

Islam and Sexuality
(Writing Flag)
UGS Difficult Dialogues
Fall 2011

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Human sexuality has long been a source of fear and fascination, and a subject that powerful interests seek to control. Discourse on sexuality often focuses on the “other” as a way of defining the self. Hence, one dominant discourse and stereotype about "Islamic sexuality" portrays Muslim women as both submissive to and tightly controlled by men. “Islamic” views of sexuality have been subjects of curiosity, interest, and, in many cases, misunderstanding.

Ironically, debate on this topic is much more limited today than it was in the past. Various schools of Islamic law provide different interpretations of text and doctrine, all of which are Muslim. Thus, there are multiple “Islamic” views on sexuality. The schools of law vary, for instance, in the rulings about the permissibility of the use of contraceptives, abortion, and acceptance of homosexuality, lesbianism, transsexuality, bisexuality, cross-dressing, and gender re-assignment.

In this course, the students are introduced to many diverse issues of sexuality in Islam not only from the religious texts and their various interpretations, but also from cultural and political perspectives. To encourage the students to actively participate in this “difficult dialogue” course, the instructor will incorporate a variety of teaching materials and techniques such as videos, international news on current sexuality issues from around the world, and weekly in-class, ten-minute reaction writing about the class topic of the day. We will focus on putting into practice the principles of academic freedom and what academic freedom means on a college campus. In class discussions, the instructor will emphasize the value of mutual respect for individual personal beliefs as well as in the appropriate ways to express these beliefs and opinions.

Grading:

***Regular Attendance** 5%

***Active Class Participations** 5%

***Outside class assignments** (library attendance/ lecture series attendance/films assigned to view/ attending writing lab sessions) 10%

***2 In class writing** total of 10%

***In Class presentations** from assigned readings 10%

***First Short Research Paper** 20%

***Final Group Research** paper –assigned to groups total of 40% (divided between oral presentation (15%), and written paper (25%)-

Course Information

Academic Calendar

University of Texas at Austin link to the official academic calendar <http://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/10-11/>

Important Note to My Students:

1. Please note that all the written assignments will be checked, graded, and returned with comments for improvements.
2. **Late assignments** will not be accepted. The grade for any missed assignment will be a **zero**.
3. In class students' Weekly Presentation Assignments will be evaluated by your professor. The comments and evaluation will be returned to you before the end of the same class.
4. During the course of the semester we will be able to watch some video clippings or movies. I will announce the date and the time for these shows.

Grading System

Grading

Below please see my grading system used for this course:

96-100=A

90-95 = A-

86-89= B+

83-85= B

82-80= B-

76-79= C+

73-75= C

72-70= C-

66-69= D+

63-65= D

62-60=D-

59 and Below= F

Percentage of Distribution of Grade

1. Regular Attendance --5%

Attendance will be recorded on a regular basis. Only a documented medical or family emergency paper record may excuse you from a class attendance. Please be wise, attendance will affect your final grade for this course.

2- Active In-Class Participation—5%

3. Outside Class Assignments--10%

This may include library attendance/lecture series attendance/film attendance.

4. Quizzes--two quizzes 5% each (total of 10%)

5. Two In-Class Writings (total of 10%)

5. In-Class Presentations from assigned readings--10%

6. First short Research Paper--20%

First research paper 8-10 pages (double spaced) (excluding references/bibliography/and end notes).

7. Final Group Research Paper--assigned to groups 40%

Grade for this portion of course is divided into two parts: oral presentation (15%), and written portion (25%).

All the members in the group will share the grade for both the oral and written part of this final group research project equally. More detailed information is prepared in a separate document and will be posted online regarding effective writing and other important information for writing a successful research paper.

Final research paper is a group project. The number of people in each group will be determined according to the total number of students in our class during each semester. This number may fluctuate between 2-4 members per group. Thus, the length of the final research paper may vary depending on the number of the students in each group from 20-30 pages (double-spaced, excluding references/bibliography/ and endnotes).

All the final research papers are due on the last day of our class meeting at the beginning of our class.

Plagiarism--If you use ideas, modified sentences, or quoted some author(s) that are not your own, you must cite your sources of information correctly according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Otherwise, you will be guilty of plagiarism.

NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED--NO EXCEPTIONS.

Using Proper Reference Citations

For all your writings I expect and require that you use the *Chicago Manual of Style* for reference citations to cite and organize your bibliography. Please make yourselves familiar with this style for all your paper writings. To see an online example for this style,

go to the following link (I am also posting the same document on the blackboard for your use):

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

In-Class Writings

A total of two in-class writings (30 minutes each) will be given to students. If you miss this activity or walk in 5 minutes late after we have started, consider it a missed assignment. I will record a zero for you.

NO MAKE-UP WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY MISSED IN-CLASS WRITINGS.

