

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Spirituality of Muslim Women

Course Number and Section

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

3131A - 550

Instructor Name(s): Ingrid Mattson

Instructor Email(s): imattson@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

In this class we will explore the spirituality of Muslim women past and present. We begin with a study of the portrayal of women in the Qur'an and the lives of female Companions of the Prophet Muhammad whose concerns and perspectives helped shape the development of the early Muslim community. We then look at the roles women have played in the establishment of religious discourses and institutions and discuss challenges Muslim women have faced in fulfilling their religious and spiritual needs in diverse societies. We will consider many more questions, such as how spirituality is embodied by women, the impact of gender-specific religious practices, and how gender is defined and constructed in various Islamic discourses.

Learning Outcomes:

Able to engage in discussions with Muslim women which allow them to express their diverse individual and collective spiritual practices and perspectives.

Locate passages in the Qur'an that mention women and gender and explain their relationship, if any, to concerns reportedly articulated by the female Companions.

Give an overview of the Prophet Muhammad's relationship with the female Companions, identifying the methodology you use for creating such a profile.

Describe why women's capacities and social roles are differently explained by a number of Islamic schools of thought despite their stated reliance on common normative sources, in particular, the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Identify at least a dozen influential Muslim women spiritual figures, religious authorities or scholars of Islam and evaluate their impact and legacy.

Be able to research and present how Muslim women have understood/understand the spiritual significance of major life cycles, embodied states and events, including marriage and celibacy, motherhood and childlessness, intimacy and aging.

Identify various ways Muslim women engage with religious discourses to respond to marginalization and oppression in Muslim and non-Muslim spaces.

Be able to locate and appreciate a variety of creative works of Muslim women which have spiritual and religious themes.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Physical copy of a translation of the Qur'an; preferred translations: Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Mustafa Khattab, Laleh Bakhtiar, M.A. Abdel Haleem or Tarif Khalidi.

All other common readings will be uploaded to OWL.

Students will have to access a book for the book report assignment through the library or some other means.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
In-class reflection #1	09/28/23	10
Book report	10/12/23	20
Notable Women Profile	various	20
In-class reflection #2	11/16/23	10
In-class reflection #3	12/07/23	10
Final paper or project	12/14/23	30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.