Globalization and the Muslim World

Dr. Zenciri
Providence College
Spring 2019
PSC 470

Course Description
Conventional wisdom often presents the view that there is a “clash” between the West and the Muslim World. As a result, Muslims are frequently portrayed as either victims of or as resisting dynamics of globalization. Even scholarship on the topic of globalization and Islam disproportionately focuses on how globalization and the spread of Western culture negatively affects those who belong to the Islamic faith. In this view, globalization is seen as a process that operates independently of the contributions of Muslims themselves. In contrast, in this course, students will be introduced to an alternative perspective which approaches Muslims as “agents” of globalization, instead of situating them at the margins of key cultural, economic and political processes. The course will cover a wide range of topics, such as Islamic banking, Islamic finance, women’s rights, human’s rights, minority rights, terrorism and the internet.

Learning Objectives
- Learn about the heterogeneity of Islam as a lived reality of contemporary Muslims around the globe.
- Develop an understanding of Islam as a global religion.
- Describe the geographic and demographic characteristics of Muslim regions and significant minority populations in Europe and North America.
- Become conversant with important concepts and enduring institutions related to Muslim societies.

Readings
All students are required to come to class having completed the readings for that class meeting.

- In addition to these books, we will read a wide range of articles which will be provided in a reader to students.

Grade Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take Home Essays</td>
<td>%20 x2 = %40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>%20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper Total</td>
<td>%40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>%5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Abstract and Outline</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>%25</td>
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</tbody>
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Some Key Points

Attendance and Participation: This class combines a lecture format with a heavy emphasis on class participation. You need to come to class prepared to discuss the readings, and take initiative during our class meetings. Attendance is mandatory. You will lose points if you do not come to class or if you fail to participate in discussions.

Use of Technology: You are not allowed to use laptops, tablets or cellular phones during this class. If I notice that you are checking email, chatting, facebook-ing, surfing the web, and/or typing at a weird moment, you might be asked to leave class and it may negatively impact your participation grade. Cellphones should be stored in your bag, backpack, pocket or purse. Texting is not allowed!

Courtesy: It is important to maintain courtesy for other people and their opinions while discussing political issues. Listening to the points of others respectfully and not disrupting them is of utmost importance. If you are disruptive to the sharing of ideas and opinions, you may be asked to leave class and it may negatively impact your participation grade.

Entry and Exit: You are expected to come to class on time. If you need to leave early please let me know before class starts.

Difficulties: If you ever are having challenges with the material, the lessons, or the assignments, it is best to contact me as soon as possible. I am happy to help, but please note that there is little chance of significant grade improvement at the end of the semester.

Part 1: Theories and Encounters

Week I
Introduction: The Myth of Clash

Week II
Theories of Globalization
- Chapter 1, “Globalization: Consensus and Controversies,” from Pieterse.
- Friedman, “The Lexus and the Olive Three: Understanding Globalization.” [R]
- Stiglitz, “Globalism’s Discontents.” [R]

Week III
Theories of Globalization Cont’d

Week IV

Globalization and Muslims: Resistance, Exclusion or Hybridity?

- Cooke, Miriam and Burce Lawrence (2005). Muslim Networks from Hajj to Hip Hop, Chapel Hill: the University of North Carolina Press. [Selections]

Week V Movie: The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2012)

- Take Home Essay Due at the Beginning of Week VI.

Part 2: Global Flows in the Muslim World

Week VI
Political Economy (I): Islamic Banking and Finance

Week VII
Political Economy (II): Branding Islamic Products

Week VIII
Islam and the Question of Human Rights

Week IX
Uses and Abuses of the Internet
Week X

Migrants and Refugees
- Saskia Sassen, “Immigration in a Global Era.” [R]

Week XI

Women and Gender

Week XII

Terrorists and Their Others

Week XIII Movie: *The Square* (2013)
- Take Home Essay Due at the Beginning of Week XIV.

Week XIV

Islam in America

Week XV Student Presentations

Final Paper Due Date to be Announced.