

**NEH Summer Institute
American Muslims: History, Culture, and Politics
July 13-31, 2015**

**Tentative Syllabus
(Updated 1/2/15)**

Morning sessions run from 9:00 – 12:00.

Afternoon sessions run from 2:00 – 5:00.

Evening sessions (when scheduled) run from 7:00-9:00.

All sessions will be held at George Washington University unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, July 12

Day: Participants arrive and check in at George Washington University, Foggy Bottom Campus

5:00-8:00 pm: Group dinner followed by introductions and orientation by project directors

I. Who Are American Muslims?

Monday, July 13

Morning: “Muslims in America: An Overview” (Sohail Hashmi, Irene Oh, and Yvonne Haddad)

Readings: Edward E. Curtis IV, “The Study of American Muslims: A History,” in *Cambridge Companion to American Islam*, ed. Juliane Hammer and Omid Safi (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), chap. 1.

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, “The Dynamics of Islamic Identity in North America,” in *Muslims on the Americanization Path?* ed. Yvonne Haddad and John Esposito (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), chap. 1.

Afternoon: “Surveying the American Muslim Population” (Besheer Mohamed)

Readings: *Muslim Americans: No Signs of Growth in Alienation or Support of Extremism* (Washington, D.C.: Pew Research Center, 2011).

Tuesday, July 14

Morning: “Challenges and Prospects in the Academic Study of Islam” (Juliane Hammer)

Readings: Juliane Hammer and Omid Safi, introduction to *Cambridge Companion*.

Karen Leonard, *Muslims in the United States: The State of Research* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2003), chaps. 4, 8.

Afternoon: “Muslims and America’s Multi-Religious Mosaic” (Lucinda Mosher)
 Readings: Jane I. Smith, “Muslims as Partners in Interfaith Encounter,” in *Muslims in the American Public Square*, ed. Zahid H. Bukhari et al. (Walnut Creek, Ca.: Alta Mira Press, 2004), 165-97.

Amir Hussain, “On Teaching Islam and the Future of Christian-Muslim Relations,” in *A Common Word and the Future of Christian-Muslim Relations*, ed. John Borelli (Washington, D.C.: Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University), 81-92.

Shaikh Daoud Ahmed Feisal, *Al-Islam: The Religion of Humanity* (1950); Shamim A. Siddiqui, “Islamic Movement in America—Why?” in *Muslims and Islamization in North America: Problems and Prospects* (1999); American Islamic Congress, “A New Guide to Muslim Interfaith Dialogue” (2006); in *Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, ed. Edward Curtis IV (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 64-72, 315-29.

II. The African American Muslim Experience

Wednesday, July 15

Morning: “West African Muslims Enslaved in America” (Sylviane Diouf)
 Readings: Sylviane A. Diouf, *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas*, 15th Anniversary Ed. (New York: New York University Press, 2013), chap. 1.

Omar ibn Sayyid, “*The Autobiography of Omar ibn Sayyid (1831)*,” in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 5-9.

Afternoon: “The Remarkable Odyssey of ‘Abd al-Rahman Ibrahima” (Terry Alford)
 Readings: Terry Alford, *Prince among Slaves: The True Story of an African Prince Sold into Slavery in the American South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), chaps. 1-2, 6-7.

Film: *Prince among Slaves* (2008)

Thursday, July 16

Morning: “The Nation of Islam and the African American Journey to Islam”
 (Richard Brent Turner)

Readings: Richard Brent Turner, *Islam in the African-American Experience*, 2nd ed. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003), chaps. 3-6.

Moslem Sunrise, “I Am a Moslem” (1921), etc.; Noble Drew Ali, *The Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple* (1927); Piri Thomas, “God, Ain’t You for Everybody?” from *Down Those Mean Streets* (1967); Elijah Muhammad, “What the Muslims Want,” and “What the Muslims Believe,” from *Message to the Blackman in America* (1965); Malcolm X, Interview with *Al-Muslimoon* (1965); in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 53-64, 85-104.

Afternoon: “The American Century and the Making of Black Islam” (Zain Abdullah)

Readings: Zain Abdullah, *Black Mecca: The African Muslims of Harlem* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), chap. 3, “The Black Encounter.”

Zain Abdullah, “Narrating Muslim Masculinities: The Fruit of Islam and the Quest for Black Redemption,” *Spectrum: A Journal on Black Men* 1, no. 1 (2012): 1-50.

W.D. Muhammad, “Historic Atlanta Address” (1978); Minister Louis Farrakhan, “Million Man March Address (1995)”; in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 116-20, 130-39.

