion Boards will be posted weekly or bi-weekly. You must post your comment by the day it is assigned, and respond to AT LEAST one comment per discussion post by the Sunday of that week by midnight.
- Discussion topics will be provided each week on Canvas.

Final Exam

The final exam will be an open-book exam to test your knowledge and understanding of the course materials. To best prepare for this exam: 1) keep up with the course readings, 2) review the lectures and your course notes, and 3) comments on your weekly paper assignments

Assignments and the Final Exam are due on the date specified in the syllabus, unless otherwise noted by Professor Swertfeger.

Late Assignments will **NOT BE ACCEPTED** without prior permission from me. Late Assignments are subject to a 10% grade reduction per each day late.

Grade Percentages:

Assignment	Percentage of Total Grade
Response Papers:	40% (each paper is 10% of your grade x 4 papers = 40 %)
Discussion Board	40% (Each post is worth 10 points, 7 points for your own post, and 3 points for your response)
Final Exam	20 %

Questions About Grades

All questions or concerns about grades **MUST** be submitted **IN WRITING** by **EMAIL** within two business days of receiving your grade. I will not respond to questions posted on the comments of assignments, as I do not see these.

COURSE SCHEDULE/MODULES

WEEK 1: Understanding Islam and Setting the Historical Context

Assignments due this week:

-Wednesday by midnight: Discussion board post

-Sunday by midnight: Respond to post

Monday

- Watch: Lecture 1: General Overview and Islamic Faith and Practice
- Watch: Introduction and Overview of Course
- Complete: Intro Form
- Read: *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* - Chapters: General Information and Faith.
- Watch: Basics of Islam

Tuesday

- Watch: Day 2 video and announcements
- Read: *Orientalism* by Edward Said- Introduction
- Watch: Edward Said on Orientalism
- Read: Criticisms of *Orientalism*

Wednesday

- Read: *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* - Chapters: Islam and Other Religions and Customs and Culture
- Watch: Lecture 1: Islam and Other Religions
- Watch: Lecture 2: Customs and Culture

Thursday

- Read: *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* - Chapters: Violence & Terrorism, and Society, Politics & Economy
- Select passages from Quran
- Watch: Lecture 3: Violence & Terrorism
- Watch: Lecture 4: Society, Politics and Economy

Friday

- Read: *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* - Chapter: Muslims and the West
- Watch: Lecture 5: Muslims and the West

WEEK 2: Political Islam

Assignments due this week:

-Monday at 1 pm: Paper #1

-Wednesday by midnight: Discussion board post

-Sunday by midnight: Response to post

Readings/Lectures by Day:

Monday

- Read: *The Many Faces of Political Islam*, Chapter 1: Defining Concepts and Demolishing Myths and Chapter 2: Islam's Multiple Voices
- Watch: Lecture 6: Defining Concepts and Demolishing Myths
- Watch: Lecture 7: Islam's Multiple Voices

Tuesday

- Read: *The Many Faces of Political Islam*, Chapter 3: Self-Proclaimed Islamic States, and Chapter 4: Between Ideology and Pragmatism.
- Watch: Lecture 8: Self-Proclaimed Islamic States
- Watch: Lecture 9: Between Ideology and Pragmatism

Wednesday

- Read: *The Many Faces of Political Islam*, Chapter 5: Muslim Democracies and Chapter 6: Islamist National Resistance
- Watch: Lecture 10: Muslim Democracies
- Watch: Lecture 11: Islamist National Resistance

Thursday

- Read: *The Many Faces of Political Islam*, Chapter 7: Violent Transnationalism
- Watch: Lecture 12: Violent Transnationalism

Friday

- Read: *The Many Faces of Political Islam*, Chapter 8: The Many Faces of Political Islam
- Watch: Lecture 13: The Many Faces of Political Islam

WEEK 3: Islam and Gender

Assignments due this week:

-Monday at 1 pm: Paper #2

-Wednesday by midnight: Discussion board post

-Sunday by midnight: Response to post

Monday

- Watch: Lecture 14: Islam, gender, and geopolitics
- Read: Salaymeh, Lena. "Women and Islamic law: Decolonizing colonialist feminism." In *The Routledge Handbook of Islam and Gender*, edited by Justine Howe, 1st ed., 2020.

