

UC LON-PAR Global Cities Urban Realities Program – Spring 2015
PCC174. **(Un)veiling the Republic: France in the Muslim World and the Muslim World in France**

Prof. Mariam HABIBI

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Office Hours
by appointment

Lecture (course times include a 15 min break)

T 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

TH 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

See complete schedule for special sessions

COURSE DESCRIPTION

While Charles Martel is said to have heroically “saved” France from invading Muslims in 732, today, France has the highest percentage of Muslims in Europe. This interdisciplinary course draws from the fields of history, political science, sociology, and international studies to examine the fraught relations between France and the Muslim world over the centuries. The class will be broken up into two sections. In the first section, it will look at France’s historical presence in the Arab world and the consequent Muslim presence in France. In the second section, it will focus on French society today and evaluate the socio-political integration process of French Muslims. Topics covered include colonization and decolonization, Islamic heritage and its clash with the French secularizing mission, and political policies on Muslims in France such as the heated issue over the veil. Students will investigate these topics from a variety of sources, ranging from historical documents and cultural criticism to journalistic and cinematic expressions. **4.0 credits**. Suggested subject areas for this course: *History/Political Science/Sociology*

COURSE MATERIALS

Course Reader [CR]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and site visits is mandatory. It is essential that you attend all classes and participate actively. As per the UC Attendance Policy, absences and tardies will result in a lowered final grade. Please refer to the UC Global Cities Urban Realities Program Academic Handbook for the policy on absences and tardies.

Participation and reading assignments are critical. For the purposes of this class, participation means reading the materials in advance, coming to class on time, staying for the entire class period, and actively taking part in discussions and other in-class exercises and activities. A large part of this portion of your grade is simply **paying attention**; in order to pay attention, you must be present! Lateness and absences will have a strong negative effect on your participation grade.

Assignments: Deadlines for assignments are to be respected. There will be NO extensions on assignments, nor will there be any additional or make up assignments.

Grade Breakdown:

Participation in class discussion:	15%
Oral Presentation:	15%
Weekly Quizzes:	20%
Paper (6-8 pages):	20%
Final Exam (In-class or Take-home):	30%

A Note on Academic Dishonesty: Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a failing grade in the class and possible dismissal from the program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as copying of materials from sources without duly citing them, claiming other’s ideas as one’s own

without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask your instructor.

A Note on Electronic Devices: As a courtesy to your instructor and fellow students, please do not use cell phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, or other electronic devices during class, even to check the time. Make sure phones are turned off. Use of these devices will lower your participation grade. No recording (audio or visual) of class sessions will be permitted.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

Week 1

Tuesday, May 5th:

Lecture: Introduction: Islam and the rest of the World: How Islam travelled West. The West's perception of Islam: a question of methodology

Reading:

- Christopher J. Walker, 'Friends or Foes? The Islamic East, and the West', *History Today*, March 2007
- Edward Said, *Orientalism*, chapter one 'Knowing the Oriental', pp. 31-49
- Richard Bulliet, 'a case of selective memory' *International Herald Tribune* July 11, 2007

Key Topics to discuss:

How does the West perceive the Muslim world? Why?

Thursday, May 7th:

Lecture: France and her North African Empire: the Conquest of Algeria

Reading:

- Jules Ferry, 'On French Colonial Expansion', Speech before the French Chamber of deputies, March 28th, 1884.
- Library of Congress Country Studies: Algeria From 'France in Algeria' to 'Polarization and Politicization'
- Timothy Baycroft, 'The Empire and the nation: The place of colonial images in the Republican Visions of the French Nation' in Martin Evans (ed), *Empire and Culture: the French Experience, 1830 – 1940* .

Key Topics to discuss:

How was the France affected by colonialism?

How was Algeria affected by colonialism?

In what ways did French colonial policy differ from Britain?

What were Ferry's motives?

Baycroft uses the terms 'assimilation' and 'association'. What does he mean?

