

**SOC. 490/REES 490/WS 492:
WOMEN AND ISLAM: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Time: MW 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Location: B844 East Hall
Instructor: Professor Fatma Müge Göçek
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
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Even though everyone seems to have an opinion about women and Islam few have systematically analyzed the topic through a series of questions. For instance, how has this relationship developed? What similarities and differences are there across time and place? Is this the right relationship to query about? Why or why not? These are some of the questions this course endeavors to explore.

The readings for the course are available on *CTools*. The course grade will be based on **class participation [20% of the grade], one midterm on 16 February 2011 Wednesday [40% of the grade] and one final paper [40% of the grade]**. The approximately 12-14 page long final paper can be on any topic that relates to women throughout the world in so far as it employs, in addition to multiple scholarly references, the material learned in class. Students are welcome to stop by my office hours or contact me by e-mail to discuss possible topics; later in the course, I shall also be distributing a handout on guidelines to follow in writing the paper. The final paper is **due electronically on 25 April 2011 Monday by midnight**.

COURSE OUTLINE

Jan. 5 W	<i>Introduction</i>
Jan. 10 M	<i>Approaches I: Religion in Sociology</i>
Jan. 12 W	<i>Approaches II: Gender in Sociology</i>
Jan. 17 M	MLK Day: No class
Jan. 19 W	<i>Approaches III: Women's Studies and Third-World Women</i>
Jan. 24 M	
Jan. 26 W	<i>Approaches IV: Enlightenment, Imperialism and Orientalism</i>
Jan. 31 M	
Feb. 2 W	<i>Religion of Islam</i>
Feb. 7 M	<i>Women and Islam</i>
Feb. 9 W	
Feb. 14 M	No Class -- Prepare for Midterm
Feb. 16 W	MIDTERM EXAMINATION [40% of grade]
Feb. 21 M	<i>Social Practices: (i) Saudi Arabia</i>
Feb. 23 W	
Feb. 28 M	Winter Break
Mar. 2 W	Winter Break
Mar. 7 M	<i>Social Practices: (ii) Iran</i>
Mar. 9 W	

Mar. 14 M	<i>Social Practices: (iii) Egypt</i>
Mar. 16 W	
Mar. 21 M	<i>Social Practices: (iv) Turkey</i>
Mar. 23 W	
Mar. 28 M	<i>Social Practices: (v) Europe</i>
Mar. 30 W	
Apr. 4 M	<i>Social Practices: (vi) USA</i>
Apr. 6 W	
Apr. 11 M	<i>Conclusion</i>
Apr. 13 W - 18 M	No class -- work on Final Paper.
Apr. 25	FINAL PAPER DUE [40% of grade]

COURSE READINGS

Jan. 5 W *Introduction*
Film: "Muslims...in the 21st Century" by A. Perlmutter and A. Mehdi H9607 43219.DV 2003
 120 minutes

Jan. 10 M *Approaches I: Religion in Sociology*

Bell, Catherine (2006)
 "Paradigms Behind (And Before) the Modern Concept of Religion." *History and Theory* 45/4:
 27-46. [19 pp.]

Jan. 12 W *Approaches II: Gender in Sociology*

Deutsch, Francine (2007)
 "Undoing Gender." *Gender & Society* 21/1: 106-27. [21 pp.]

Jan. 17 M

MLK Day: No class

Jan. 19 W *Approaches III: Women's Studies and Third-World Women*

Film: "Women of Islam: Veiling and Seclusion" by Farheen Umar H6238 39898.DV 50 minutes

Andersen, Margaret (2005)
 "Thinking about Women: A Quarter Century's View." *Gender & Society* 19/4: 437-55. [18 pp].

Chopra, Sherry (2004)
 "In Spite of Challenges by "Black" and "Third World" Women, Do Mainstream Feminist
 Theories Still Reflect the Concerns of White Women?" *Journal of International Women's
 Studies* 5/2: 21-8. [7 pp.]

Jan. 24 M

Rupp, Leila (2006)

“Is the Feminist Revolution Still Missing? Reflections from Women's History.” *Social Problems* 53/4: 466-72. [6 pp.]

Abu Lughod, Lila (2002)

“Do Muslim women really need saving? Anthropological reflections on cultural relativism and its others.” *American Anthropologist* 104/3: 783-90. [7 pp.]

