

Islam and Sexuality Course Syllabus Fall 2010

Professor Faegheh (Fawn) Shirazi

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Office hours: T and Th. 10:00-11:30 (or by appointment)

Academic Calendar

University of Texas at Austin link to the official academic calendar--Fall 2010

<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 on a weekly basis.
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 and TA. 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.

Exams and 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. Attendance and In-Class Participation--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. Outside Class Assignments--10%

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

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

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

5. In-Class Presentations from assigned readings--20%

6. First Research Paper--20%

First research paper is six to eight pages double-spaced (excluding references/bibliography/and end notes).

7. Final Group Research Paper--assigned to groups 25% (divided between oral presentation (10%) and written paper (15%))

The grade for both the oral and written part of this final group research project will be shared equally by all the members in the group. 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 (15-20 pages double-spaced, excluding references/bibliography/and end notes).

All the final research papers are due on the last day of our class meeting (Thursday December 2) for the Fall of 2010 at the beginning of our class.

Plagiarism--If you use words or ideas that are not your own, you must cite your sources of information correctly according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* (see below). 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

Quizzes

A total of two in-class quizzes (20 minutes each) will be given. If you miss a quiz or walk in 5 minutes late after we have begun the quiz, consider it a missed assignment. I will record a zero for you.

In-Class Writings

A total of two in-class writings (20 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 QUIZ OR 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.
- 3- **University Lectures. Ditto for university lectures. The dates are OCTOBER 4 and 5.**
- 4- **Documentary: *Islam: Empire of Faith* (Part I), dir. Robert Gardner (USA, 2001). Aug 30, Monday, at 6:30 pm, in BUR 136.**

Islam and Sexuality
Course Proposal
UGS Difficult Dialogues

Professor Faegheh (Fawn) Shirazi

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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:

***Attendance and Participation 5%**

***Outside class assignments** (library attendance/ lecture series attendance) 10%

***2 Quizzes 10%**

***2 In class writing 10%**

***In Class presentations** from assigned readings 20%

***First Research Paper 20%**

***Final Group Research paper** –assigned to groups 25% (divided between oral presentation (10%), and written paper (15%)-

Text:

Readers Packet should be purchased at Speed Copy Center

Located at Dobie Mall- see below for location and phone number.

http://austin.citysearch.com/profile/10212719/austin_tx/speedway_copy_at_dobie_mall.html

**Islam and Sexuality, UGS 303
Scheduled Readings and Important Dates for
Semester of Fall
2010**

Readings in this list are required unless marked **Optional

WEEK 1**Thursday August 26**

Introduction to the course

WEEK 2**Monday August 30**

You are required to go to this event- Attendance will be taken

Documentary: *Islam: Empire of Faith* (Part I), dir. Robert Gardner (USA, 2001).

Aug 30, Monday, at 6:30 pm, in BUR 136

Tuesday August 31

Introduction to Islam

Thursday September 2

Intro to Islam (continued)

WEEK 3**Tuesday September 7**

- 1- Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip. Islam and sexuality: Orthodoxy and Contestations. *Contemporary Islam*. (2009).
- 2- Sabine Schmidtke. Homoeroticism and Homosexuality in Islam: A Review Article. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*. (1999)
- 3- **** Optional Reading:**
Nada Labi. The Kingdom in the Closet. *The Atlantic* (May 2007)

Thursday September 9

- 1- (Washington Post)- Homosexuality and Islam in America: A Brief Overview / Imam Yusuf Saleem. An Islamic Response to the Washington Post Article on Gay Muslims. *The Journal of Islamic Law and Culture*. (Spring/Summer 2000)
- 2- (Mission Islam)- Islam and Homosexuality
- 3- **** Optional Reading:**

Iman- (Information regarding Qur`an and Hadith (Hadeeth) on the issue Islam and Sex)

First in class writing- 20 minutes- please be prepare to come in with papers and pens.

