



INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION	Professor Iman Zawahry Contact Info: iman@jou.ufl.edu 352-281-6787 Office: 3048 Weimer Hall 352-392-0444 Office Hours: Monday 1:55pm-2:45pm TA: Luigi Bencosme - 786-916-9736
CLASS MEETING	Class: Tuesday Period 5 WEIM 3028 Thursday Periods 5-6 WEIM 3028
COURSE OBJECTIVE	<p>Islam, Media and Pop Culture will explore the use of media, including utilizing news, television, print media, radio, film and its impact on our society. The world has seen a dramatic shift of coverage of Islam in the media, which seemingly dominates the daily headlines. Through broadcast news, print media, radio, film, and other entertainment media, the manner the news is delivered drastically alters the mindset of the viewer. In a recent YouGov/ Huffington Post poll, 55% of Americans have an unfavorable view of Islam, while 68% have never met a Muslim. This course is designed to engage informed dialogue among students about the representation of Islam in the media and to explore whether said representations shape the public opinion of Islam. If so, how so, and if not, why not? Are some representations overly balanced to dispel Islamophobia while others are deliberately framed to propagate stereotypes?</p>
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p>Knowledge--Students will gain an understanding for the basic tenants that form the construct of the religion in order to analytically dissect the application of those principles to stories portrayed in the media.</p> <p>Understanding--Upon completion of this course, students will develop a heightened appreciation for the portrayal of Islam and Muslims in the media with sensitivity toward analytical consumption of cultural and religious entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Skills--Students will endure firsthand experience reporting on Islam in the media through print media, digital media and video production exposing students to fact-based, non-bias reporting and storytelling, which forms the pedigree of informative journalism.</p>
EQUIPMENT ROOM POLICIES	<p>Students will sign an equipment room contract Failure to adhere to the contract can result in a student having a grade point deduction and/or receiving an incomplete or failing grade in the class. Late returns will result in equipment privileges being revoked. Parking for the equipment room is limited to ten minutes. Failure to adhere to this policy can result in a point deduction from a student's final grade.</p>
TEXTBOOK	<p>All reading and visual materials will be posted on Canvas. The instructor will assign chapters and visuals for students to review the week before class.</p>
ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS, AND LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES	<p>Students are allowed one class absence per semester. Each additional absence will result in a two-point deduction from a student's final grade for each occurrence. Students are allowed to be tardy once during the semester in each class. Each additional tardy will result in a one-point reduction from a student's final grade. Students are counted present when they arrive and remain in class. Students are marked tardy one minute after class begins. Any unexcused late assignment will be lowered 20% of the total possible points. Any assignment turned in over a week late will be lowered 50% of the possible points.</p>
UNIVERSITY POLICIES	<p>STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.</p>

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STUDENT EVALUATION OF COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

IN CLASS RECORDING

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code



UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UF HONOR CODE

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

HELP WITH COPING

The UF Counseling and Wellness Center is a terrific, free resource for any student who could use help managing stress or coping with life. The center, at 3190 Radio Road on campus, is open for appointments and emergency walk-ins from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To make an appointment or receive after-hours assistance, call 352-392-1575.

ASSIGNMENTS, PROJECTS & GRADING

CLASS

Attendance and punctuality	10 PTS
Reaction Papers (3- 10 PTS each).....	30 PTS
Islam 101 Video.....	10 PTS
News Article.....	10 PTS
PSA.....	10 PTS
Photo project.....	10 PTS
Final Project	20 PTS

GRADING SCALE	
94% or higher	= A
90%-93%	= A-
88%-89%	= B+
84%-87%	= B
80%-83%	= B-
78%-79%	= C+
74%-77%	= C
70%-73%	= C-
65%-69%	= D

FORMAT OF CLASS

Islam, Media, and Pop Culture will have a series of classes and projects designed to have you think outside of the box, express ideas and images through visual storytelling. You will have the unique opportunity to tell stories through interacting and writing about a Muslim subject.

From week to week the schedule changes. Students need to pay specific attention to the syllabus in order to see what topic we are discussing and what projects are due.

This class is designed to be a fun, interactive and creative class with a light atmosphere. Feel free to contact me anytime with concerns and questions.

REACTION PAPERS & PROJECTS

ISLAM 101 MUSIC VIDEO

After reading “What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam” by John Esposito and “Orientalism” by Edward Saeed students will create a 1:00 minute music video giving the introduction to Islam. You will be broken up into groups of 4 and each group will focus on one topic in the video. Examples can be from the chapters of the book or topics you group chooses. Some suggestions: Orientalism, Women in Islam, Stereotypes (and corrections), Tenants of Islam (5 pillars), Introduction to Islam, etc. Learning outcome is to learn about the basics of Islam and history of Orientalism and ofcourse be creative!

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REACTION PAPERS & PROJECTS

REACTION PAPERS

We will be watching and listening to films, news and podcasts. Students will be required to write a one to two page personal reaction to how they viewed and understood the material. What stood out? What were the problems? How would you solve the problem? How does this impact the world and society?

REACTION PAPER 1 - DOCUMENTARY "MUSLIMS ARE COMING" & COMEDY SPECIAL "LOVE SUPREME"

After screening the film in class, what was your overall thought of the documentary and comedy special? Do you think that it portrayed Muslims in a good light? What about the American population? North and South? What did you like and what did you not like? How would you do it differently? What were your thoughts of the conversation with Preacher Moss?

