

Instructor:

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**Women's and Gender
Studies (WGS) is now part of
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**WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Community and Social Justice Studies**

GENDER AND ISLAM: *History, Politics, and Culture*

42323 - WGS 3590 - 080

Class meetings: Online.

Three Week Session: January 4 - 24, 2024

Course Attributes: UCC - Writing Intensive

Course Description: This course examines the gendered histories and the cultural politics of Islamic societies particularly in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia. Beginning with an overview of the historical debates/events that shaped the lives of the people in Islamic societies, the course will interrogate our categories of analysis (gender, race, sexuality, poverty, religion, nation) and discuss the complexity of gender relations in production and reproduction, representations of femininities, masculinities and queerness, ideologies of secular and Islamic feminisms, the development of social and Islamist movements, and the impact of culture and politics on everyday life of people in these societies.

Course Objectives: This course will:

- Investigate the histories of women and gender in Islamic societies.
- Interrogate our categories of analysis like the west/middle east/Islamic/secular.
- Examine representations of Islamic societies, Muslim women, gender, sexuality.
- Explore the relationship between culture, politics, and gender ideologies.
- Engage with feminist, nationalist, and Islamist movements.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical evolution of cultural practices that affect gender relations in Islamic societies.
- Apply intersectional analysis to evaluate culture, politics, and gendered ideologies.
- Evaluate critically historical monographs, scholarly articles, and films.
- Analyze representations of cultural practices, identities, and societies.

- Make connections between feminist activisms, nationalist struggles, Islamist movements, and transnational solidarities to understand social change.

Required texts: None. All readings for each of these topics will be made available on Blackboard (BB) before the start of the semester.

Course schedule

Date	Topic / Readings
Introduction to Islam: histories, identities and Societies	
Week 1	Understanding Islam
	Introduction to early Islamic History
	Islam and the West
	Historical Foundations: Orientalism and representations
	Understanding Islamophobia
	Geographies of Muslim Identities
Gender & Feminism in Islam and Islamic Societies	
Week 2	Historical Foundations: Women and Gender in Islam
	Contemporary Issues: Islamic feminism
	Contemporary Debates: Veiling
	Contemporary Debates: Gender and sexuality
Globalization, Islam and Revolution/Resurgence/Revivalism	
	Contemporary Movements: Arab uprisings

Date	Topic / Readings
Introduction to Islam: histories, identities and Societies	
Week 3	Gender in Islamic societies - case study
	Gender, Power and Social change

COURSE POLICIES

Important dates for Winter 2024: <https://www.wpunj.edu/registrar/calendars/index.html?tab=2>

Course format: This is a 3-week asynchronous class delivered via Blackboard (BB), which is your online learning community. You will be able to access learning materials, syllabus, discussion boards, submit assignments, and participate in online discussions and activities on BB. If you need help with blackboard, please contact the [helpdesk BB Support Center](#) ASAP to schedule a tutoring session. (Use [Chrome web browser to access](#) BB)

Participation: You are expected to actively participate in online discussions. Participation includes engaging with the assigned readings.

Accommodation: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations, please contact the **[Accessibility Resource Center](#)**. The ARC has also put together information to help facilitate accessibility and provide accommodations in response to [COVID 19](#).

Communication: I am available on email and on zoom by appt. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours. All communication will be sent on email and messages will only be sent to your wpunj.edu account.

Assignments: There will be 6 assignments in this semester which will be based on your readings. You will need to respond on the “discussion board” (DB) or in “assignments” on BB by the due date. Each assg will be accompanied with clear instructions on expectations and grading rubric.

Grading: Grades will be upgraded on blackboard periodically.

Grading Scale (%): A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D (60-69), F (0-5)