WEEK 4 (Homosexuality/Policy/Organizations/& Discrimination)

Tuesday September 14

- 1- Asif Siraj. The construction of homosexual 'other' by British Muslim heterosexuals. *Contemporary Islam*. (2009)
- 2- Omar Nahas. Yoesuf: An Islamic Idea with Dutch Quality. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*. (2004)

Thursday September 16

- 1- Marc Hoogie, Yves Dejaegiere . "Yes, But Suppose Everyone Turned Gay?": The Structure of Attitudes toward Gay and Lesbian Rights among Islamic Youth in Belgium. *Journa of LGBT Youth*. (2010)
- 2- Jurgen Gerhards. Non- Discrimination towards Homosexuality, The European policy and Citizens' Attitudes towards Homosexuality in 27 European Countries. *International Sociology*. (2010)

WEEK 5 (Muslim Forums/Spirituality/ Islam and issues of Homosexuality and Transgender)

Tuesday September 21

- 1-Roxane D. Marcotte. Gender and Sexuality online on Australian Muslim forums. *Contemporary Islam*. (2010)
- 2- Nicloe Kligerman. Homosexuality in Islam: A Difficult Paradox. *Macalester Islam Journal* (2007)

Thursday September 23

- 1- Jeremy Kidd, Tarynn Witten. Understanding Spirituality and Religiosity in the Transgender Community: Implications for Aging

WEEK 6 (Islam, Gay/Lesbian/Transgender/Ethnicity/Feminism and Culture)

Tuesday September 21

- 1- Ted Swedenburg. Sadia Sultan/Danna International: Transgender Pop and the Polysemiotics of Sex, Nation, and Ethnicity on the Israeli-Egyptian Border. *The Musical Quarterly*. (Spring 1997)
- 2- Rustem Ertug Altinay. Reconstructing the Transgendered Self as a Muslim, Nationalist , Upper- Class Woman: The Case of Bulent Erosy. *The Feminist Press at the University of New York*. (Winter 2008)

Thursday September 23 (Islam, Gay/Lesbian/Transgender/Ethnicity/Feminism and Culture)

First Quiz – 20 minutes (bring pen to take the test)

- 1- Soe Tjen Marching. Herlinations: between lesbianism, Islam and feminism. *International Asia Cultural Studies*.(2008)
****Optional reading**
 - 2- Evelyn Blackwood. "Lesbianism is a woman's issue": Lesbian Organization in Indonesia. *Voices*. Sprin 2005
-

WEEK 7 (Islam, Gay/Lesbian/Transgender/Ethnicity/Feminism and Culture)

Tuesday September 28

**** I am collecting your topics for the first research paper- after today you are not allowed to change topics.**

- 1- Sahar Amer. Medieval Arab Lesbians and Lesbian-like Women *Journal of the History of Sexuality*. (2009)
- 2- Fadwa Malti Douglas. Tribadism/Lesbianism and the Sexualized body in Medieval Arabo- Islamic Narratives.
- 3- Benjamin Detenber, Mark Centine...Singaporeans' Attitudes Toward Lesbians and Gay Men...*International Journal of Public Opinion Research* (July 2007)

Thursday September 30

- 1- Sharful Islam Khan, Mohammed Iftekhur hussain...Living on the Extreme Margin: Social Exclusion of the Transgender Population (Hijra) in Bangladesh
 - 2- Nanda Serena. The Hijras of India
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WEEK 8

Tuesday October 5 (Islam, Gay/Lesbian/Transgender/Ethnicity/Feminism and Culture)

- 1- Antonio Young. Sworn Virgins
- 2- Unni Wikan. The Xanith: A Third Gender Role

Thursday October 7 (Islam, Gay/Lesbian/Transgender/Ethnicity/Feminism and Culture)

*****First Research paper is due at the beginning of our Class- No late papers are accepted**

- 1- Colligan Colette. A Race Born Pederasts: Sir Richard Burton, Homosexuality, and the Arabs.
 - 2- Roshanak Kheshti. Cross-Dressing and Gender (Tres) Passing: The Transgender Move as a Site of Agential Potential in the New Iranian Cinema. *Hypateia*. (Summer 2009)
-

WEEK 9 (Islam, Gay/Lesbian/Transgender/Ethnicity/Feminism and Culture)

Tuesday October 12

- 1- Yamila Abraham. Boy's Love Thrives in Conservative Indonesia. *Boy's Love Manga*. 2010
- 2- Ibrahim Abraham. "Sodomized by Religion": Fictional Representations of Queer Muslims in the West. *Topia: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*. (2008)