Film: *This Far by Faith: African-American Spiritual Journeys* (2003): Episode 5: “Inheritors of the Faith”

Friday, July 17

Morning: Eid al-Fitr – No Meeting

Afternoon: Site visit: The Nation’s Masjid, Muhammad’s Mosque #4 (Imam Talib Shareef)

III. The Immigrant Muslim Experience

Monday, July 20

Morning: “Arab-American Muslims” (Kambiz GhaneaBassiri)

Readings: Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, *A History of Islam in America* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010), chaps. 4, 5.

“WPA Interviews with Mary Juma and Mike Abdallah (1939)”; Abdo Elkholy, *The Arab Moslems in the United States* (1966); in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 29-39, 76-85.

Afternoon: “The Muslims of Detroit after 9/11” (Andrew Shryock)

Sally Howell, “Finding the Straight Path: A Conversation with Mohsen and Lila Amen about Faith, Life, and Family in Dearborn,” in *Arab Detroit: From Margin to Mainstream* (2000), in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 148-58.

Andrew Shyrock, “Attack of the Islamophobes: Religious War (and Peace) in Arab/Muslim Detroit,” in *Islamophobia in America: The Anatomy of Intolerance*, ed. Carl W. Ernst (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), chap. 5.

Evening: Film: *Reel Bad Arabs* (2006)

Readings: Evelyn Alsultany, “Arabs and Muslims in the Media after 9/11: Representational Strategies for a ‘Posttrace’ Era,” *American Quarterly* 65, no. 1 (March 2013): 161-69.

Tuesday, July 21

Morning: “South Asian American Muslims” (Karen Leonard)

Readings: Vivek Bald, *Bengali Harlem and the Lost History of South Asian America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013), chaps. 5, 6.

Karen Leonard, “American Muslims: South Asian Contributions to the Mix,” *Muslim Public Affairs Journal* (April 2006): 69-78.

Karen Leonard, “California’s Punjabi Pioneers: Remembering/Claiming Homelands,” *Amerasia Journal* 28, no. 3 (2002): 109-26.

Pir Inayat Khan, “America: 1910-1912” (c. 1925); Muhammad Raheem Bawa Muhaiyaddeen, “The Inner Qur’an,” from *Islam and World Peace* (1987); *Islamic Horizons*, “Matrimonials” (2005); Asra Q. Nomani, *Standing Alone in Mecca: An American Woman’s Struggle for the Soul of Islam* (2005); in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 46-53, 111-16, 166-78.

Afternoon: “Issues Facing American Muslim Women” (Irene Oh and Asma Uddin)

Readings: Debra Majeed, “Sexual Identity, Marriage, and Family,” in *Cambridge Companion*, chap. 18.

Juliane Hammer, “Studying American Muslim Women: Gender Feminism, and Islam,” in *Cambridge Companion*, chap. 19.

Amina Wadud, *Qur’an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman’s Perspective* (1999); Imam Zaid Shakir, “An Examination of the Issue of Female

Prayer Leadership” (2005); Laury Silvers, “Islamic Jurisprudence, ‘Civil’ Disobedience, and Woman-Led Prayer” (2005); Ingrid Mattson, “Can a Woman Be an Imam? Debating Form and Function in Muslim Women’s Leadership” (2005); in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 223-31, 239-63.

Wednesday, July 22

Morning: “American Muslims: A Community of Communities” (Muqtedar Khan)
Readings: M. A. Muqtedar Khan, *American Muslims: Bridging Faith and Freedom* (Beltsville, Md.: Amana, 2002), chaps. 1, 4.

Sherman A. Jackson, *Islam and the Blackamerican: Looking toward the Third Resurrection* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), chap. 4.

Afternoon: Site visit: Islamic Center of Washington, D.C.

Reading: Akel Ismail Kahera, “Muslim Spaces and Mosque Architecture,” in *Cambridge Companion*, chap. 13.

IV. American Muslims and American Culture

Thursday, July 23

Morning: “Insurgent Traditions: U.S. Muslim Cultural Production in the 20th and 21st Centuries” (Sylvia Chan-Malik)
Readings: Sylvia Chan-Malik, “Cultural and Literary Production of Muslim America,” in *Cambridge Companion*, chap. 16.

G. Willow Wilson, *The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman’s Journey to Love and Islam* (New York: Grove Press, 2010), 18-23; *Ms. Marvel #1* (Marvel Comics, April 2014).

Afternoon: “Islamic Calligraphy in America: An Improbable Art” (Mohamed Zakariya)
Readings: Mohamed Zakaria, “Becoming a Calligrapher: Memoirs of an American Student of Calligraphy”; “Criticism in Islamic Art: The Case of Calligraphy”; “Some Modest Proposals for Islamic Artists”; The Hilye – image and translation.

