

## **IAFS 3010: Islam, Geopolitics and Society (Summer A Session, 2023)**

Professor: Jennifer L. Fluri, PhD

**If you are graduating in August 2023 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](mailto:Jennifer.Fluri@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**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Fluri 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 12, 2023, by 5 pm Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)
- Week 2: Paper Due: Monday, June 19, 2023, by 5 pm MDT
- Week 3: Paper Due: Monday, June 26, 2023, by 5 pm MDT
- Week 4: Paper Due: Monday, July 3, 2023, by 5 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 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 (MDT)** on Monday (Tuesday for Week 1) thru **11 pm (MDT)** on Friday. Required weekly post to the discussion must occur between 8 am (MDT) Monday and 11 pm (MDT) Friday.
- 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 questions/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:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Grade</b>
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

All questions or concerns about grades **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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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): 261-278. <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>.
- Gökarkınel, 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](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): 47–54. <https://doi.org/10.1111/AN.602>.

### Week 5:

- Khabeer, Suad Abdul. "Rep that Islam I: 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?account\\_id=14503](https://search.proquest.com/docview/216440478/fulltextPDF/F97E33FEB105416APQ/1?account_id=14503)
- *The New Muslim Cool*. Film Directed By Jennifer Maytorena Taylor.

## **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 (MDT) Monday, June 12, 2023**
- **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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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 (MDT) Monday, June 19, 2023**
- **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 (MDT) Due Monday, June 26, 2023**
- **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](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 (MDT) Due Monday, July 3, 2023**
- **FINAL EXAM, Due Friday, July 7, 2023 by 11 pm (MDT)**

Reading:

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

Film:

- *The New Muslim Cool*. Film Directed by Jennifer Maytorena Taylor.

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**

- **July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday, no class.**

### **Wednesday**

- Watch: *The New Muslim Cool*. Film Directed By Jennifer Maytorena Taylor.

### **Thursday**

- Watch: Lecture 25: Review for Final Exam
- Study Day

### **Friday**

- **Take the Final Exam**