

**Sacred and Ceremonial Textiles:
A Study of Various Rites of Passage
& Cultural Objects in Muslim Societies
Fall 2020**

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Course Description:

From the birth to death textiles, clothing, and other material culture affects our daily lives. The communicative power of textiles and other types of material objects reflects both the everyday and ceremonial lives of people in a society. Although this course focuses on textiles and material objects indigenous to the Islamic world, some examples of non-Muslim communities will be included to draw a comparison. An attempt will be made to shed light on the culture of various Islamic societies. The study of the social and historical background of a community is essential for the interpretation of meanings and symbolism associated with textiles and other elements of material objects. Such a study will be combined in the course with topics like ceremonial gatherings; ceremonial textiles; adornment (jewelry, tattoos, body-painting); body modifications (piercing and body-reshaping); and the role of material objects in public and private celebrations. One of the areas which material objects represent relates to practices of rituals, taboos, and rites of passage in the societies, which can be traced to the pre Islamic era. Muslim communities in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East will be the primary focus of the course, and an attempt will be made to trace the common origins of ritual practices and their representation as a result to of diffusion and contact with other regional practices. Course presentations will be supported by videos, slide show and various material objects.

Prerequisite: Upper Division Standing

Texts: Required Two Vol. Reader Packets
Purchase at Jenn's Copy & Binding -2518 Guadalupe.
Phone: 512- 482-0779

Grading

4 Quizzes (the lowest grade quiz will be dropped) = 30 pts. (30%) (each quiz= 10 pts.)

Exam #1= 30 pts. (30%)

Exam #2= 30 pts. (30%)

Class participations: writing and discussing weekly questions = 10 pts.(10%)

You are required to participate at least 10 times for a full 10 pts. credit

Final grades: I will be using plus /minus grading system - see the following information for a better idea.

http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/english/_files/pdf/faculty-resources/plus-minus_guidelines.pdf

PLUS/MINUS GRADING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Fall of 2009 is the first “plus/minus” semester for undergraduates. While faculty are not required to give out plus/minus grades, they are required to declare on their syllabus whether their grades will be plus/minus in nature. UT has thus afforded the freedom to give plus/minus grades, but has made no recommendations about how plus/minus grades should be determined. With that in mind, please follow these guidelines to avoid confusion. Every syllabus should: declare whether plus/minus grades will be given state clearly how grades will be calculated say whether (and how, and when) any grades will be “rounded” (students will invariably assume that rounding will occur in their favor) You should also: be uniform in grading, employing the same system for every student be consistent across multiple sections of large courses (e.g., E316K, etc.), with the same system applying equitably across various sections diligently follow the mathematical formula you place on your syllabus You are free, once again, to employ or not employ plus/minus grades. You are also free to devise a rubric of your own about what constitutes a “plus” or a “minus” in your class. Here is one such rubric, based on mathematical scores, along with some language concerning the “rounding” of numbers that you may use or not choose to use on your syllabi: Final grades will be determined on the basis of the following rubric. Please note: to ensure fairness, all numbers are absolute, and will not be rounded up or down at any stage. Thus a B- will be inclusive of all scores of 80.000 through 83.999. The University does not recognize the grade of A+.

A = 94-100

A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89

B = 84-86

B- = 80-83

C+ = 77-79

C = 74-76

C- = 70-73

D+ = 67-69

D = 64-66

D- = 60-63

F = 0-60

Here is a link to the University’s plus/minus page, with FAQ:

<http://www.utexas.edu/provost/planning/plus-minus/>

A 4 grade points

A- 3.67 grade points

B+ 3.33 grade points

B 3 grade points

B- 2.67 grade points

C+ 2.33 grade points

C 2 grade points

- C- 1.67 grade points
- D+ 1.33 grade points
- D 1 grade point**
- D- 0.67 grade points
- F 0 grade points**

Course Syllabus

Note: This is an ambitious plan! The schedule planned here is a guide and may change during the course of the semester. I will do my best to keep up and follow this plan. Each semester is different based on the number of students and / or pace of our class. Thus, we may need to adjust our plans accordingly. Any changes to this plan would be noted to all the students on Canvas/ email.

Starting to learn basics:

August -Wed.26

1-*Textiles as a form of Expression.

