

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

Instructor: Professor Faegheh Shirazi
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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, bodypainting); 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

Requirements: Regular class attendance, active class participation, in class presentations, and contribution to class discussions, and two in class exams.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and counts towards student's final grade. Undocumented absence will affect the attendance grade.

Texts and Readings: Reader Packet

Grading:

Attendance	5% =5 pts.
Active Participation , and in class article presentation	10%=10 pts.
3 Quizzes (Lowest will be dropped)	20% = 20 pts.
First Exam	30%= 30 pts.
Second Exam	35%= 35 pts.

*Last revised Jan. 2022

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 the basics:

January 18.T

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**

Jan.20.Th

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

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

January 25.T

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

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

January 27.Th

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

7-**Kathryn S. March.** Weaving writing and Gender

February 1st. T

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

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

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

10-Qur'an and Jinns

February 3.Th

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

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

February 8.T

Quiz #1

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

14-Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood. Dressed in Ihram

February 10.Th

15-David Yelin. From white stone to blue bead

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

February 15.T

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

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

February 18.Th

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

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

February 22.T

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

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

February 24. Th

23-Heinrich Schmidt. Turkish Brocades and Italian Imitation.

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

March.1st. T

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

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

March 3. Th

Quiz #2

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

March 8.T

Colonialism, and politics that influenced textiles

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

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

March10.Th

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

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

****Spring Break No class on T 15, and Th.17**

March 22. T

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

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

March 24. Th

Exam #1

April 5.T

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

35-Ronald T. Marches. Sacred Textiles

April 7.Th

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

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

April 12. T

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

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

April 19.T

Quiz#3

40-John Pietion- Cloth and corps in Ebira (Nigeria)

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

42-Stephani Bunn. Moving People and the Fabric of Society: The power of Felt Through Time and Place (Central Asia) **not part of required reading**

War, and disasters influencing Textiles

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

April 21.Th

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

Healing Textiles

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

April 26.T

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

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

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

April 28. Th

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

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

May 3.T

No Class today -Free day for your study and review the materials

May 5.Th

Last day of class -Exam II

Last revised: January 2022