

Islam and Sexuality- Fall 2012
Syllabus: course description /grading /texts /dates /readings /activities
Writing Flag
UGS Difficult Dialogues

Professor Faegheh (Fawn) Shirazi

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Course Description and Grading System and Texts:

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) 10%

***2 In class writing (each 5%)** total of 10%

***One time in Class presentation** from assigned readings 5%

***First Short Research Paper** 25%

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

Text: Reader packets to be purchased at Speedway Copy Center Dobie Mall
(Ph:512 4783334)

(Last Revised: August 18. 2012)

T. & Th. 11:0-12:30

Par. # 304

Important dates for this semester:

*- **August 30th** First day of the class:

*- **September 18- In-class writing** (15 minutes)

***September 20- Library day** (PCL)

***October 23. First paper** is due (electronic in words document sent to instructor and TA before 10:30 AM)

***November 13 In-class writing** (15 minutes)

*- **November 22** to 24 Thanksgiving Holiday: (**No class** on Thursday November 22nd)

***December 4-Student Presentation Day**

* **December 6 Student Presentation Day**

*- **December 6**- Last day of the class: **Final papers** (electronic version in words document as attachment to the Instructor and TA's mail boxes) due today before 10:30 AM

September

Volume 1 Reader Packet

Tu. 4-

1-Introduction to the course / Teaching about Islam and Muslims (first article in the reader)

Th. 6-

2- Giuseppe Benagiano, Sabina Carrara, Valentina Filippi. "The Evolution of the Meaning of Sexuality."

Tu. 11-

3- Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip. "Islam and Sexuality: Orthodoxy and..."

4- Dervla Sara Shannahan. "Sexual ethics, marriage, and sexual autonomy: the landscapes for Muslimat and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered Muslims."

Th. 13-

5- Nicole Kligerman. "Homosexuality in Islam: a Difficult Paradox."

6- Obermeyer Carla. "Sexuality in Morocco."

***Tu. 18- In-class writing (15 minutes)**

7- Omar Nahas " Yoesuf: An Islamic Idea with Dutch Quality."

***Th. 20 Library day/ we will meet inside (PCL) library.**

Tu. 25

8- Hooghe, Yves, Dejaeghere, and et el " Yes, But Suppose Everyone Turned Gay?"

Th. 27

9- Gerhards, Jurgen. "Non-Discrimination towards Homosexuality."

10- Halsted Mark." Muslims and Sex Education."

October

Tu. 2-

11- Momin Rahman. "Queer as Intersectionality: Theorizing Gay Muslim Identities."

Th. 4

12- Marcotle Roxanne- "Gender and Sexuality online on Australian Muslim forums."

Tu. 9

13- Kid, and Witten. " Understanding Spirituality ad Religiosity in the Transgender community."

Th. 11

14- Dervla Sara Shannahan. " Some queer question from a Muslim faith perspective."

Tu. 16

15- Rustem Altinay. "Reconstructing the Transgendered self as a Muslim..."

Th. 18

16- Amer Sahar. "Medieval Arab Lesbians and Lesbian Like Women."

17- Young Antonia "Sworn Virgins."

***Tu. 23- First paper is due**

Volume #2

18- David Kreps. "In/visibility of LGBTQ people in the Arab Spring: Making LGBTQ voices heard."

Th. 25

19- Vinay Lal. "Not This, Not That: The Hijras of India and the Cultural Politics of Sexuality."

Tu. 30

20- Khan, Hussain, Parveen and et al. "Living on the Extreme Margin: Social Exclusion of the Transgender Population (Hijra) in Bangladesh."

November

Th.1

21- Yamila Abraham. "Boys' Love Thrives in Conservative Indonesia."

22- Jacobsen, and Stenvoll. "Muslim Women and Foreign Prostitutes: Victim Discourse, Subjectivity, and Governance."

Tu.6

23- Naisargi N. Dave Activism as Ethical Practice: "Queer Politics in Contemporary India"

24- Abdolali Lahsaezadeg, Elham Yousefinjad. "Social Aspects of Women's Experiences of Sexual Harassment in Public Places in Iran."

Th. 8

25- Fadel Hossam. "The Islamic viewpoint on New Assisted Reproductive Technologies."

26- Wikan Unni. "Behind the veil in Arabia."

***Tu. 13- In-class writing (15 minutes)**

27- Sana Imtiaz. "Antara or Majnun?" Exploring Femininities and Sexualities in Zaib un Nissa Hamidullah's *The bull and the She Devil*

Th.15

28- Victor Munck. "Sakhina: A Study of Female Masculinity in a Sri Lankan Muslim Community."

29- Denis M. Provencher. "Coming Out à l'oriental: Maghrebi-French Performances of Gender, Sexuality, and Religion."

Tu. 20

30- Indrani Mitra "There is no sin in our love": Homoerotic Desire in the Stories of Two Muslim Women Writers."

31- Inhorn Marcia. "Fatwas and ARTS."

*** Th. 22- No class meeting -Thanksgiving Holiday**

Tu.27

32- Razieh Lotfi, Fahimeh Ramezani Tehrani, Farideh Yaghmae, Ebrahim Hajizadeh. "Barriers to condom use among women at risk of HIV/AIDS: a qualitative study from Iran."

33- Reza Omani Samani, Ahmad Vosough Taghi Dizaj, Mohammad Reza Rezaia Moalem, Seyed Taha Merghati, Leila Alizadeh. "Access to Fertility Treatments for Homosexual and Unmarried Persons, through Iranian Law and Islamic Perspective."

Th.29

34- Farhad Mogimehfar, et al. "Decisive factors in medic tourism destination choice: A case study of Isfahan, Iran and fertility treatments."

35- Hessini Leila "Abortion and Islam."

December

*** Tu. 4- Student Presentation Day**

*** Th. 6- Student Presentation Day (Last day of our class for this semester)**

All the final papers are due today - We accept the papers only in words document as attachment, to the instructor and TA's email addresses no later than 10:30 AM.