***Islamic Textile History : Early Islamic Textiles Images**
<http://www.textileasart.com/early-islamic-textiles-3056.htm>

***The Middle East**

***How the Middle East was invented**

August 28

2-Grant McCracken. Clothing as Cloth... Expressive Properties of Material Culture

August-Monday 31

3-Beverly Gorden. The Fiber of our Lives: A Conceptual Framework for Looking at Textiles' meanings

September Wed. 2

4-Robin O'Brian. Who Weaves and Why? Weaving, Loom Complexity and Trade

September Friday 4

5-Claire Nicholas. Of texts and Textiles...contemporary Moroccan

September Monday 7: No class meeting Labor-day Holiday

September Wed.9

6-Sonda Andrew Textiles Semantics: Considering a Communication based readings of Textiles

7-Kathryn S. March. Weaving writing and Gender

September Friday 11

8-Myrien Naji. Gender and Materiality in the making (Weaving in Southern Morocco)

**Islam: Jinns, Rites of Passage, Symbolism, Talisman
Commerce, and Material Culture**

September Monday 14

9-Myrien Naji. Gender and Materiality in the making (Weaving in Southern Morocco)

10-Qur'an and Jinns

September Wed.16

11-William C. Young. The Ka`ba, Gender, and the Rites of Pilgrimage

September Friday 18

12-Lila Abu-Lughod. Islam and the Gendered Discourses of Death

Quiz #1 - **Is time sensitive** -30 minutes allowed to reply and send it back to fshirazi@Austin.utexas.edu

the quiz contains all the materials covered (excluding today's assignment) Do not change the format- **Save it as word** document make sure you have your name on the test-fill up the text document **Save** it again- send me your finished test to my email

September Monday 21

13-Maria Judith Feliciano. Muslim Shrouds for Christian Kings.

14-Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood. Dressed in Ihram

September Wed.23

15-David Yelin. From white stone to blue bead

16-World Health Organization- Male Circumcision, Global Trends and Prevalence, Safety, and Acceptability

September Friday 25

17-Parviz Tanavoli- Lion Rugs from Fars (Iran)

September Monday 28

18-Mehlika Orakciogth. Enclothed cognition and hidden meanings in important Ottoman Textiles

19-*Samina Zia Sheikh. Persian Allegory of *Chinoiserie* Motifs-Dragon and Phoenix or *Simurgh*

September Wed.30

20-Faegheh Shirazi. Sterility, Childbirth, Taboos and popular Religious Practices.

21-Faegheh Shirazi. The *Sofreh*: comfort and community Among Women in Iran

Colonialism, and politics that influenced textiles

October Friday. 2

22-*Nazanin Hedayat Munroe. Wrapped Up: Talismanic Garments in Early Modern Islamic Culture

October Monday 5

Quiz #2- **Is time sensitive**- 30 minutes is allowed to reply and send it back to fshirazi@Austin.utexas.edu

the quiz contains all the materials covered since Quiz #1 (excluding today's assignment) Do not change the format- **Save it as word** document make sure you have your name on the test-fill up the text document **Save** it again- send me your finished test to my email

23-Heinrich Schmidt. Turkish Brocades and Italian Imitation.

October Wed. 7

24-Ruth Barnes- Indian Textiles for Island Taste (India)

25-Rahul Ramagundam. Khadi, and its Agency Organizing Structures of Philanthropic Commerce (India)

October Friday.9

Exam #1 – Is time sensitive- You have One hour 15 minutes to do this test. All the articles in the reader we have covered up to this point which also includes any additional readings and /or video clips assigned to students. Do not change the format- **Save it as word** document make sure you have your name on the test-fill up the text document **Save** it again- send me your finished test to my email **(DO Not send through Canvas)-** send it to fshirazi@Austin.utexas.edu

October Monday 12

26-Susan S. Bean. Gandhi and *Khadi*, the Fabric of Indian Independence (India)

27-Bernard S. Cohn. Cloth, Clothes, and Colonialism: India in the 19th Century (India)

October Wed 14

28-Nils Bubndt- Interview with an Ancestor: Spirit and Informants and the Politics of.. (Indonesia)

October Friday 16

29-*Jeni Allenby. Symbolic Defiance: Questions of Nationalism and Tradition in Middle Eastern Textiles (Palestine)

October Monday 19

30-Fiona Kerlogue- Interpreting Textiles as a Medium of Communication: Cloth and Community in Malay Sumatra (Malaysia)

