The Muslim Experience in Contemporary European History

HIEU 182 (Undergraduate) & HIEU 282 (Graduate)  Spring 2009
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Aims and Scope of the Course:

Europe at the beginning of the 21st century finds itself mired in controversies over whether Muslims and the faith they follow can successfully be integrated into a European society that is, to the extent that it is religious at all, predominantly Christian, at least nominally. Questions also arise over the compatibility between the largely secularized European social order and the traditions of Islamic law and politics. But substantial Muslim populations have, in fact, made their home in European countries for many years already: for decades in many parts of Western Europe, and for centuries in other places such as Russia and the Balkan territories of Kosova, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Turkey's desire to gain admission to the EU raises the prospect of a large, predominantly Muslim state -- albeit one with its own distinctive historical relationship to Islam -- becoming a new part of "Europe." And in addition to these more recent concerns, many more Muslims once lived in other parts of Europe before being compelled to leave, as happened notably in Iberia after the Reconquista and in Greece in 1922. Thus the Islamic encounter with societies all across the continent is one with a long and important history, a history marked by competition and conflict as well as by coexistence, cooperation, commerce, and creative exchange (though the latter, more peaceable side of the relationship is often forgotten).

This course will seek to develop students' insights into the historical, religious, political, and sociological foundations of the experiences of Muslim communities in Europe since the 20th century and the broader societal contexts -- e.g., German, French, Dutch, British, Yugoslav, "European" -- in which Muslims and their institutions have found themselves. Another key objective will be to develop a richer and more critical understanding of representations of Islam and its followers in a variety of 20th-century European sources, including political and cultural commentary, academic analyses, travelers' accounts, and the mass media. To that end, students will also undertake an independent selection, review, and analysis of representative examples of European journalism, with an eye to the extent to which the perspectives expressed are or are not corroborated by the analyses of historians and social scientists. This review of media sources will be the basis for in-class student presentations linking the journalistic coverage to the key themes of the course.

Course Requirements – Undergraduate students:

In-class exams  30%
Presentation and selection of supplemental class readings  15%
Class participation  25%
Final Exam/Research Paper  30%

Course Requirements – Graduate students:

Presentation and selection of supplemental class readings  15%
Class participation  35%
Final Exam/Research Paper  50%

**NOTE: To pass this class you must reasonably satisfy all the course requirements: e.g., if you are an undergraduate student, you must take the minimum required number of in-class exams and the final exam. Failure to satisfy any one of the course requirements will result in a grade of F for the course.**
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**Required readings:** Books assigned for the course, available in the UCSD Bookstore, are listed below. Other required readings are listed with each week's assignments, below. Those additional readings will be available on electronic reserves and will be posted in electronic form to the course web site for download.


**Required viewings:** The film and video presentations, listed below with each week's assignments, will be on reserve. To insure that our discussions will be as informed and productive as possible, students should see them before the class session for which they are assigned. As required parts of the course material, they are fair game for exam questions.

**Exams:**

**In-class examinations (30% of the course grade; undergraduate students only):** There will be a number of very brief in-class exams on a weekly or near-weekly basis. These exams will be designed to gauge your comprehension of the previous week's class presentation and the readings and/or viewings or other assignments (e.g., web assignments) assigned for the current week, so that everyone will always be prepared for class. If you have attended class and done all the assignments for the week in advance of the class meeting, you are likely to do very well on the exams, which represent a significant fraction of your grade. There will be a total of eight in-class exams administered; the lowest grade on two of the exams will be dropped.

**Make up exams:** Make-up exams will be given only in the case of a valid, documented excuse beyond the student's control (e.g., medical problems). Any make-up exam may be given in a different form and include different content. For example, the make-up test may be in the form of an oral exam!

**We cannot** make arrangements for alternate exam times due to multiple exams scheduled closely together, plans to leave campus early, etc. **Check your exam schedule for your courses now** -- they're available to you through StudentLink -- and make sure you've chosen a course schedule that you can live with throughout the course and at finals time!!

