**HRS 145: Islamic Cultures**  
Spring 2007 T-Th 12-1:15  
GE Area C1

**Course Description**  
This course is a survey of the expression of Islamic religious values in philosophy, theology, art, architecture, music, and literature from 622 C.E. to the present. The origin and rise of the religion of Islam and the contribution of Muslim poets, writers, artists of both genders and other transmitters of the Islamic multicultural legacy are examined.

This section offers the student an overview of the many ways in which Islam is practiced, understood, and expressed in different cultural contexts and in different cultural forms throughout the world. We will look at artistic traditions, Islamic thought, and living life as a Muslim; we will cover the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas. Throughout the term, we will consider the cultural interpretation of the religion, and how religious belief and commitment are expressed in poetry, art, architecture and music.

**Texts:**  
- *Wedding of Zein*, Tayeb Saleh  
- *Layla and Majnun*, Nizami  
- *Muslims Through Discourse*, John R. Bowen  
- *One Woman’s Jihad: Nana Asma’u, Scholar and Scribe*, Beverly Stack  
- *Islam in Transition*, Donohue and Esposito, eds. (noted as D&E below)  
- *Reader* available at University Copy and Print, 446 Howe Ave. (behind Tokyo Fros on Fair Oaks Blvd.)

**Websites:**  
- Qur’an Reference Website:  [www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/quran/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/quran/)  
- General Islamic Studies:  [www.uga.edu/islam](http://www.uga.edu/islam)  
- Art and Architecture:  [www.taj-mahal.net](http://www.taj-mahal.net)  
  - [www.al-hambra.org](http://www.al-hambra.org)  
  - [www.lib.unc.edu/art/islamicart.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/art/islamicart.html)

**Course Requirements and Grading**  
10% Class Attendance, Participation  
30% Term paper  
30% Midterm exam (15% take home essay portion, 15% in class portion)  
30% Final exam (15% take home essay portion, 15% in class portion)

In addition to lectures, discussion of the readings, films, and audio materials is essential to the learning process. Participation in class is thus strongly encouraged, and I may ask students to present readings to the class throughout the semester. Furthermore, during some class periods we will do small group work—you need to have all reading assignments completed so you don’t frustrate others in the group.

- Midterm and Final Exams  
  - Exams will have two components: a take home-essay, and a short in-class exam.  
  - Make-up exams are not permitted.
• Term paper
  o The paper should be 8-12 pages on a topic of your choice relevant that is relevant to the
    class. You will be required to do outside research for the paper/presentation. Please see
    me to get approval for your final topic before you begin researching.
    ▪ You must hand in a 1-page research prospectus in March.
    ▪ You must hand in an annotated project bibliography one month before the
      papers are due.
    ▪ One week before papers are due, we will have an in-class paper workshop—
      you’ll exchange papers and comment upon them.
  o Any plagiarism and cheating will result in an automatic “F” for the course and you will be
    turned into the CSUS Judicial Affairs Officer

Learning Goals: At the end of the semester, students in HRS 145 will be able to:
• Understand how Muslims in varied cultural contexts have interpreted Islamic texts and ideas in different ways
• Describe important cultural and artistic moments in and contributions of the Islamic world throughout history
• Explain the importance of understanding variations in Islamic expression and belief in today’s world

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Optional: Esposito, ch 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Introduction, continued</td>
<td>Reader: Karamustafa, “Islam: A Civilizational Project in Process” Optional: Esposito, ch 3-4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Film: Muslims (first half)</td>
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<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Sacred Texts: The Qur’an and Hadith</td>
<td>Reader: “Approaching the Qur’an,” trans. by Sells</td>
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<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>The Visual Arts: Calligraphy</td>
<td>Reader: “Arabic Script” and “Women’s Roles in the Art of Islamic Calligraphy”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Library Day: BEGIN RESEARCH</td>
<td>Layla and Majnun, pp 1-68</td>
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<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Arabic and Persian Folklore</td>
<td>Layla and Majnun, pp 68-177</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
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<td>March 6</td>
<td>Islamic Thought and Poetry: Nana Asma’u, poet</td>
<td>One Woman’s Jihad: pp 1-30, 76-91, 94-96</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Nana Asma’u: continued</td>
<td>One Woman’s Jihad: pp, 120-126, 127-131, 137-156</td>
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<td>Research Paper Proposal Due: 1 page</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Reading/Notes</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td>Swahili Islamic Epic Poetry Zanzibar Slides</td>
<td>Reader: Knappert (trans.) “The Poem of the Ladder”</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>20th Century Literature: Tayeb Salih</td>
<td>Salih: pp 31-120; (optional pp 1-31)</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>The Visual Arts: Sufi Art in Urban Senegal</td>
<td>Reader: “Intro: Aura and Icon in Contemporary Senegal”</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM (take home portion due today)</td>
<td>None—prepare for exam</td>
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<td>March 27-29</td>
<td><em>Spring Break</em></td>
<td>Term paper research</td>
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<td>South Asia</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Film: <em>Muslims</em> (second half)</td>
<td>Read for paper! bibliography due in one week</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Mughal Literature The Visual Arts: Mughal Art and Architecture</td>
<td>Reader: “Mughal Poetry,” and TBA</td>
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<td>Website: <a href="http://www.taj-majal.net">www.taj-majal.net</a></td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>Modern Islamic Thought: Sayyid Ahmed Khan Term Paper Annotated Bibliographies Due</td>
<td>D&amp;E: Khan, “India and the English Government” and “Islam: The Religion of Reason and Nature”</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Modern Islamic Thought: Iqbal, Mawdudi &amp; the Creation of Pakistan</td>
<td>D&amp;E: Iqbal, “A Separate Muslim State” and Mawdudi, “Nationalism and Islam”</td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td>Sufi Practice in modern South Asia: Performance and Politics Audio: Qawwali</td>
<td>Reader: Ernst, “Sufi Music and Dance” and Rozehnal: “Faqir or Faker?”</td>
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<td>Southeast Asia</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Ritual and Worship in a Modern Islamic Culture (students lead discussion)</td>
<td><em>Muslims through Discourse</em>, Ch. 1-2, 4</td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>Ritual and Worship in a Modern Islamic Culture (students lead discussion)</td>
<td><em>Muslims through Discourse</em>, Chs. 5, 6, 9</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Ritual and Worship in a Modern Islamic Culture (students lead discussion)</td>
<td><em>Muslims through Discourse</em>, Chs 11-13</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>Writing Workshop: Bring Term Paper Drafts Term Paper Drafts Due!! Bring Three copies</td>
<td>In-Class Writing Workshop</td>
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<td>Europe and North America</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Film: TBA</td>
<td>D&amp;E: Nasr “Reflections on Islam and the West”</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td>Headscarf Debate in France and England</td>
<td>Reader: Bowen, “Muslims and Citizens” and TBA</td>
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<td>May 15</td>
<td>Modern Islamic Thought: Amina Wadud and Tariq Ramadan</td>
<td>D&amp;E: Wadud: “Rights and Roles of Women” and Ramadan “The Arab World…”</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
<td><em>Final Papers Due!!</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (take home portion due today)</td>
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