

Muslim Women: The Secrets of the Veil
Fall Semester 2018
ARTSCI 1137
1 Credit
Day, Time, Place TBA
Professor: Magda El-Sherbini
El-sherbini.1@osu.edu
Office hours: By appointment
Or Call 614 247 7456

Course Description:

The subject of Muslim women has been receiving a great deal of attention in the media and scholarship. Publications about the changing role of Muslim women in society are multiplying. This one credit seminar will provide the first year student with an introduction to issues related to Muslim women. Students will have the opportunity to discuss these issues with experts in the Middle East and Islamic studies. Topics will include Western images of Muslim women; Muslim women's religious practices; recent controversies over veiling, marriage and family, divorce, women's rights, Islamic clothing and veils, culture, education, professional opportunity, government, polygamy, and how they differ in various Islamic societies and in the west. The course will follow the lecture and discussion format. Course materials include several books, articles, and films in addition to online resources.

Course Objectives:

By the end of seminar, students will be able to:

- Investigate issues related to Muslim women.
- Understand the differences between Islamic and Western traditions as they relate to women's roles in society.
- Develop skills in oral presentation
- Use research tools and techniques to explore the issues covered in the seminar.

Course Website:

Students are required to make regular use of Carmen (<https://carmen.osu.edu>) during this seminar. The Carmen site contains assignments, readings, content links, and more. Students are responsible for all material contained in Carmen, unless specific material is listed as optional.

Course Evaluation:

Class Attendance: Because this class is neither text-based nor lecture-based, your attendance and participation in class activities is expected and required. Class attendance will be taken at each class session. Note that it is important to be in class on time. **Missing one or two class sessions without excuse will result in a failing grade for the course.** If you miss a class for a documented legitimate reason (illness, emergency, military requirement), you need to contact the instructor as soon as possible to work out a plan for making up missed work.

(15% of a student's final grade)

Class Participation: Students are expected to fully participate in all class discussions and activities. All assigned reading materials will need to be completed before each class meeting. Class participation will contribute **(15% of a student's final grade)**

Posting Questions on Carmen: Each student is expected to post on **Carmen** one or two challenging questions to class each week that is based on the viewing the videos and/or readings, so the discussion will be stimulated. The question can deal with a clarification, a criticism, or an extension of the author's ideas. **(20% of a student's final grade)**

Class Presentation: In **Week 3**, the students will be divided into groups of four students. Each group will select a Muslim leader and prepare a 5-7 minute oral presentation to be delivered to the class in **week 4**. You will be evaluated (as a group) on the clarity of your presentation and your ability to connect it to our discussions in class. A sign-up sheet with suggested names of Muslim Leaders will be distributed in class for students to select their research leader or bring your own. **(20% of a student's final grade)**

PowerPoint Presentation: Students will do a 7-10 minute oral presentation in **weeks 6 and 7**. The presentation should include the reference sources. Students will select a research topic and will prepare a presentation on this topic. In **week 2**, a sign-up sheet with a list of topics will be distributed in class for students to choose from, or students can bring your own topic, or talk to the instructor for suggestion. Students are allowed to use any tools, such as PowerPoint, poster, to give their presentation **(30% of a student's final grade)**

Grading Scale

A 93-100	B+ 87-89	B- 80-82	C 73-75	D+ 67-69
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C+ 76-79	C- 70-72	D 60-66
				E 59 and below

Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic
1	<p>Course introduction: Introduce the course objectives, assignments, readings, online web resources, discuss research tools and strategies in preparation for the assignment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ General introduction to the subject “Muslim Women.” • Assignment: View in class Beyond borders [electronic resource] : Arab feminists talk about their lives (OSU resource 40 min) • In class activity: Students will discuss and reflect on the general issues of Muslim women as they are addressed in this video. Instructor will bring

	<p>questions for discussion.</p>
2	<p>➤ Family, marriage, divorce, polygamy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: View and post question(s) on Carmen: Paradise Lies At The Feet of Our Mother (OhioLink resource 30 mi) • In class activity: Discussion of the questions on Carmen and reflection on the issues affect Muslim women regarding marriage, divorce, polygamy in the Muslim community. <p>➤ Women and gender in Islam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: View and post question(s) on Carmen: Women in Islam (OhioLink resource 28 mi) • In class activity: Discussion of the questions on Carmen and reflection on gender related issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A sign-up sheet with some suggested topics will be distributed in class for students to choose from for the short essay, or students can bring their own topic, or ask the instructor for suggestion. ❖ PowerPoint presentation due Week 6 and 7.
3	<p>➤ Leadership and professional opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: View and post question(s) on Carmen: Benazir Bhutto: Battling Dictatorship in Pakistan (OhioLink Digital Resources Commons 40 mi.) • Assignment: Read and post question(s) on Carmen: The Nawal El Saadawi reader. Chapter 21 (Pp. 235 -253 online resource) • In class activity: Discussion of the questions on Carmen and reflection on El-Saadawi's views on Muslim women as leaders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A sign-up sheet with suggested names of Muslim Leaders will be distributed in class for students to select their research leader or bring your own. ❖ Muslim Leader Group Project "Oral Presentations" due next week.
4	<p>➤ Women's rights in Islam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: View and post question(s) on Carmen: Now with Bill Moyers: Azizah al-Hibri on Interfaith Dialogue (OhioLink resource 40 mi) • Assignment: View and post question(s) on Carmen: Women in Islam How Much Islam Respected Women? (5 mi.) • In class activity: Discussion of the questions on Carmen and reflection on