Tuesday

- Watch: Lecture 15: Women's voices
- Watch: Islam, Women, and Me (posted to Canvas)
- Watch: I'm Bored of Talking About Muslim Women (posted to Canvas)
- (Optional) Watch: In Full Voice (posted to Canvas)

Wednesday

- Watch: Lecture 16: Islam and Clothing: Part A
- Read: Tanis, Fatma. "Women across Iran Are Refusing to Wear Headscarves, in Open Defiance of the Regime." *NPR*, March 13, 2023.
- Read: George, Susannah, Nilo Tabrizy, and Jonathan Baran. "Iran Expands Public Crackdown on Women and Girls, Sparking Public Anger." *The Washington Post*, April 25, 2024.

Thursday

- Watch: Lecture 17: Islam and Clothing: Part B
- Read: Hancock, Claire, and Virginie Mobillion. 2019. "'I Want to Tell Them, I'm Just Wearing a Veil, Not Carrying a Gun!' Muslim Women Negotiating Borders in Femonationalist Paris." *Political Geography* 69 (March): 1–9.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2018.11.007>.

Friday

- Watch: Lecture 18: Islamic Dress for Men and Muslim Dandies
- Read: Khabeer, Su'ad Abdul. 2017. "Muslim Dandies." *Anthropology News* 58 (5): e47-54.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/AN.602>.

WEEK 4: Geopolitics, Islam, and Popular Culture

Assignments due this week:

-Monday at 1 pm: Paper #3

-Wednesday by midnight: Discussion board post

-Sunday by midnight: Response to post

Monday

- Read: Hamdan, Ali Nehme. 2016. "Breaker of Barriers? Notes on the Geopolitics of the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham." *Geopolitics* 21 (3): 605–27.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2016.1138940>.
- Watch: Lecture 19: Geopolitics & Humor Overview/Crisis Events and Inter-Scalar Politics of Humor

Tuesday

- Watch: Lecture 20: Humor and Islam: Controversy and Use
- Read: Fluri, Jennifer L. 2019. "What's so Funny in Afghanistan?: Jocular Geopolitics and the Everyday Use of Humor in Spaces of Protracted Precarity." *Political Geography* 68 (January): 125–30.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2018.08.011>.
- Watch: Assim Al-Hakeem Funny Moments:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0BHccxsME0>

Wednesday

- Watch: Lecture 19: Comedic Representation of Islam
- Watch: Little Mosque on the Prairie, Episode 1: <https://tubitv.com/tv-shows/584463/s01-e01-little-mosque>
- Watch: Little Mosque on the Prairie, Episode 2: <https://tubitv.com/tv-shows/584464/s01-e02-the-barrier>

Thursday

- Watch: Lecture 20: Representations of Islam in art
- Read: Winegar, Jessica. 2008. "The Humanity Game: Art, Islam, and the War on Terror." *Anthropological Quarterly* 81 (3): 651–81. doi:10.2307/25488228.
- Read: Behiery, Valerie. "Imaging Islam in the Art of Arwa Abouon." *Journal of Canadian Art History / Annales d'histoire de l'art Canadien* 33, no. 2 (2012): 128–47. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42616595>.
- View: Virtual art gallery (to be posted on Canvas)

Friday

- Watch: Lecture 12: Islam, Memes, and Social Media
- Read: Ali Imron. 2019. "THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION, HADITH MEMES, AND IDENTITY POLITICS: The New Face of Political Contestation in Contemporary Indonesia." *Ulul Albab* 20 (2): 255–83. doi:10.18860/ua.v20i2.5675.

Week 5: Islam & Music and Final Exam

Assignments due this week:

-Monday by 1 pm: Paper #4

-Friday: Final exam

Monday:

- Read: TBD
- Watch: Lecture: Islam and Music
- Watch: Music Videos

Tuesday

- **Watch:** Lecture: Islam in American Hip Hop
- **Read:** Khabeer, Suad Abdul. "Rep that Islam1: the rhyme and reason of American Islamic hip hop." *The Muslim World* 97, no. 1 (2007): 125.
<https://search.proquest.com/docview/216440478/fulltextPDF/F97E33FEB105416APQ/1?accountid=14503>

Wednesday

- Watch: Lecture: Islam in Worldwide Music
- Read: TBD

Thursday

- July 4, holiday, no class

Friday

- **Take the Final Exam**

IAFS 3010: Islam, Geopolitics and Society (Summer A Session, 2024)

Professor: Emily Swertfeger