Week 2:

Tuesday, May 12th:

Lecture: The Algerian War: the effects on the metropole

Reading:

- Library of Congress Country Studies: Algeria. From 'War of Independence' to 'The General's Putsch'.
- Jean-Benoît Nadeau & Julie Barlow, *What makes the French so French: Sixty Million Frenchmen can't be wrong*, chapter 8 'Algeria: the unacknowledged war' pp. 101-114
- The Manifesto of the 121

Out of class visit: in your own time (before the next session) visit the Saint Michel Bridge (metro Saint Michel or Cité line 4) and look for the memorial plaque commemorating the 17 October 1961 massacre.

Key Topics to discuss:

Discussion on the 'out of class visit'

The effects of the Algerian War on Metropolitan France.

The effects of the colonial legacy on French society today.

Oral Presentation

Group 1

- Mehdi Charef, *Summer of 62 (les Cartouches Gauloises)*
- Yasmina Khadra, *What the Day owes the Night*, Vintage, 2011

Thursday, May 14th

Oral Presentation

Group 2

- Rachid Bouchareb, *Days of Glory (Les Indigènes)*
- Leila Sebbar, *The Seine was red*, Paris October 1961, Indiana University Press, 2008

Lecture: Laïcité and Islam The History of Laïcité in France

Reading:

- Jocelyne Cesari, 'Islam in France: the shaping of a religious minority' in Yvonne Haddad-Yazbek (ed), *Muslims in the West from Sojourners to Citizens*, Oxford: OUP, 2002 (p. 36-51)
- John Bowen, *Why the French don't like Headscarves*, 'Remembering Laïcité' pp. 11-33

Key Topics to discuss:

France v United States: how do the two countries view secularism?

Why the French don't like Headscarves?

Week 3:

Tuesday, May 19th

Lecture: Immigration and the French Muslims

Reading:

- Jorgen Nielsen, *Muslims in Western Europe*, chapter 2
- Tariq Ramadan, 'Islam and Muslims in Europe: A silent Revolution toward Rediscovery' in Yvonne Haddad-Yazbek (ed), *Muslims in the West from Sojourners to Citizens*, Oxford: OUP, 2002 (p. 158-166)

Key Topics to discuss:

France v United States: how do the two countries view immigration?

How have the Muslim immigrants differed to other groups of immigrants?

Oral Presentation

Group 3

- Faiza Guène, *Dreams from the Endz*, Vintage, 2009
- Tahar Ben Jelloun, *Solitaire*, Quartet 1988

Thursday, May 21st:

Lecture: *Islam and the question of Women*

Reading:

- John Bowen, *Why the French don't like Headscarves pp*, 'Scarves and Schools', pp. 65-97
- Joan Wallach Scott, *The Politics of the Veil*, 'Sexuality', Chapter 5, pp. 151 - 174

Key Topics to discuss:

Is France multi-cultural?

Is Islam a threat to French values?

Feminism and Islam

How does France compare to the United States?

A class visit to the Institut des Cultures de l' Islam (11h00-12h30)

Week 4:

Tuesday, May 26th:

Hand in Paper (6-8 pages)

Lecture: *Mosques in France*

Reading:

- John Bowen, *Can Islam be French? 'Mosques facing outward'* pp. 37-62
- Justin Smith, 'Does Immigration Mean 'France Is Over?'' *International New York Times*, January 5, 2014

Guest speaker: TBA

Thursday, May 28th:

Oral Presentation

Group 4

- Fadela Amara, *Breaking the Silence: French women's voices from the ghetto*, University of California Press, 2006.
- Abdel Latif Kechiche, *Games of love and Chance (L'esquive)*

A class visit to the Paris Mosque (11h00-12h30)

Week 5:

Tuesday, June 2nd:

Lecture: *French Anxieties in regards to Islam*

Reading:

- Jonathan Laurence & Justin Vaisse, *Integrating Islam: political and Religious Challenges in Contemporary France*, chapters 4 & 5

Oral Presentation

Group 5

- Azouz Begag *Ethnicity & Equality: France in the balance*, University of Nebraska Press, 2007.
- Ismaël Ferroukh, *Free men (Les Hommes libres)*, 2011

Thursday, June 4th:

Conclusion – should we fear Islamophobia? & Review

Final Exam