	<p>Azizah al-Hibri's views on women's rights in Islam.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>❖ Muslim Leader Group Project "Oral Presentations" due today.</i></p>
5	<p>➤ Muslim women's education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: Read and post question(s) on Carmen: The Rights of Women in Islam: An Authentic Approach by Haifaa A. Jawad – Chapter 2 • In class activity: Discussion of the questions on Carmen about Jawad's views on the rights of women to be educated. <p>➤ Women and government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: View and post question(s) on Carmen: Women in Politics OSU resource- 40 mi) • In class activity Discussion of the questions on Carmen about the role Muslim women play in government. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>❖ PowerPoint presentations due date next week.</i></p>
6	<p>➤ Muslim woman in Western societies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: View and post question(s) on Carmen: Mariam (OSU resources 40 mi.) • Assignment: View and post question(s) on Carmen: I Wasn't Always Dressed Like This (OhioLink resources 31 mi) • In class activity: Discussion of the questions on Carmen on how Muslim women adapt to life in Western societies and what issues they are facing. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>❖ PowerPoint presentation due today.</i></p>
7	<p>➤ What have we learned?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>❖ PowerPoint presentation due today.</i></p> <p>➤ Course conclusion and baklava party.</p>

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Students with Disabilities

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Recommended Resources for your presentation:

- [Introduction to Women in Islam: At Issue](#). *Women in Islam*, 2005
- [Alhaji's wives United Nations](#) (OSU resource 16 mi.)
- [Muslim women of power](#) [electronic resource]: gender, politics, and culture in Islam / Clinton Bennett. London ; New York : Continuum, c2010
- [Women in Islam : the Western experience](#) / Anne Sofie Roald. London; New York: Routledge, 2001.
- [Constructing a religiously ideal "believer" and "woman" in Islam](#) [electronic resource]: neo-traditional Salafi and progressive Muslims' methods of interpretation / Adis Duderija. New York : Palgrave Macmillan, c2011
- [Engaging men in women's rights and empowerment in South Asia and the Middle East](#) / Anne Angarola, Steven E. Steiner, Shannon Zimmerman. Washington, D.C. : United States Institute of Peace, 2013
- [Female Islamic education movements : the re-democratisation of Islamic knowledge](#) / Masooda Bano, University of Oxford. Cambridge, United Kingdom : Cambridge University Press, 2017
- [The veil and the male elite \[electronic resource\] : a feminist interpretation of women's rights in Islam](#) / Fatima Mernissi ; translated by Mary Jo Lakeland. Cambridge, Mass. : Perseus Books, c1991
- [An Islam of her own \[electronic resource\] : reconsidering religion and secularism in women's Islamic movements](#) / Sherine Hafez. New York : New York University Press, c2011. (Baltimore, Md. : Project MUSE, 2014)
- [Politics of piety \[electronic resource\] : the Islamic revival and the feminist subject](#) / Saba Mahmood. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, c2005
- [The rights of women in Islam \[electronic resource\] : an authentic approach](#) / Haifaa A. Jawad. New York : St. Martin's Press, 1998
- [New-British Government includes-first-Muslim Women Minister](#) (1 online page from CNN))

Recommended journal articles:

- [Minority status of women in Islam: a debate between traditional and modern Islam](#) Kusha, Hamid R. (Primary Author). Journal, Institute of Muslim Minority Affairs Vol. 11, Iss. 1, (1990): 58-72.
- [Presentation of Muslim women in Western print media: a content analysis of 'Time' and 'Newsweek'](#)
- Khan, Muhammad Ashraf (Primary Author); Zahra, Sadaf (Primary Author). Global Media Journal: Pakistan Edition Vol. 8, Iss. 2, (2015).
- [Marriage and its discontents: women, Islam and the law in India](#) Vatuk, Sylvia (Primary Author). 273. Delhi: Women Unlimited, an associate of Kali for Women, 2017
- [Islamic piety against the family: from 'traditional' to 'pure' islam](#) Rozario, Santi (Primary Author). Contemporary Islam Vol. 5, Iss. 3, (2011): 285-308.
- [Interpreting Divorce Laws in Islam](#). [Islamic Law & Society](#). 2015, Vol. 22 Issue 1/2, p153-156. 4p.
- [Family Law in Islam: Divorce, Marriage and Women in the Muslim World](#). vi, 240 pp. London: I. B. Tauris, 2012.
- [Self-Determination and Women's Rights in Muslim Societies](#). (Brandeis Series on Gender, Culture, Religion, and Law.) xxix, 338 pp. Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2012.
- [The Family in Islam](#). Leyden [Vol. 15, Iss. 2](#), (May 1, 1968): 119.
- [Family planning in Islam](#). The Lancet, [Volume 341, Issue 8846](#), 13 March 1993, Page 687
- [The Rights of Women in Islam: An Authentic Approach](#) by Haifaa A. Jawad –Read Chapter 1

Biographical Information about Magda El-Sherbini

Magda El-Sherbini is a Professor and Middle East Librarian at the Thompson Library at OSU. She has authored a book and numerous articles on information resources, and Islamic Studies. Former President of the Middle East Librarians Association, El-Sherbini is an adjunct faculty member in the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science. She has offered seminars and lectures at national and international conferences.

<https://sites.google.com/site/magdaelsherbinipresentations/home>