

FU/BEST Program

Name: Fatih Abay

Email address: fubest@fu-berlin.de

Course title: Islam and Europe: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions

Course number: FU-BEST 10

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 45

ECTS-Credits: 5 **U.S. semester credits:** 3

Course description

Within the last years, Islam has become the subject of public debate and discourse in the Western World as well as a core research topic within various disciplines in the social sciences. Therefore, this course will take a more specific look at Muslims and Islam in Europe and will try to analyze and discuss the present conditions of Muslims living in Europe from a socio-anthropological perspective. In order to do so, Islam will first be introduced from a general perspective. We will visit a representative mosque in Berlin in order to explore the basic theological pillars of Islam as a religion. The first sessions of the course will provide an outlook on theories of cultural difference and secularism. Having established this theoretical lens, the following sessions will look at various public discourses regarding Islam and Muslims in Europe. Here essential issues such as Muslim-state relations, gender, and everyday religious practices of Muslims in Europe will be explored and analysed, and subjected to a critical analysis of certain public controversies regarding Islam.

Required Readings:

- Course Reader

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance, Participation and Independent Project Report: 20%

Midterm exam: 20%

Final Paper: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Learning Objectives:

1) Development of differentiated viewpoints on matters regarding Islam in Germany and Europe. 2) Exposure to various perspectives of Islam, not merely those represented in mainstream politics and media. 3) Gaining familiarity with anthropological methodology by observing the Muslim field in Berlin. 4) Exploring critical ways of thinking beyond the conventional framings of the religious-secular divide regarding Islam.

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Course schedule

| SESSIONS | TOPICS, READINGS, etc. |
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| Session 1 | Introduction to the topic and the course Video: "Inside Islam" |
| Session 2 | Topic: Approaching Islam Readings: Waines, David (2003) <i>An Introduction to Islam</i> . Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-59 Sayyid, Salman (2014). <i>Recalling the Caliphate</i> . Hurst: London, pp. 1-15 |
| Session 3 | Topic: "Europe and Islam as 'the Other'" Readings: Said, Edward (1978) <i>Orientalism</i> . Introduction. Göle, Nilüfer. (2012) <i>Decentering Europe, Recentering Islam</i> . In: <i>New Literary History</i> , Vol. 4, pp. 665-685. |
| Session 4 | Topic: Religion within a modern and secular world. Readings: Casanova, José. <i>The Secular and Secularisms</i> . In: <i>Social Research</i> , vol. 76, No: 4, Winter 2009, pp. 1049-66. Asad, Talal (2003). <i>Formations of the Secular. Christianity, Islam, Modernity</i> . Stanford University Press, pp. 1-17; 181-201 |
| Session 5 | Topic: Public Controversies of Islam in Europe Readings: Sarah Bracke und Nadia Fadil (2012): „'Is the Headscarf Oppressive or Emancipatory?' Field Notes from the Multicultural Debate", in: <i>Religion and Gender</i> 2(1): 36-56 Allievi, Stefano. <i>Conflicts over Mosques in Europe</i> . In: Göle, Nilüfer (ed.) (2013). <i>Islam and Public Controversy in Europe</i> . Ashgate: USA. |
| Session 6 | Mid-term exam |
| Session 7 | Field-trip |
| Session 8 | Topic: Securitization and Governance of Islam Readings: Cesari, Jocelyn. <i>Securitization of Islam in Europe</i> . In: Cesari, Jocelyn (ed) (2009) <i>Muslims in the West after 9/11. Religion, Politics, and Law</i> London & New York: Routledge Peter, Frank. <i>Welcoming Muslims into the nation. Tolerance, politics and integration in Germany</i> . In: Cesari, Jocelyn (ed) (2009) <i>Muslims in the West after 9/11. Religion, Politics, and Law</i> London & New York: Routledge |

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| | <p>Amir-Moazami, Schirin (2011). Pitfalls of Consensus-orientated Dialogue.</p> <p>Dornhof, Sarah (2012). Rationalities of Dialogue. In: <i>Current Sociology</i>, 60:382</p> |
| Session 9 | <p>Topic: Women and Islam in the West</p> <p>Readings: Scott, Joan. (2009). <i>Sexualism: On secularism and gender equality</i>. Lecture at European University Institute, Firenze, 23 April 23. Jouilli, Jeanette. (2009) Negotiating secular boundaries: Pious micro-practices of Muslim women in French and German public spheres. In: <i>Social Anthropology</i>. Volume 17, Issue 4, pages 455–470, November 2009 Bracke, Sarah. (2012) From ‘saving women’ to ‘saving gays’: Rescue narratives and their dis/continuities. In: <i>European Journal of Women's Studies</i>, Volume: 19 issue: 2, page(s): 237-252</p> |
| Session 10 | <p>Topic: New Muslim Identities within Public Debates on Islam</p> <p>Readings: El-Tayeb, Fatima (2012). 'Gays Who Cannot Properly be Gay.' Queer Muslims in the Neoliberal European City. <i>European Journal of Women's Studies</i> 19/1, 2012 Fernando, Mayanthi (2009). Exceptional citizens: Secular Muslim women and the politics of difference in France. In: <i>Social Anthropology/ Anthropologie Sociale</i> 17, 4 379–392.</p> |
| Session 11 | <p>Topic: Everyday Religious Practices of Muslims in Europe</p> <p>Readings: Balkan, Osman (2015). Burial and Belonging. In: <i>Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i>. 15(1): 120-134 Fadil, Nadia. Not-/unveiling as an ethical practice. In: <i>Feminist Review</i> (2011) 98, 83–109. Jouilli, Jeanette. (2009) Negotiating secular boundaries: Pious micro-practices of Muslim women in French and German public spheres. In: <i>Social Anthropology</i>. Volume 17, Issue 4, pages 455–470, November 2009</p> |
| Session 12 | <p>Topic: So, is there a 'Muslim Question' in Europe?</p> <p>Readings: Farris, Sara R.. 2014. From the Jewish Question to the Muslim Question. Republican Rigorism, Culturalist Differentialism and Antinomies of Enforced Emancipation. In: <i>Constellations. An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory</i>, 21(2), pp. 296-307.</p> |
| Session 13 | Final exam |