

IAFS 3010: Islam, Geopolitics and Society (Summer 2020)

Professor: Jennifer L. Fluri, PhD

If you are graduating in August 2020 and using this course to fulfill your senior seminar requirement, please contact your IAFS advisor and email Dr. Fluri. 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 the use of humor by Muslims for various social and geopolitical purposes and targeted at or against Muslims. The final section of the class will examine gender and body politics through sartorial geopolitics and the relationship between American hip-hop, popular music, and Islam.

The course materials will address the following topics:

1. Overview of the Islamic Religion
2. Political Islam
3. Islam, Geopolitics and Humor
4. Body Politics: Islam, Gender, and Sartorial Geopolitics

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, body politics, and economics 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: Jennifer.Fluri@Colorado.Edu or Neda.Shaban@Colorado.Edu
- **For Emails, please enter in the subject line: “Islam, Geopolitics and Society” OR “IAFS-3010”.**
- Emails will be answered Monday thru Friday ONLY. Emails will be responded to within a minimum of 24 hours and maximum of 48 hours from the time sent.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Accommodations

If you qualify for specific accommodations, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (<https://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/>) and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious Observances

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, should you have a religious commitment that conflicts with your participation, please speak with Professor Fluri **before the end of the first week of the course** to discuss appropriate accommodations.

<https://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-absences-classes-or-exams>

On-line Classroom Policy

Course Policy: Participation in the discussion board is a graded part of this.

University Policy: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students' express their opinions

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at:

<https://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-course-related-behavior>

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination-harassment-policy>

Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council. Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). <https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/honor-code>

Sources and Citations: <https://libguides.colorado.edu/strategies/citations>

Academic Assessment

Weekly Papers

You will be asked to write 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 8, 2020 by 5 pm MST
- Week 2: Paper Due: Monday, June 15, 2020 by 5 pm MST
- Week 3: Paper Due: Monday, June 22, 2020 by 5 pm MST
- Week 4: Paper Due: Monday, June 29, 2020 by 5 pm MST

Each paper must be:

1. Typed, **Single spaced** with 1" margins; 12-point Times New Roman font; Left justified
2. A minimum of 2 pages and maximum of 4 pages
3. Uploaded to the Canvas assignments by the specified date/time listed above.

Participation in on-line Discussions

- Discussion Boards will be posted weekly, beginning at **8 am (MST)** on Monday thru **11 pm (MST)** on Friday. Required weekly post to the discussion must occur within this time period.
- Discussion topics will be provided each week on the course website.
- To meet the minimum requirement for class participation, each week you must answer all of the discussion prompts on the discussion board between Monday and Wednesday and respond to at least one other student's posts by the end of the day on Friday. ***You are welcome to post more!***

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 Fluri. Late Assignments will **NOT BE ACCEPTED** without prior permission from Professor Fluri. 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% (10 % each week x 4 weeks of discussion board posts = 40 %)
Final Exam	20 %

Questions About Grades

Any and all grade questions or concerns **MUST** be submitted **IN WRITING** by filling out a grade inquiry form within two (2) business days from receiving your grade. Grade questions after this time will NOT be honored. Please see the course's website to download Dr. Fluri's Grade Inquiry Form.

COURSE MATERIALS

Week 1:

- Esposito, John L. (2011) *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam*. Second Edition. Oxford University Press. E-book Available through the Campus Library:
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ucb/detail.action?docID=800838>
Kindle E-book available (you can download a free kindle app to read this digitally)
- Film: *Inside Mecca*, Anisa Mehdi, *National Geographic Special*, 2003 (Available on Canvas).

Week 2:

- Ayooob, Mohammed and Danielle N. Lussier. (2020) *The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in Muslim Societies*, 2nd Edition. University of Michigan Press. E-Textbook Available on Amazon and University of Michigan Press,
https://www.press.umich.edu/11448768/many_faces_of_political_islam_second_edition

Week 3:

- 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>.
- Ridanpää, Juha. 2019. "Crisis Events and the Inter-Scalar Politics of Humor." *GeoJournal* 84 (4): 901–15. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-018-9900-5>
- Film: *The Muslims are Coming!* A film by Negin Farsad and Dean Obeidallah, 2013 (Available on Canvas).
- Hirzalla, Fadi, and Liesbet van Zoonen. 2016. "‘The Muslims Are Coming’: The Enactment of Morality in Activist Muslim Comedy." *HUMOR* 29 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2015-0125>.
- 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>.