October Wed. 21

31-Ayami Nakatani. Dressing Miss world with Balinese Brocades: The “Fashionalization” and “Heritization” of Handwoven Textiles in Indonesia (Indonesia)

October Friday 23

32-Irine Bogoslovskaye. The Soviet Invasion of Central Asian Applied Arts: How Artisans incorporated Communist Political Messages and Symbols

Sacred Textiles**October Monday 26**

33-Susan F. Rasmussen- Reflections on Witchcraft, Danger, and Modernity Among the Taureg (North Africa)

34-Aretha Oluwakemi Asakitikpi- Function of Hand-Woven Textiles among Yoruba Women in Southwestern Nigeria (Nigeria)

October Wed. 28

35-Ronald T. Marches. Sacred Textiles

36-Niky Guninder Jaur Singh- Sacred Fabric and Sacred Stiches: The Underwear of the Khalsa (Indian Sikh communities)

October Friday 30

37-Adeyinka Theresa Ajayi- Weaving in Ekiti Land, Nigeria: The Gendered Perspective

November Monday 2

Quiz #3- Is time sensitive -30 minutes is allowed to reply and send it back to fshirazi@Austin.utexas.edu

the quiz contains all the materials covered since Exam #1 which also includes any additional readings and /or video clips assigned to students (excluding today's assignment)- Do not change the format- **Save it as word** document make sure you have your name on the test-fill up the text document **Save** it again- send me your finished test to my email (**DO Not send through Canvas**)-

38-Susan M. Kenyon- Movable Feast of signs: Gender in Zar in Central Sudan

November Wed. 4

39-Elisha P. Renne. Water, Spirits, and Plain White Cloth: The Ambiguity of Things in Bunu Social Life (Central Nigerian- Yoruba People)

November Friday 6

41-Patricia Darish-Dressing for the next life: Raffia Textile Production and Use Among the Kuba of Zaire

November Monday 9

42-Stephani Bunn. Moving People and the Fabric of Society: The power of Felt Through Time and Place (Central Asia)

War, and disasters influencing Textiles

November Wed. 11

43-William Charland. War Rugs: Women documents of Conflict and hope.

November Friday 13

44-Kate Fitz-Gibbon. Something Borrowed, Something Red: Textiles in Colonial and Soviet Central Asia

Healing Textiles

November Monday 16

45-Ellison Banks Findly. A Protective Spirit in Lao-Tai Textiles. The *pii Nyak* and its Indian Antecedents

November Wed. 18

46-Mac Carocci. Textiles of Healing Native American AIDS Quilts

Reclaimed, Up-cycled, Recycled, Reused, Secondhand Textiles

November Friday 20

47-Lucy Norris. Trade and Transformation of Secondhand clothing: Introduction

November Monday 23

Quiz #4- Is time sensitive 30 minutes is allowed to reply and send it back to fshirazi@Austin.utexas.edu **(DO Not send through Canvas)**- the quiz covers all the materials since Quiz #3, which also includes any additional readings and /or video clips assigned to students. Do not change the format- **Save it as word** document make sure you

have your name on the test-fill up the text document **Save** it again- send me your finished test to my email

48- Carol Young, Charlotte Jirousek, Susan Ashdown. Undesigned: A study in sustainable design of apparel use post-consumer recycled clothing

November Wed. 25 **NO Class meeting Thanksgiving Holiday**

November Friday 27 **NO Class meeting Thanksgiving Holiday**

November Monday 30

49-Jana M. Hawley. Digging for Diamonds: A...Reclaimed Textiles Products

December Wed. 2

50-Lucy Norris. Recycling and Reincarnation: The Journeys of Indian Saris.

December Friday 4

This is your free day to get ready for the up-coming exam.

I will be available during the class time you could send me email and ask your questions if you need my help.

December Monday 7

Last day of the class

Exam #2- **Is time sensitive.** All the articles in the reader we have covered Since Exam #1 including any additional readings and /or video clips assigned to students Exam will be sent to all students through email attachment – Do not change the format- **Save it as word** document make sure you have your name on the test-fill up the text document **Save** it again- send me your finished test to my email **(DO Not send through Canvas)**-this is the email you should send it to: fshirazi@Austin.utexas.edu

Updated August 5, 2020