REACTION PAPER 2 NEWS CONTENT ANALYSIS

You are to analyze and time each news segment in one evening newscast. You will examine the content for bias, relevance with the overall news of the day, the advertisers in the newscast and also the audience you think the network is hoping to attract. Specifically, networks have attempted to attract younger audiences in recent years, and you will draw conclusions on how successful (or not) you believe that newscast would be in attracting the 18-35 age group. You will watch and compare three channels- ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN News, FOX News, and MSNBC evening news. If you do not have access to cable television you may watch news sources online.

REACTION PAPER 3 - TV SHOW - RAMY & WE ARE LADY PARTS

After watching the First American Muslim TV Show Ramy in class what was your overall thought of the episode and show. What do you think of it's representation of Muslims in America. Were there problem areas? How does it overall impact the Muslim narrative and society? .

PROJECTS

PHOTO PROJECT

Students will take 4-5 still photographs of a Muslim subject that tells their story and who they are. Keep in mind the frame and rule of thirds. The subject should NOT look at the camera. Examples will be discussed in class and posted on canvas.

NEWS ARTICLE

Students will interview a Muslim member of the community. They will create a 750 word article about this Muslim. Students need to find what is interesting about this subject and be able to tell their personal story through their article. Extra credit will be given if the article is published.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT PARODY

Students will be broken up into groups of 4. Students will created a :30-1:00 second commercial, satire or comedy, about Muslims in the media today. Think about the College Humor "Muslim-Meet" that we viewed in class. The concept is to dispel stereotypes through humor and possibly adding knowledge at the same time. Projects must be clean and appropriate. Projects will be filmed and edited in class. Scripts will be reviewed by me before filming.

FINAL PROJECT

Final projects can be worked on individually or in a group. You have three options for a final project. 1) Film a 1:30-2:00 min narrative story with a Muslim character.(proper mics and sound if you choose dialogue story) 2) Create a photo-journalism project of a Muslim individual with a minimum of 15 pictures. 3) Write a 1000 word essay on how media influences opinion about Muslims in the western world. Include your personal experiences and thoughts. Please provide a minimum of 3 references. You may also pitch a topic to Iman to write about.

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DATE	TUESDAY CLASS WEIM 3054 PERIOD 5- 11:45AM-12:35PM	DATE	THURSDAY WEIM 2056 PERIOD 5-6 11:45AM-1:40PM	ASSIGNMENTS (FOR FOLLOWING WEEK)
JAN 9 TH	Class Introduction. Islam 101	JAN 11 TH	"Islam: What's the Fuss About?" Screen "Muslims Are Coming"	Read "What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam" Create key points for video -1/18 Watch Love Supreme Special
JAN 16 TH	Guest Speaker: Preacher Moss Q + A with comedian	JAN 18 TH	No formal class Film Music Video Reaction Paper 1 Due	Reaction Paper 1 Due 1/18 Read "Orientalism" -
JAN 23 ND	"Scrolling Frames: Storytelling through Photographs" Introduction to Photo Project Screen Videos - Video Due	JAN 25 TH	Guest Speaker: Photographer Cynthia Yanez	Music Video Due 1/23
JAN 30 TH	Present Photo Projects	FEB 1 ST	Present Photo Projects	Photo Projects Due 1/30-2/1
FEB 6 TH	"Islam and Comedy" Discuss and watch comedy specials/shows	FEB 8 TH	Guest Speaker: Yasmin Elhady Comedian/Attorney	
FEB 13 TH	"Balancing between Sensation and Facts: Portrayal of Muslims in News Media"	FEB 15 TH	Round Table Discussion Reaction Paper 2 Due	Reaction Paper 2 Due 2/15
FEB 20 TH	"Islam & Hip-Hop" Discuss News Articles. Introduction to Islam's place in Hip-Hop	FEB 22 ND	Guest Speaker: The Reminders Hip-Hop Dancer Duo and Musicians	
FEB 27 TH	"Print: Find the Story between the Words" How to interview a subject. Discuss news article project.	FEB 29 TH	Guest Speaker: Mehdi Hassan or Gina Massa Journalist on MSNBC show "The Mehdi Hassan Show" or First Hijab Wearing News Anchor in North America	Print Story Due 3/5-3/7
MAR 5 TH	Present Print Story	MAR 7 TH	Present Print Story	
MAR 12 TH	SPRING BREAK	MAR 14 TH	SPRING BREAK	
MAR 19 TH	"Storytelling through the Lens" How to tell a visual story with a unique voice	MAR 21 ST	Work on PSA Script/Shot Design in groups	
MAR 26 TH	"Filmmaking: The Reel Narrative" Reel Bad Arabs-History of negative portrayals of Muslims in Film. Screen PSA's	MAR 28 TH	Guest Speaker: Kausar Mohamed Writer/Actor/Filmmaker in Actor in The Flash	PSA's Due 3/26
APR 2 ND	"Dissecting the Small Screen: Television and the Modern Muslim" Screen and Discuss how episodic television portrays culture and religion "Ramy"	APR 4 TH	"Dissecting the Small Screen: Television and the Modern Muslim" Screen and Discuss how episodic television "We are Lady Parts"	
APR 9 TH	"Dissecting the Small Screen: Television and the Modern Muslim" Screen and Discuss how episodic television "Ms. Marvel" "Little Mosque on The Praire" "Zarqa" Reaction 3 Due	APR 11 TH	Guest Speaker: Sahar Jahani Writer "Ramy", "13 Reasons Why"	Reaction 3 Due 4/9
APR 16 TH	Round Table Discussion	APR 18 TH	Documentary Screening: "The Feeling of Being Watched"	WORK ON FINAL PROJECTS Due 4/23
APR 23 RD	SCREENING OF FINAL PROJECTS Final project Due			