

UC LON-PAR Global Cities Urban Realities Program – Spring 2016
PCC174. **(Un)veiling the Republic: France in the Muslim World and the Muslim World in France**

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Office Hours
by appointment

Lecture

T 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

TH 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

See complete schedule for F sessions
and/or exceptional course times

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 Students will investigate these topics from a variety of sources, ranging from historical documents and cultural criticism to journalistic and cinematic expressions.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 0

Friday, May 6th:

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

Reading:

- 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?

Week 1

Tuesday, May 10th:

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'

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?

Quiz 1

Thursday, May 12th:

Lecture: The Algerian War: the effects on the metropole

Reading:

- 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

Key Topics to discuss:

The effects of the Algerian War on Metropolitan France.

The effects of the colonial legacy on French society today.

Oral Presentation

Group 1

- Rachid Bouchareb, *Days of Glory*, 2006

- Faiza Guène, *Dreams from the Endz*, 2008

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.

Week 2

Tuesday, May 17th

Start class with students' impressions of out of class visit.

Oral Presentation

Group 2

- Mehdi Charef, *Summer of 62 (les Cartouches Gauloises)*, 2007
- Leila Sebbar, *The Seine was Red*, 2008

Lecture: Laïcité and Islam: The History of Laïcité in France

Reading:

- John Bowen, *Why the French don't like Headscarves*, 'Remembering Laïcité' pp. 11-33
- Olivier Roy, *Secularism confront Islam*, introduction and chapter 1
- The Charter of Laïcité

Key Topics to discuss:

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

Why the French don't like Headscarves?

Quiz 2

Thursday, May 19th

Lecture: Immigration and the French Muslims

Reading:

- Azouz Begag, *Ethnicity and Equality*, (2007) chapters 3 and 4
- 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*, 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

- Azouz Begag, *Shantytown Kid*, 1986
- Mathieu Kassovitz, *La Haine*, 1995

Week 3

Tuesday, May 24th

Lecture: Islam and the question of Women

Reading:

- John Bowen, *Why the French don't like Headscarves pp*, 'Scarves and Schools', pp. 65-97
- Susan Moller Okin, 'Is Multiculturalism bad for women?' (1999)
- Iman Hashim, 'Reconciling Islam and feminism' *Gender and Development*, Vol 7, no 1, March 1999

Key Topics to discuss:

Is Islam sexist?

Is multiculturalism bad for women?

Is Islam a threat to French values?

Feminism and Islam

How does France compare to the United States?

Quiz 3

Oral Presentation

Group 4

- Mehdi Charef, *Tea in the Harem*, 1985
- Abdel Latif Kechiche, *Games of love and Chance (L'esquive)*, 2003

Thursday, May 26th:

Guest Speaker: TBA

Oral Presentation

Group 5

- Yamina Benguigui, *Sunday God Willing, (Inchallah Dimanche)*, 2001.
- Tahar Ben Jelloun, *Solitaire*, Quartet 1988

Oral Presentation

Group 5

- Yamina Benguigui, *Sunday God Willing, (Inchallah Dimanche)*, 2001.
- Tahar Ben Jelloun, *Solitaire*, Quartet 1988

Week 4

Tuesday, May 31st:

Hand in Paper (6-8 pages)

Lecture: French Anxieties in regards to Islam

Reading:

- Jocelyne Césari, 'Securitization of Islam in Europe' CEPS CHALLENGE, Research paper no 15, April 2009

Key Topics to discuss:

Is there a problem in France in relation to Islam?

Are the French taking the right steps?

If not, why not?

Lecture: Mosques in France

Reading:

- John Bowen, *Can Islam be French? 'Mosques facing outward'* pp. 37-62

Key Topics to discuss:

Should there be more mosques built in France?

Who should be financing these mosques?

Quiz 4**Thursday, June 2nd:**

Class excursion 10 a.m – 12 a.m visit the Paris Mosque

Class excursion 4.30 p.m – 6.30 p.m visit the Institut des Cultures de l'Islam

Friday June 3rd:

Lecture: Should we fear Islam; should we fear Islamophobia?

Reading:

- Runnymede Report on Islamophobia
- **Secretary-General Kofi Annan's** address to the Department of Public Information (DPI) seminar, "Confronting Islamophobia: Education for Tolerance and Understanding", in New York, today, 7 December 2004

Key Topics to discuss:

Is Islamophobia a real problem?

Should we be using this term or not?

Review for the final**Week 5**

Tuesday June 7th: (2-hour class)

Final exam