Week 4:

- 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>.
- Gökariksel, Banu, and Anna J. Secor. 2015. "Islam on the Catwalk: Marketing Veiling-Fashion in Turkey." In *The Changing World Religion Map*, edited by Stanley D. Brunn, 2581–95. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-017-9376-6_135.
- Jones, Carla. 2010. "Images of Desire: Creating Virtue and Value in an Indonesian Islamic Lifestyle Magazine." *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies* 6 (3): 91–117. <https://doi.org/10.2979/MEW.2010.6.3.91>.
- Khabeer, Su’ad Abdul. 2017. "Muslim Dandies." *Anthropology News* 58 (5): e47–54. <https://doi.org/10.1111/AN.602>.

Week 5:

- 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>

COURSE SCHEDULE/MODULES

WEEK 1: Understanding Islam and Setting the Historical Context

Assignments due this week:

- **Discussion Board Posts for Week 1**

Reading:

Esposito, John L., (2011) *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam*. Oxford University Press.

E-book: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ucb/detail.action?docID=800838>

Film:

- *Inside Mecca*, Anisa Mehdi, *National Geographic Special*, 2003.

Readings/Films/Lectures by Day:

Monday

- Read: *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* - Chapters: General Information and Faith.
- Watch: Lecture 1: General Overview and Islamic Faith and Practice

Tuesday

- Watch: *Inside Mecca*, Anisa Mehdi, *National Geographic Special*, 2003.

Wednesday

- Read: *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* - Chapters: Islam and Other Religions and Customs and Culture
- Watch: Lecture 2: Islam and Other Religions
- Watch: Lecture 3: Customs and Culture

Thursday

- Read: *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* - Chapters: Violence & Terrorism, and Society, Politics & Economy
- Watch: Lecture 4: Violence & Terrorism
- Watch: Lecture 5: Society, Politics and Economy

Friday

- Read: *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* - Chapter: Muslims and the West
- Watch: Lecture 6: Muslims and the West

WEEK 2: Political Islam

Assignments due this week:

- **Paper #1 Due 5pm (MST) Monday, June 8, 2020**
- **Discussion Board Posts for Week 2**

Reading:

- Ayooob, Mohammed and Danielle N. Lussier. (2020) *The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in Muslim Societies*, 2nd Edition. University of Michigan Press.
E-Textbook Available on Amazon and University of Michigan Press,
https://www.press.umich.edu/11448768/many_faces_of_political_islam_second_edition

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 7: Defining Concepts and Demolishing Myths
- Watch: Lecture 8: 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 9: Self Proclaimed Islamic States
- Watch: Lecture 10: Between Ideology and Pragmatism

Wednesday

- Read: *The Many Faces of Political Islam*, Chapter 5: Muslim Democracies and Chapter 6: Islamist National Resistance
- Watch: Lecture 11: Muslim Democracies
- Watch: Lecture 12: Islamist National Resistance

Thursday

- Read: *The Many Faces of Political Islam*, Chapter 7: Violent Transnationalism
- Watch: Lecture 13: Violent Transnationalism

Friday

- Read: *The Many Faces of Political Islam*, Chapter 8: The Many Faces of Political Islam
- Watch: Lecture 14: The Many Faces of Political Islam

WEEK 3: Geopolitics, Islam, and Humor

Assignments due this week:

- **Paper #2 Due 5pm (MST) Monday, June 15, 2020**
- **Discussion Board Posts for Week 3**

Readings/Film:

- Hamdan, Ali Nehme. 2016. "Breaker of Barriers? Notes on the Geopolitics of the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham." *Geopolitics* 21 (3): 605–27
- Ridanpää, J. 2019. "Crisis Events & the Inter-Scalar Politics of Humor." *GeoJournal* 84 (4): 901–15.
- *The Muslims are Coming!* A film by Negin Farsad and Dean Obeidallah, 2013
- Hirzalla, Fadi, and Liesbet van Zoonen. 2016. "'The Muslims Are Coming': The Enactment of Morality in Activist Muslim Comedy." *Humor* 29 (2).
- 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.

