Contemporary French Studies Program, Paris, France

SPRING 2015
Course number and name: SOCI 3001 PCFS
Muslim Presence in Europe
Language of Instruction: English
Course Meeting Times and Place: TBD – Paris Center for Critical Studies
Professor: Konstantinos Eleftheriadis
Recommended Credit: 3 semester credits / 4.5 quarter credits

Course Description

This course is an overview of the long-term interaction between the Muslim world and the West, with a focus on the debates regarding the Muslim population in Europe. There will be organized fieldtrips to specific sites in Paris, historically linked with the Muslim Community. Themes covered include concepts of religion and secularism, the history of Muslim populations in Europe, legal issues, human rights, feminism, and modernity. The class attempts to conceptualize the West and Islam not as two separate entities, but to emphasize their historic commonality, and their dialectic relation.

Course Objectives

The course will provide students with a basic knowledge of the links between Islam and Europe, with a specific emphasis on the construction of Muslim populations as ‘different’. The knowledge acquired in the course will enable students to critically evaluate information sources on Muslim communities from the media, political discourse, and academic literature. It will likewise provide them with an analytical framework to understand a range of issues and subject areas, including Islam in the post-9/11 era and the emergence of Islam in the European socio-cultural and religious landscape.

Course Prerequisites

There are no particular prerequisites for this course, except for a genuine interest in the subject.

Course Requirements

- Presence in class and participation.
- Completing the assigned readings before the class.
- A Powerpoint Presentation based on a selected text
- Short reviews of 2 movies that will be seen outside of class time (on DVD at the Center).
- An in-class mid-term exam.
- An in-class final exam.
Methods of Instruction

The course is structured around lectures, discussion, and debate. There will also be field trips.

Assessment and Final Grade

- Attendance, participation, presentation & film reviews: 40%
- In-class Mid-term Exam: 30%
- In-class Final Exam: 30%

Students are due to deliver one presentation in one of the assigned readings of their choice, and select two out of five films to write a film review. The presentation will last around 20 minutes, and it will consist of a detailed exposition and critical assessment of the article. Film reviews will consist of a 200-word written paper.

Assignments & Exams

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Assignment/Exams</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Battle of Algiers</td>
<td>Movie review</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>La Haine</td>
<td>Movie review</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Yasmin</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>InchAllah Dimanche</td>
<td>Movie review</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Required Texts

Included in detailed “Course Outline” below.

Course Outline

Week 1: 19th January
What is to be a Muslim in Europe?

- Introduction & survey of the course.
- Roundtable. Presentation and introductions
- Review of Syllabus
- General introduction to the relations between Islam and Europe
  Episode 1: Indigènes 1904-1945

Readings

Week 2: January 26th
Muslims in Europe and Europeans in Islamic Lands

- Islam and the West/Europe: 8th-15th centuries.
- French colonization of North Africa & colonial discourse on Islam.
- Muslim immigrations to Europe in the 20th century.

Readings
- Bruke, Edmund III. “Theorizing the histories of colonialism and nationalism in the Arab Maghrib – Beyond Colonialism and Nationalism in North Africa.” Arab Studies Quarterly (Spring 1998).

Movie
- The Battle of Algiers (1966) by Gilles Pontecorvo.

Week 3: February 2nd
Secularism and Islam in France

- French Laïcité (secularism): social and historical context.
- Policies of integration of Islam in different European countries.

Readings

Week 4: February 9th-10th
Fieldtrip to Belleville and the Institut des Cultures d'Islam (ICI)

Readings

Week 5: February 16th
Being Muslim in Europe: Questions of Exclusion and Inclusion

- Pattern of exclusion and inclusion.
- Islamophobia and Islam in Europe after 9/11.
- Urban riots in European capitals: A class or religious issue?.

Readings
**Movie**

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**Week 6: March 2nd**  
**Muslims and Gender: The Hijab and Niqab Affairs (headscarf and full-face veil)**
- Introduction on the Islamic headscarf/hijab.
- The Niqab (full-face veil) Affair across Europe.

**Readings**

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**Movie**

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**Week 7: March 9th**  
**In-Class Mid-Term Exam**
- Mid-term exam (30%): based on the readings and course lectures.

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**Week 8: March 16-17th**  
**Fieldtrip: Cité Nationale de l'Histoire de l'Immigration (CNHI)**

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**Week 9: March 23rd**  
**Muslims, Sexuality and Post-colonialism**
- Post-colonial Feminism/Queer feminism

**Readings**
Week 10: March 30th
From Religion to Identity: Religiosity among 2nd-generation Muslims

Readings

Movie

Week 11: April 13th
Fieldtrip: La Grande Mosquée de Paris (GMP) or Fieldtrip: L’Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA)

Readings
- In crisis-hit Athens, plans for a mosque reveal deep divisions, Reuters. January 2013 http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/06/27/uk-greece-mosque-idUKBRE95Q06W20130627

Week 12: April 27th
Cultural Expressions among European Muslims: Cinema, Literature and Music
- Cinema: films by Yamina Benguigui
- Literature: Shantytown Kid (Le Gone du Chaâba) by Azouz Begag.

Readings

Week 13: To be announced
Musulmans de France de 1904 à nos Jours

Readings
  Episode 3: Français 1981-2009

Week 14: May 4th  
In-Class Final Exam

- Final exam = 30% (session 28)  
- The final exam is **accumulative.**  
- The final exam will be based on the readings, course lectures, movies and fieldtrips.