Friday, July 24

Morning: “The American Hip-hop *Umma*” (Felicia Miyakawa)
Readings: Juan M. Floyd-Thomas, “A Jihad of Words: The Evolution of African American Islam and Contemporary Hip-hop,” in *Noise and Spirit: The Religious and Spiritual Sensibilities of Rap Music* (New York: New York University Press, 2003): 49-70.

H. Samy Alim, *Roc the Mic Right: The Language of Hip Hop Culture* (New York, Routledge, 2006), chap. 2: “Verbal Mujahidin in the Transglobal Hip Hop *Umma*: Islam, Discursive Struggle, and the Weapons of Mass Culture.”

Felicia Miyakawa, *Five Percenter Rap: God Hop’s Music, Message, and Black Muslim Mission* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005), chap. 2: “The Five Percenter Way of Life.”

Afternoon: “This Is My Faith, My Voice” (Native Deen)

Readings: Su’ad Abdul Khabeer and Maytha AlHassen, “Muslim Youth Cultures,” in *Cambridge Companion*, chap. 17.

V. American Muslims and American Politics

Monday, July 27

Morning: “The Recent Rise of American Muslim Politics” (Sohail Hashmi)

Readings: Steve A. Johnson, “Political Activity of Muslims in America,” in *The Muslims of America*, ed. Yvonne Haddad (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991), chap. 8.

Amaney Jamal and Liali Albana, “Demographics, Political Participation, and Representation,” in *Cambridge Companion*, chap. 6.

“Yaphett El-Amin for [Missouri] Senate District 4” (2006); Khaled Abou El Fadl, “Islam and the Challenge of Democracy” (2003); in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 303-15.

Afternoon: “Islamophobia, Islamophilia, and American Politics” (Carl Ernst)

Readings: Carl W. Ernst, ed., *Islamophobia in America: The Anatomy of Intolerance* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), introduction and chaps. 1-4.

Evening: Film: *The Muslims Are Coming!*

Nabil Echchaibi, “American Muslims and the Media,” in *Cambridge Companion*, chap. 7.

Tuesday, July 28

Morning: “Muslims in Government” (Rep. Keith Ellison—To be confirmed)

Readings: Denise A. Spellberg, *Thomas Jefferson’s Qur’an: Islam and the Founders* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), afterword.

Afternoon: “What Do Muslims Want from American Politics?” (Salam al-Marayati)

Readings: Karen Leonard, “Organizing Communities: Institutions, Networks, Groups,” in *Cambridge Companion*, chap. 10.

“Muslim Americans: Faith, Freedom, and the Future—Examining U.S. Muslims’ Political, Social, and Spiritual Engagement 10 Years After September 11,” Abu Dhabi Gallup Center, August 2011.

Council of American-Islamic Relations, “The Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the United States” (2005); Laila al-Marayati, “American Muslim Charities: Easy Targets in the War on Terror,” in *Pace Law Review* (2005); in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 268-87.

VI. American Muslims in the Global Context

Wednesday, July 29

Morning: “American Muslims and European Muslims: Comparisons” (Kathleen Moore)
Readings: Kathleen M. Moore, *The Unfamiliar Abode: Islamic Law in the United States and Britain* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Mayanthi Fernando, “Intimacy Unveiled: Religion, Sex, and Secular Cunning,” *Signs* 39, no. 3 (Spring 2014).

Afternoon: “American Muslims and the War on Terror” (Cdr. Youssef Aboul-Enein)
Readings: Cdr. Youssef H. Aboul-Enein, *Militant Islamist Ideology: Understanding the Global Threat* (Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2010), chaps. 1-7, 19-20.

United States of America v. Earnest James Ujaama (2002); Fiqh Council of North America, “Fatwa against Terrorism” (2005); Omid Safi, “Being Muslim, Being American after 9/11,” in *Taking Back Islam: American Muslims Reclaim Their Faith* (2002); in *Columbia Sourcebook*, 287-303.

Thursday, July 30

Morning: “American Muslims and U.S. Foreign Policy” (Rashad Hussain)
Readings: Yvonne Haddad, “American Foreign Policy in the Middle East and Its Impact on the Identity of Arab Muslims in the United States,” in *Muslims of America*, ed. Haddad, chap. 15.

Barack Obama, “Remarks by the President on a New Beginning,” Cairo, Egypt, June 4, 2009.

Afternoon: Incorporating this summer institute into the classroom (group discussion)

Friday, July 31

Morning: Presentations by website development teams

Afternoon: Participants depart