

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Spirituality of Muslim Women

Course Number and Section:

ISLAMSTU

5202B 550

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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:

An exploration of 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 ﷺ 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 the opportunities and challenges Muslim women have to fulfill their religious and spiritual needs in diverse societies.

Learning Outcomes:

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.

Research and discuss 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.

Locate and appreciate a variety of creative works of Muslim women which have spiritual and religious themes.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

There is no textbook required for this class. You are highly recommended to acquire a 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. The Harper Collins Study Quran is also an option which includes a commentary from a wide range of schools of thought, as well as scholarly essays. A variety of translations are available in the Huron Reading Room. Digital translations of the Qur'an are available online; you may select your own translator and experiment with other options with <https://quran.com/>. All other readings will be uploaded to OWL; you can borrow the book for report through the library or some other means.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
In Class Written Reflection	1/28/2026	10
In class written reflection	2/25/2026	10
In class written reflection	4/1/2026	10
Book report	2/11/2026	20
Group presentation		20
Final project or paper	4/14/2026	30

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

Tuesday, December 16, 2025