**Final Examination/Research Paper (30% of the course grade for undergraduates; 50% for graduates):** The final exam will be in the form of a research paper that will analyze important issues raised in the course through focused research concerning a topic agreed upon with the instructor in advance. For undergraduate students, the paper should be at least 12 pages long, when submitted in 12-point Times New Roman with no more than one-inch margins on all sides (i.e., of a length sufficient to satisfy upper-division writing requirements), though longer papers will certainly be acceptable, and welcome. The paper will be due at the end of time of the scheduled final exam for the course (see StudentLink). I may require that all students submit an electronic version of their final papers to turnitin.com. Complete instructions for the paper will be distributed early in the term. For graduate students, the final paper should be at least 20 pages long, again using the same formatting requirements (see above).

**Scheduled due date for final exam/research paper:** Friday, 12 June (due by scheduled end time, 11:00 a.m.)
Selection of supplemental class readings and oral presentation  (15% of the course grade for all students)

The presence of Muslims and the nature of Islam are very much a matter of hot public controversy in contemporary Europe. A close examination of media representations of the subject can offer us a richer, more comprehensive perspective on the historical and social-scientific findings that are presented in the assigned readings. In the latter weeks of the course, each student will be responsible for selecting 20-25 pages (or approximately 45 minutes' worth) of additional readings from journalistic coverage. These readings should be selected, copied or scanned, and made available to all class members at least one week prior to the meeting when they are to be discussed. You should be prepared to lead the class discussion after making a presentation of approximately 10 minutes about the readings you have selected, focusing on important questions raised in materials, connections to the week's assignments, and the broader course themes. I will, of course, be available for consultation about the presentation and the reading selections.

The LEXIS/NEXIS database, accessible through the UCSD library web site, is a superb place to find the kind of precisely targeted, high-quality journalism that this assignment seeks. (Even low-quality journalism can be useful as a component of this assignment, if it is carefully and deliberately chosen and recognized as such. Bad journalism with inaccurate information and heavy bias can be, obviously, very influential. But proceed with caution! Every item should be selected with an eye to what it will teach the class about the issues under discussion that week.)

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** It is your responsibility to know and observe all university rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. Any student found to have committed a substantial, knowing or intentional violation of the university rules concerning academic integrity will fail the entire course. I view it as one of my chief responsibilities to help each of you produce first-rate academic work that reflects your own original thinking about the course themes and material. If you have any questions whatsoever about what constitutes plagiarism, how to properly credit the work and ideas of others, how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability, and so forth, please feel free to talk to your TA and to come see me.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

**WEEK 1 -- APRIL 1**

Introduction to the Course:
"Bloody Borders," "Europe without Borders," the Problem of the "Other" -- and Other Problems


Jørgen Nielsen, *Muslims in Western Europe*, Introduction and ch. 1, i.e., to p. 7.


**Graduate students/recommended for undergraduates:**


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Richard W. Bulliet, The Case for Isamo-Christian Civilization (New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2004), Introductory materials and ch. 1 ("The Case for Isamo-Christian Civilization"), to p. 46 [framing the arguments, and beginning a refutation of Huntington]. -- available online from UCSD computers or through proxy servers, through Roger catalog

WEEK 2 -- APRIL 8

Bernard Lewis, What Went Wrong? The Clash between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East (2003 ed.), Preface and Introduction, Ch. 3 ("Social and Cultural Barriers"), Ch. 4 ("Modernization and Social Equality"), Ch. 5 ("Secularism and the Civil Society"), Conclusion and Afterword (in Weidenfeld & Nicholson/Phoenix edition: to p. 19, 71-129, pp. 168-179 -- page numbers in other editions may vary)


Jørgen Nielsen, Muslims in Western Europe, chs. 2-7 (France, Germany, UK, Netherlands & Belgium, Scandinavia, Southern Europe), pp. 8-100.

Graduate students/recommended for undergraduates:

Lewis, What Went Wrong? -- Read the remainder of the book


WEEK 3 -- APRIL 15
The Post-Imperial Inheritance: What Kind of Muslims in Europe? What Kind of Islam for Europe?

Edward Said, Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient (excerpts -- pdf posted on course site)

Film: The Battle of Algiers, dir. Gillo Pontecorvo (1967)


Graduate students/recommended for undergraduates:

Richard W. Bulliet, The Case for Isamo-Christian Civilization, ch. 3 ("Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places"), pp. 95-133 [on the legacy of Edward Said, the field of Middle Eastern Studies, contemporary
foreign policy, and the relationship between the West and the Islamic world] -- available online through Roger


WEEK 4 -- APRIL 22
Religion and Society, Church and State in the European Context -- A Comparative View


*Graduate students/recommended for undergraduates:*


WEEK 5 -- APRIL 29
Ethnicity, Nationalism, Assimilation, Integration, Multiculturalism


Jørgen Nielsen, *Muslims in Western Europe*, ch. 9 (Muslim organizations), pp. 121-152.


