

**Religion 26**  
**Spring 2013**

**Islam in America: Muslims as Americans v.2**

**Course Meeting Time:** 10 Hour (MWF 10-11:05; x hour Thur 12-12:50)

**Instructor:** Kevin Reinhart

**Office:** 315 Thornton

**Tel.:** 646-3204

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 2:00-4:00 PM; and Wednesday 1:45-3:00 PM and by appointment.

**Class meets in :** Carson 214

I do check the blitz at last twice weekdays, but blitzmail is a lousy medium for teaching. For any substantial question or discussion, for any discussion of assignments or your work, please drop by during office hours.

Information about the instructor and his requirements for papers etc. can be found at [www.dartmouth.edu/~akr](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~akr). Some selected websites pertaining to North American Islam can be found on my website (under construction). I would welcome any suggestions for websites you might have.

**Course Description: Islam in America.** Muslims and Islamicists alike speak of Islam as if it were an undifferentiated item, the same in its essence whether in the Philippines or in Philadelphia. We'll consider Islam in the US as a typical example of *Islam in a locale*, using the paradigm of three stages—**quarantine**, **mixing**, and **reform** to locate American Islam within Islamic history. But of course the main focus is on the reality of Islam in North American, in all its manifestations. In this course we want to give students an overview of the history of Islam in North America, as well as of the present situation of Muslims in the US and Canada. We'll cover the Islam of slaves, the Islam of immigrants, mainstream Islam and various distinctively American forms of Islam (the Islam of Noble Drew Ali, the Nation of Islam, the Five-Percenters). We'll talk about Islamic music in America, gender issues, the novel form of the mosque and new the role of Imams in the US. Readings are very diverse, from autobiographies of Muslim slaves, to stories by Joel Chandler Harris, the Autobiography of Malcolm X, and many other accounts by and about North American Muslims. And finally, we'll discuss the impact of 9/11, NYC and other surveillance practices, and the Islamophobia industry. At least three distinguished guests will join us during the term. **TMV; NA**

**Texts** (available from Wheelock Books only)

Smith, Jane I.: *Islam in America*

Ruthven, Malise: *Islam: A Very Short Introduction*

Austin, ed., *African Muslims in Antebellum America: Transatlantic Stories and Spiritual*

### *Struggles*

Turner, *Islam in the African-American Experience*

*Autobiography of Malcolm X*

Paul M. Barret. *American Islam: The Struggle for the Soul of a Religion*

**Readings** from "Blackboard" (all readings not in texts will be found on Blackboard)

### **Assignments:**

- Presence: 40%; citizenship up to 10%.
- Reading responses and discussions (online): At least two per week [beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> week]. 15%
- A circa 10-15 page paper, topic agreed with the Prof., (possible topics distributed), due May first, (20%).
- Class presentations of on popular culture. 15%

### **Etiquette:** To be discussed in class

The usual accommodations for physical, learning or other challenges are available, provided you do not spring them on the instructor at the last moment. The first week's office hours are a good time to meet to discuss these matters.

Dartmouth recognizes that religious events, and family events connected with them, may have claims on students' time and attention. Reasonable accommodation will be made, but if you miss class, you are missing class, and you are still responsible for any material covered. This is true *a fortiori* for athletic, theatrical, and other obligations. If these regularly interfere with class time (for example, requiring you to miss most Friday classes) you might want either to reconsider the *extra-curricular* commitment, or to take classes that meet Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Illness policy. After lengthy discussions with Dr. J Turco, my policy is this: Since Dick's house won't/can't certify illness unless you are actually admitted, I have no way of assessing your illness—I *am* a doctor, but in Islamic Studies and the Study of Religion. My basic stance is that everyone gets ill at some point, faculty included, and we soldier on. If you feel unable to come to class, ask a colleague to share his/her notes, and then discuss those notes. You won't be at your best every day, but unless you are prostrated by a serious illness, I am inclined to urge you to attend class, do your work on time etc.. If you think your case exempts you from this expectation, by all means, let's talk.

**Recording:** Please do not record lectures and discussions without the permission of *all* parties involved. It is probably illegal, but it is certainly unethical. I am sure

all concerned are willing to make exceptions for good reasons, but we must be asked, and give our consent. Thank you.

**Attendance:** For a smallclass /seminar, attendance and participation is essential!

Month	Day	Topic	Reading
March	25	Introduction to the Class	<b>For Monday: Listen to the audio file on blackboard (c. 1 hour)</b>
	27	“What is “Islam?”	‡Stone, “Estimate of Muslims Living in America” (handout) “Islam in Las Vegas”
	29	“What is “Islam?” II	Smith: <i>Islam</i> , Chap. 1 & 2; Ruthven, <i>Islam, A Very Short Introduction</i> Chap 1, 2, 4, 6, appendix;
April	1	Thinking about “Islam in Place”	‡Fisher, “Conversion Reconsidered...: ‡Reinhart, <i>Koine &amp; Cosmopolitan Islam</i>
		<b>Quarantine Islam</b>	
	3	The Background to American Islam	<i>African Muslims</i> , Chap. 1, 2
	5	Islam Among Slaves; General and Celebrated Cases	Smith: <i>Islam</i> pp. 76-78; <i>African Muslims</i> , Chap. 3, 4, 5
	8	“Syrian” and “Turkish” Emigration; “Native Islam”: Muhammad Russell Webb	Smith: <i>Islam</i> , Chap. 3; ‡ <i>Muslim Communities</i> , Chap 9; Chap. 17; Smith: <i>Islam</i> , Chap.pp.189-190; ‡Turner 2 and 3
	10	Ethnic Islam in the US and Canada	Ethnic Islam: 1960-1990; “Tales of Arab Detroit”; ‡ <i>Muslim Communities</i> , Chap 1, 15, 16
		<b>Mixing Islam</b>	
	12	The Ahmadiyya and non-Ethnic Islam	Turner Chapter 4; ‡ <i>Mission to America</i> Chap. 3;

	15	African-American Islam I	‡Readings from Joel Chandler Harris Smith: <i>Islam</i> , pp. 78-103
	17	African-American Mixing Islam I	‡Readings from "Elijah Muhammad"; <i>Turner 3,5</i> .
	19	African-American Mixing Islam II	
	22	African-American Mixing Islam III Discussion of <i>Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>	Autobiography of Malcolm X, Reading all of it is painless; it's a great book. Pay special attention to chapters 10-19
	24	American Sufism; Rumi Film and Discussion	Reading <b>Against the Modern world?</b> ; ‡ <i>Mission to America</i> Chap 6;
	26	Ethnic Islam: 1960-1990; "Tales of Arab Detroit"	‡ <i>Muslim Communities</i> , Chap 1, 15, 16.
<b>May</b>		<b>Reform Islam?</b>	
	29	the Future of African American Islam	‡ <i>Jackson, Islam and the Blackamerican</i> 4, 5.
	1	The Mosque in America	‡Readings from "Making Muslim Space"
	3	The Sociology of American Islam	Smith: <i>Islam</i> , Chap. 5, 6,7
	6	Islamic Activism in North America	
		<b>Case Studies</b>	
	8	Issues of Gender	
	10	Issues of Gender	
	13	Five Percenters and HipHop	
	15	The New Muslim Cool	
	17	The Taqwacore phenomenon	
	20	Radical Islam in the US	

	22	The Islamophobia Industry	
	24	The Ground-zero mosque and anti-shariahism	
	29		