Readings/Films/Lectures by Day:

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 15: Breaker or Barriers? Notes on the Geopolitics of the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham

Tuesday

- Read: Ridanpää, Juha. 2019. "Crisis Events and the Inter-Scalar Politics of Humor." *GeoJournal* 84 (4): 901–15. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-018-9900-5>
- Watch: Lecture 16: Geopolitics & Humor Overview/Crisis Events and Inter-Scalar Politics of Humor

Wednesday

- Watch: *The Muslims are Coming!* A film by Negin Farsad and Dean Obeidallah, 2013

Thursday

- Read: Hirzalla, Fadi, and Liesbet van Zoonen. 2016. "'The Muslims Are Coming': The Enactment of Morality in Activist Muslim Comedy." *Humor* 29 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2015-0125>.
- Watch: Lecture 17: The Muslims are Coming Film review and analysis

Friday

- 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: Lecture 18: What's So Funny in Afghanistan?

WEEK 4: Body Politics: Islam, Gender, and Sartorial Geopolitics

Assignments due this week:

- **Paper #3 Due 5pm (MST) Due Monday, June 22, 2020**
- **Discussion Board Posts for Week 4**

Readings:

- Hancock, C., and V. Mobillion. 2019. "I Want to Tell Them, I'm Just Wearing a Veil, Not Carrying a Gun!" *Political Geography* 69 (March): 1–9.
- Gökarıksel, Banu, and Anna J. Secor. 2015. "Islam on the Catwalk: Marketing Veiling-Fashion in Turkey." In *The Changing World Religion Map*, Springer Press.
- Jones, Carla. 2010. "Images of Desire: Creating Virtue and Value in an Indonesian Islamic Lifestyle Magazine." *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 6 (3): 91–117.
- Khabeer, Suad Abdul. 2017. "Muslim Dandies." *Anthropology News* 58 (5): e47–54.

Readings/Lectures by Day:

Monday

- Watch: Lecture 19: Overview of the Sartorial Geopolitics

Tuesday

- 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>.
- Watch: Lecture 20: Muslim Women Negotiating Borders in Femonationalist Paris

Wednesday

- Read: Gökarıksel, Banu, and Anna J. Secor. 2015. "Islam on the Catwalk: Marketing Veiling-Fashion in Turkey." In *The Changing World Religion Map*, edited by Stanley D. Brunn, 2581–95. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-017-9376-6_135.
- Watch: Lecture 21: Islam on the Catwalk/Veiling Fashion in Turkey

Thursday

- Read: Jones, Carla. 2010. "Images of Desire: Creating Virtue and Value in an Indonesian Islamic Lifestyle Magazine." *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 6 (3): 91–117.
<https://doi.org/10.2979/MEW.2010.6.3.91>.
- Watch: Lecture 22: Indonesian Islamic Lifestyle Magazine and Fashion

Friday

- Read: Khabeer, Su'ad Abdul. 2017. "Muslim Dandies." *Anthropology News* 58 (5): e47–54.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/AN.602>.
- Watch: Lecture 23: Muslim Dandies

Week 5: Islam & American Hip-Hop and Final Exam

Assignments due this week:

- **Paper #4 Due 5pm (MST) Due Monday, June 29, 2020**
- **FINAL EXAM, Due Thursday, July 2, 2020 by 11 pm (MST)**

Reading:

- Khabeer, Suad Abdul. "Rep that Islam1." *The Muslim World* 97, no. 1 (2007): 125.

Lectures/Information by Day:

Monday:

- 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>
- Watch: Lecture 24: Islam and Hip Hop in the US

Tuesday

- Watch: Lecture 25: Review for Final Exam

Wednesday

- Reading/Study Day

Thursday

- Final Exam