

Religion 25

Islam in America: A Regional Variety of Islam v.2

Course Meeting Time: 12 Hour (MWF 12:30-1:35; x hour Tue 1-1:50)

Instructor: Kevin Reinhart

Office: 315 Thornton

Tel.: 646-3204

Office Hours: XX and by appointment.

Class meets in : 201F Carpenter

I do check the blitz on weekdays, but blitzmail is no substitute for a conversation. For any substantial question or discussion, for any discussion of assignments or your work, please drop by during office hours.

Information about the instructor and his requirements for papers etc. can be found at www.dartmouth.edu/~akr. Some selected websites pertaining to North American Islam can be found on my website (under construction). I would welcome any suggestions for websites you might have.

Course Description: Islam in North America: A Regional Variety of Islam Muslims and Islamicists alike speak of Islam as if it were an undifferentiated item, the same in its essence whether in the Philippines or in Philadelphia. In this course we will consider North American Islam as a particular example of a regional variety of Islam. By looking at Islam on this continent we can examine the ways in which Islam is both a trans-local and local phenomenon, and examine the ways in which it has spread. We will particularly examine Humphrey Fisher's paradigm of Islamic conversion, and we will briefly compare it to other areas in which Islam has become a local religion. **PHR; NA**

Texts (available from Wheelock Books only)

Smith, Jane I.: *Islam in America*

Ruthven, Malise: *Islam: A Very Short Introduction*

Austin, ed., *African Muslims in Antebellum America: Transatlantic Stories and Spiritual Struggles*

Turner, *Islam in the African-American Experience*

Autobiography of Malcolm X

Geneive Abdo, *Mecca and Main Street*

Readings from "Blackboard" (all readings not in texts will be found on Blackboard)

Assignments:

After discussion: Two pages due per week, on Monday (or Friday), 5 weeks (30%). A circa 12-15 page paper, topic agreed with the Prof., (possible topics distributed), due the 28th of February, with an automatic extension till the last day of class (45%).

Class presentations of drafts?

Attendance: For a smallclass /seminar, attendance and participation is required. (25%)

Month	Day	Topic	Reading
Jan	5	Introduction to the Class	For Monday: Listen to the audio file on blackboard (c. 1 hour)
	8	“What is “Islam?”	Smith: <i>Islam</i> , Chap. 1 & 2; Ruthven, <i>Islam, A Very Short Introduction</i> Chap 1, 2, 4, 6, appendix;
	10	“What is “Islam?” II	‡Stone, “ Estimate of Muslims Living in America”
	12	Thinking about “Islam in Place”	‡Fisher, “Conversion Reconsidered...: ‡Reinhart, <i>Koine & Cosmopolitan Islam</i> ;
		Quarantine Islam	
	17	The Background to American Islam	<i>Turner, Chapter 1</i> <i>African Muslims</i> , Chap. 1, 2
	19	Islam Among Slaves; General and Celebrated Cases	Smith: <i>Islam</i> pp. 76-78; <i>African Muslims</i> , Chap. 3, 4, 5
	22	“Syrian” and “Turkish” Emigration; “Native Islam”: Muhammad Russell Webb	Smith: <i>Islam</i> , Chap. 3; ‡ <i>Muslim Communities</i> , Chap 9; Chap. 17; Smith: <i>Islam</i> , Chap.pp.189-190; ‡Turner 2 and 3
		Mixing Islam	
	24	Visit with Ms Okolo Rachid (format to be determined)	
	26	The Ahmadiyya and non-Ethnic Islam	<i>Turner</i> Chapter 4; ‡ <i>Mission to America</i> Chap. 3;

	29	African-American Islam I	‡Readings from Joel Chandler Harris: “The Sea Island Hurricane;[from] The Story of Aron ben Ali Smith: <i>Islam</i> , pp. 78-103
	31	African-American Mixing Islam I	‡Readings from “Elijah Muhammad” (read/skim); <i>Turner 3,5.</i> Beynon, “Voodoo Cult” (skim)
Feb	2	African-American Mixing Islam II	Autobiography of Malcolm X, Reading all of it is painless; it’s a great book. Pay special attention to chapters 10-19
	5 & 7	African-American Mixing Islam III Discussion with Professor C. Hardy	‡Allen: “Identity and Destiny” skim to 179; read 179-end; ‡Allen: “Heterodoxy and Nationalism” Choose something to read from one of the following FBI files— http://foia.fbi.gov/foiaindex/foiaindex.htm —: Nation of Islam, Muhammad , Elijah, Fard, Wallace D. They are alphabetical; for Elijah Muhammad, go to the index entry “M” and click on the file. etc..
	12	American Sufism; Rumi Film and Discussion	‡Bartlett, “The Mystics” http://www.sunnah.org/ ESPECIALLY THE SECTION "CARTOONS" LINK: http://www.hayatidede.org/
	14	Ethnic Islam: 1960-1990; “Tales of Arab Detroit”	‡ <i>Muslim Communities</i> , Chap 1, 15, 16.
		Reform Islam?	
	16	the Future of African American Islam	‡ <i>Jackson, Islam and the Blackamerican</i> 4, 5.
	19	The Mosque in America	‡Danin, “Island in a Sea of Ignorance”; Abdo Chapter 1; ‡Slyomovics, “Muslim World Day Parade and Storefront Mosques in NYC”; ‡Khalidi, “Approaches to Mosque Design in North America”

	21	The Sociology of American Islam; Islamic Activism in North America	Smith: <i>Islam</i> , Chap. 5, 6,7; ‡Delorenzo, “The <i>Fiqh Counciler in North America</i> ”
	23	Issues of Gender	Abdo, , Chapter 2, 6
	26	Issues of Gender	‡McCloud, “African-American Muslim Women”
	28	Two Crises in American Islam: (I) News from Abroad; : (II) Local Events	Abdo Chapter 4,5
March	2	9/11 Changed Everything; the Future of Islam in America	Smith: <i>Islam</i> , Chap.8; Abdo, Chapter 7, 8
	5	Class Presentations	
	7	Class Presentations	