Jan. 26 W

Approaches IV: Enlightenment, Imperialism and Orientalism

Film: “Edward Said on Orientalism” 38444.DV H4862 40 minutes

Burke, Edmund (1998)

“Orientalism and World History: Representing Middle Eastern Nationalism and Islamism in the Twentieth Century.” *Theory and Society* 27/4: 489-507. [18 pp.]

Jan. 31 M

Weber, Charlotte (2001)

“Unveiling Scheherezade: Feminist Orientalism in the International Alliance of Women, 1911-50.” *Feminist Studies* 27/1: 125-57. [32 pp.]

Abu-Lughod, Lila (2001)

“Orientalism and Middle Eastern Feminist Studies.” *Feminist Studies* 27/1: 101-13. [12 pp.]

Feb. 2 W

Religion of Islam

Film: “What is Islam?” J4701 25 minutes

Shaikh, Munir (2005)

“What Teachers Need to Know About Islam.” *Phi Delta Kappa* 529: 7-30. [23pp.]

Hassan, Riffat (1996)

“What Islam Teaches about Ethics and Justice.” *U.S. Catholic* 61: 15-19. [4 pp.]

Abdul Rahman, Noor Aisha (2007)

“Changing Roles, Unchanging Perceptions and Institutions: Traditionalism and Its Impact on Women and Globalization in Muslim Societies in Asia.” *Muslim World* 97/3: 479-507. [28 pp.]

Feb. 7 M

Women and Islam

Film: “Women and Islam: Interview with Leila Ahmed” V8483 26902.VH 30 minutes

Ahmed, Leila (1986)
“Women and the Advent of Islam.” *Signs* 11/4: 665-91. [26 pp.]

Badran, Margot (2005)
“Between Secular and Islamic Feminism/s: Reflections on the Middle East and Beyond.”
Journal of Middle Eastern Women’s Studies 1/1: 6-28. [22 pp.]

Feb. 9 W

Barlow, Rebecca and Shahram Akbarzadeh (2006)
“Women’s Rights in the Muslim World: Reform or Reconstruction?” *Third World Quarterly*
27/8: 1481-94. [13 pp.]

Hashim, Iman (1999)
“Reconciling Islam and Feminism.” *Gender and Development* 7/1: 7-14. [7 pp.]

Feb. 14 M **No class -- prepare for midterm**

Feb. 16 W **MIDTERM EXAMINATION [40% of grade]**

Feb. 21 ***Social Practices: (i) Saudi Arabia***

Film: “Saudi Solutions” by Bregjte van der Haak H10220 43644.DV 2006 77 minutes

Pharaon, Nora Alarifi (2004)
“Saudi Women and the Muslim State in the Twenty-first Century.” *Sex Roles* 51/5-6: 349-66. [17 pp.]

Mishra, Smeeta (2007)
“‘Liberation’ vs. ‘Purity’: Representations of Saudi Women in the American Press and American Women in the Saudi Press.” *Howard Journal of Communications* 18: 259-76. [17 pp.]

Feb. 23 W

Vogel, Frank (2003)
“The Public and the Private in Saudi Arabia: Restrictions on the Powers of Committees for Ordering the Good and Forbidding the Evil.” *Social Research* 70/3: 749-68. [19 pp.]

Vidyasagar, Girija and David M. Rea (2004)
“Saudi Women Doctors: Gender and Careers within Wahhabic Islam and a ‘Westernised’ Work Culture.” *Women’s Studies International Forum* 27/3: 261-80. [19 pp.]

Feb. 28 M **WINTER BREAK**

Mar. 2 W **WINTER BREAK**

Mar. 7 M

Social Practices: (ii) Iran

Film: “Mrs. President: Women and Political Leadership in Iran” J5690 41102.VH 47 minutes

Bahramistash, Roksana (2007)

“Iranian Women during the Reform Era, 1994-2004.” *JMEWS* 3/2: 86-109. [23 pp.]

Afshar, Haleh (2007)

“Muslim Women and Feminism: Illustrations from the Iranian Experience.” *Social Compass* 54/3: 419-34. [15 pp.]

Mar. 9 W

Shavarini, Mitra (2006)

“Wearing the Veil to College: The Paradox of Higher Education in the Lives of Iranian Women.” *IJMES* 38: 189-211. [22 pp.]