General Classroom Policies and Rules That We Must Follow

1. **Cell phones** must be put away during class. **Laptop computers** may be used **only for note taking or for class activities**. Students who use gizmos for non-class related activities will be marked absent and asked to leave for the remainder of that class. I will not tolerate texting/ buzzing/ or vibration sound in my classroom.
2. **Religious holidays.** University policy is to respect religious holidays. Let me know ahead of time to make sure you are not counted absent. All the missed readings or projects that may fall during religious holidays are the sole responsibility of the individual to catch up with the rest of the students.

Syllabus: dates /readings /activities

NOTE TO STUDENTS: The last day for this class is November 22, 2011

Make sure you are following this Syllabus's dates carefully.

Reader Vol. I

August: 25

Teaching about Islam and Muslims

Kam-Tuck Yip, Andrew. Islam and Sexuality

August 30

Schmidtke, Sabine. Homoeroticism and Homosexuality in Islam

Siraj, Asifa. The Construction of the Homosexual “other” ...

Sept. 6

Bagas, Omar. *Yoesuf* Islamic Idea with Dutch Quality

Hooghe, Yves ... “Yes but Suppose Everyone Turned Gay?”

Sept. 8

Gerhards Jurgen. Non- Discrimination towards Homosexuality

Marcotte Roxanne. Gender and Sexuality online on Australian Muslim forums

Sept. 13

Kligerman, Nicole. Homosexuality in Islam: A Difficult Paradox

Kidd & Witten. Understanding Spirituality and Religiosity in the Transgender Community

Sept. 15-

Library visit appointment: Location: PCL, Time 12:30, Room TBA ?

Swdenburg, Ted. Transgender Pop and the Polysemiotics of Sex....Israeli Egyptian Border

Altinary Rustem. Reconstructing the Transgendered Self as a Muslim Nationalist Upper Class Woman

Sept.20

Marching Soe Tjen. Herlinatients: Between lesbianism, Islam and feminism

Blackwood Evelyn. Lesbianism is a Woman's Issue

Sept. 22

Amar Sahar. Medieval Arab Lesbians and Lesbian Like-Women

Detnber Cenite, Ku,...Singaporean's Attitudes Toward Lesbians and Gay Men and their tolerance of Media Portrayals of Homosexuality

Sept. 27

Sharful Islam Khan, Mohammed ...:ovomg pmt ej Extree, <argom: Social Exclusion of the Transgender Poulation (Hijra) in Bagladesh

Lal Vinay. The Hijras of India and the Cultural politics of Sexuality

Sept. 29

Kheshti Roshanak . Cross Dressing and Gender (Tres)Passing: The Transgender Move as a siteIranian Cinema

Yamila Abraham. Boys' Love Thrives in Conservative Indonesia.

October. 4

Bereket Tarik. Navigating Islam and Same-Sex Liaisons Among Men in Turkey

Sabatello Maya. Advancing Trangender Family Rights through Science

October 6

***First Paper is Due Today**

Afary, Janet. The Sexual Economy of the Islamic Republic

Reader Vol. II.

October 6

Abraham, Ibrahim. Out to get us

October 11

Kam Tuck Yip Andrew. The quest for intimate/sexual citizenship

Minwalla Rosser,...Identity experience among progressive gay Muslims in North America

October 13

Papan-Matin, Firoozeh . The case of Mohammad Khordadian an Iranian Male Dancer.

Jacobsen Christin and.... Muslim Women and Foreign Prostitutes: Victim Discourse, Subjectivity and Governance

October18

Degenhardt Jane Hwang. Catholic Prophylactics and Islam's Sexual Threat

Schroeder Caroline. Queer Eye for the Ascetic Guy Homoeroticism, Children and the

October 20

making of Monks in Late Antique Egypt

Fadel Hossam. The Islamic Viewpoint on New Assisted Reproductive Technologies

October 25

Fadel Mohammad. Islam and the New Genetics

Inhorn Marcia. Fatwas and ARTS

Ar Gatrad and Sheikh. Medical Ethics and Islam: Principles and Practice

October 27

Inhorn Marcia. Making Muslim Babies

Shannahan Dervla Sara. Sexual ethics, marriage and sexual autonomy

November 1st

Clarke Morgan. New Kinship, Islam and the Liberal tradition

Atightchi Darusch. Islamic tradition and medically assisted reproduction

November 3

Hessini Keila. Abortion and Islam

Gray Peter. HIV and Islam

November 8

Asman Oren. Abortion in Islamic Countries

Wikan Unni. Behind the Veil in Arabia

November 10

Young Antonia. Sworn Virgins

Salmone Frank. Husbands' Concepts of Masculinity and the Yan Dauda

November 15

Khan Rodd....Men who have sex with men's sexual relations with women in Bangladesh

Obermeyer Carla. Sexuality in Morocco

***The following two articles are not required readings, but highly recommended.**

Halstead Mark. Muslim and Sex Education

Kam-Tuck Yip Andrew. Queering Religious Texts.

****October 17 and October 22****

Students Final presentation Dates

This Class ends on October 22.