Patrick Hyder Patterson, "A Kinder, Gentler Europe? Islam, Christianity, and the Divergent Multiculturalisms of the New West," under submission for the volume tentatively titled American Multiculturalism after 9/11, Derek Rubin and Jaap Verheul, eds. (manuscript)

**Film:** *East Is East*, dir. Damien O'Donnell (1999)
-- a humorous take on generational, ethnic, and religious conflicts in mixed Pakistani-British family in "Bradistan," the Yorkshire town of Bradford

Graduate students/recommended for undergraduates:


WEEK 6 -- MAY 6 Neighbors? The History of Balkan Peace and the History of Balkan War


**Film:** *Pretty Village, Pretty Flame* (*Lepa sela lepo gore*), dir. Srdan Dragojević (1996).

Graduate students/recommended for undergraduates:

Mary Neuberger, *The Orient Within: Muslim Minorities and the Negotiation of Nationhood in Modern Bulgaria* (Ithaca : Cornell University Press, 2004), Preface, Introduction, Ch. 1 "The Bulgarian Figure in the Ottoman Carpet: Untangling Nation from Empire"), and Ch. 2 ("Muslim Rebirth: Nationalism, Communism, and the Path to 1984"), i.e., from start to p. 84.
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Darina Vasileva, "Bulgarian Turkish Emigration and Return," International Migration Review 26, no. 2 (Summer 1992): 342-352. [Special Issue: The New Europe and International Migration]

Patrick Hyder Patterson, "What Went Wrong and What Went Right: Islamic Backwardness, Christian Culture, and European Civilization in the Croat Nationalism of Stjepan Radić, 1897-1928," currently being revised for resubmission to Slavic Review.

WEEK 7 -- MAY 13
Muslim Women and Muslim Men in Contemporary Europe

Jørgen Nielsen, Muslims in Western Europe, ch. 8 (Family, Law and Culture), pp. 101-120.


Ghada Hashem Talhami, "European, Muslim, and Female," Middle East Policy 11, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 152-168.


Film:


Graduate students/recommended for undergraduates:


WEEK 8 -- MAY 20
Paris Is Burning -- Conflicts, Causes, Consequences

** this week's assignments are deliberately light -- use this time to work on your papers!!!

re-read Jørgen Nielsen, Muslims in Western Europe, ch. 7 (France), pp. 8-23


Film: Hate (La Haine), dir. Mathieu Kassovitz (1995)
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WEEK 9 – MAY 27
Islamophobia?

** this week's assignments are deliberately light -- use this time to work on your papers!!!


Graduate students/recommended for undergraduates:

Suite of short pieces debating the issue in *American Ethnologist* 32, no. 4 (2005):

Matti Bunzl, "Between Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia: Some Thoughts on the New Europe"
Andre Gingrich, "Anthropological Analyses of Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism in Europe"
Esra Özyürek, "The Politics of Cultural Unification, Secularism, and the Place of Islam in the New Europe"
Jonathan Boyarin. "Discerning the Ghosts and the Interests of the Living"
Karen Brodkin, "Xenophobia, the State, and Capitalism"
John Bowen, "Commentary on Bunzl"
Nina Glick Schiller, "Racialized Politics, Evangelizing Christianity, Police States, and Imperial Power: Missing in Action in Bunzl's New Europe"
Matti Bunzl, "Methods and Politics" [Rejoinder]
Dominic Boyer, "Welcome to the New Europe"


WEEK 10 -- JUNE 3
Can Islam Find a Place in (Post-)Christian Europe?


Jack Goody, *Islam in Europe*, ch. 4 ["The Taliban, the Bamiyan, and Us -- The Islamic Other"], pp. 146-160.


http://www.lrb.co.uk/v27/n20/print/jone01_.html

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The Muhammad Cartoons Controversy:


http://www.salon.com/opinion/feature/2006/02/09/culture/print.html

http://www.slate.com/id/2135499/


http://www.spiegel.de/international/0,1518,399653,00.html

**Graduate students/recommended for undergraduates:**