Thursday October 14

- 1- Tarik Bereket, Barry D. Adams. Navigating Islam and Same- Sex Liaisons Among Men in Turkey. *Journal of Homosexuality* (2008)
- 2- Aslihan Polat, Sahika Yuksel...Family Attitudes Toward Transgendered People in Turkey: Experience From a Secular Islamic Country. *International Journal of psychiatry in Medicine*. (2005)

WEEK 10 (Islam, Gay/Lesbian/Transgender/Ethnicity/Feminism and Culture)

Tuesday October 19

- 1- Ibrahim Abraham. 'Out to get us': queer Muslims and the clash of sexual civilisations in Australia. *Contemporary Islam*. (2009)
- 2- Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip. The quest for intimate/sexual citizenship: experiences of lesbian and bisexual Muslim women. *Contemporary Islam*. (2008)

Thursday October 21

- 1-Omar Minwalla, . R. Simon Rosser...Identity experience among progressive gay Muslims in North America: A qualitative study within Al-Fatiha. *Culture Health, and Sexuality*. (March 2005)

Second in class writing (20 minutes)- come prepared, bring paper and pen

WEEK 11 (Islam/Reproductive issues/Morality/ and Law)

Tuesday October 26

- 1- Hossam E. Fadel. The Islamic Viewpoint on New Assisted Reproductive Technologies. *Fordham Urban Law Journal*. (2002)
- 2- Mohammad Fadel. Islam and the New Genetics. *St. Thomas Law Review*. (2000/2001)

Thursday October 28

**** Instructor's presentation.**

Sex Change Operations in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

WEEK 12 (Islam/Reproductive issues/Morality/ and Law)

Tuesday November 2

- 1- Marcia C. Inhorn. Fatwas and ARTs: IVF and Gamete Donation in Sunni v. Shi'a Islam. *The Journal of Gender, Race & Justice*. (2005)
- 2- A. R. Gatrads, A. Sheikh. Medical ethics and Islam: principles and practice. *Arch Dis Child*. (2001)

Thursday November 4

- 1- Marcia C. Inhorn. Making Muslim Babievs: IVF and Gamete Donation in Sunni verses Shi'a Islam. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*. (2006)

- 2- Devla Sara Shannahan. Sexual ethics, marriage, and sexual autonomy: the landscapes for Mulimat and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered Muslims. *Contemporary Islam*. (2009)

**** I am going to collect two possible topics from each individual student as possibility for final research paper.**

WEEK 13 (Islam/Reproductive issues/Morality/ and Law)

Tuesday November 9

- 1- Michael Merry. Should educators accommodate intolerance? Mark Halsted, homosexuality, and the Islamic case. *Journal of Moral Education* (2005)
- 2- Mark Halstead. Islam, homophobia and education: a reply to Michael Merry. *Journal of Moral Education*. (2005)

**** Today is the last day to modify/change topics for final project- if you are planning to make any changes to your topic I must receive it in writing.**

Thursday November 11

Second quiz (20 minutes) come prepared (bring a pen)

****We are going to form the groups for the final research presentations- We will go over all the documents related to writing a group project/ citations/ and the policies about how to work together. This information will not be repeated again- Thus if you have any questions related to this project please make sure you ask.**

WEEK 14

Tuesday November 16

- 1- Hodge David. Working with Muslim Youths: Understanding the Values ad Beliefs of Islamic Discourse. (2004)
- 2- Oren Asman. Abortion in Islamic Countries- Legal and Religious Aspects. *Medical Law* (2004)

Thursday November 18

- 1- Dariusch Atighetchi. Islamic tradition and medically assisted reproduction. *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology*. (2000)
 - 2- Morgan Clarke. New Kinship, Islam, and the Liberal tradition: sexual morality and new reproductive technology in Lebanon. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. (2008)
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WEEK 15

Tuesday November 23

- 1- Vardit Rispler-Chaim. Genetic Engineering in Contemporary Islamic Thought. *Science in Context*. (1998)

Thursday November 25

Thanksgiving Holiday- No Class

WEEK 16- (This is our final week)

Tuesday November 30

***Students' Group Final Research and Presentation**

Thursday December 2

***Students' Group Final Research and Presentation**

****Last day of the class- all the final research papers are due today at the beginning of our class- NO LATE PAPERS ARE ACCEPTED**