Ahmadi, Feresteh (2006)

“Islamic Feminism in Iran: Feminism in a New Islamic Context.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 22/2: 33-53. [20 pp.]

Mar. 14 M

Social Practices: (iii) Egypt

Film: “Remaking the World” 24017.VH 60 minutes.

El-Safty, Madiha (2004)

“Women in Egypt: Islamic Rights versus Cultural Practice.” *Sex Roles* 51/5-6: 273-81. [8 pp.]

Elsadda, Hoda (2007)

“Imaging the ‘New Man’: Gender and Nation in Arab Literary Narratives in the Early Twentieth Century.” *Journal of Middle Eastern Women’s Studies* 3/2: 31-55. [24 pp.]

Mar. 16 W

Baron, Beth (2006)

“Women, Honour and the State: Evidence from Egypt.” *Middle Eastern Studies* 42/1: 1-20. [19 pp.]

Khatib, Lina (2006)

“Nationalism and Otherness: The Representation of Islamic Fundamentalism in Egyptian Cinema.” *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 9/1: 63-80. [17 pp.]

Mar. 21 M

Social Practices: (iv) Turkey

Film: “Power of Place: the challenge of Islam” ANNE POWE 17/18 UM Flint 29 minutes each.

Holly Shissler (2007)

“If You Ask Me:’ Sabiha Sertel’s Advice Column, Gender Equity and Social Engineering in the Early Turkish Republic.” *Journal of Middle Eastern Women’s Studies* 3/2: 1-30. [29 pp.]

Gocek, Fatma Muge (1999)

“To Veil or Not To Veil: The Contested Location of Gender in Contemporary Turkey.” *Interventions* 1/4: 521-35. [14 pp.]

Mar. 23 W

Gul Aldikacti-Marshall (2005)

“A Comparison of Feminist and Islamist Women’s Approaches to the Issue of Headcovering and Work in Turkey.” *Gender and Society* 19/1: 104-20. [16 pp.]

Ayse Saktanber (2006)

“Women and the Iconography of Fear: Islamization in Post-Islamist Turkey.” *Signs* 32/1. [6 pp.]

Mar. 28 M

Social Practices: (v) Europe

Film: “Future of Islam in Europe” 36379.VH 57 minutes 2003.

Body-Gendrot, Sophy (2007)

“France Upside Down over a Headscarf?” *Sociology of Religion* 68/3: 289-304. [15 pp.]

Mas, Ruth (2006)

“Compelling the Muslim Subject: Memory as Post-colonial Violence and the Public Performativity of ‘Secular and Cultural Islam.’” *Muslim World* 96/4: 585-616. [21 pp.]

Mar. 30 W

Brown, Katherine (2006)

“Realising Muslim Women’s Rights: The Role of Islamic Identity among British Muslim Women.” *Women’s Studies International Forum* 29: 417-30. [13 pp.]

Motha, Stewart (2007)

“Veiled Women and the Affect of Religion in Democracy.” *Journal of Law and Society* 34/1: 139-62. [23 pp.]

Apr. 4 M

Social Practices: (vi) USA

Film: “Nazrah: A Muslim Woman’s Perspective” by Farah Nousheen 40217D 55 minutes.

Naber, Nadine (2006) “Arab-American Femininities: Beyond Arab Virgin American(ized) Whore.” *Feminist Studies* 32/1: 87-111. [24 pp.]

Jamal, Amaney (2005)
“Mosques, Collective Identity and Gender Differences among Arab American Muslims.” *Journal of Middle Eastern Women’s Studies* 1/1: 53-78. [25 pp.]

Apr. 6 W

Curtis, Edward (2005)
“African-American Islamization Reconsidered: Black History Narratives and Muslim Identity.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 73/3: 659-84. [25 pp.]

Wyche, Karen Fraser (2004)
“African American Muslim Women: An Invisible Group.” *Sex Roles* 51/5-6: 319-28. [9 pp].

Dix-Richardson, Felecia (2002)
“Resistance to Conversion to Islam among African American Women Inmates.” *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation* 35/3-4: 109-25. [16 pp.]

Apr. 11 M

Conclusion

Apr. 13-18 WM

NO CLASS - Work on Your Final papers

Apr. 25 M

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE [40% of the grade]