

**School for New Learning
DePaul University**

**HC 128 Women and Sexuality in Islam
Spring 2008**

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Loop Campus

**Tuesdays, 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.
Quarter Hours: 4**

Course Description

This course emphasizes the issues of women and Sexuality in the Islamic cultures and demonstrates the diversity of women's lives in Muslim societies. In the course we will confront the following questions: Are the intense conflicts on women's sexual rights in the Islamic countries based on Islamic laws or the combination of political, economical and social inequalities? What is the Islamic view of love, eroticism and sexuality? Are women the instrument of power as the hunters and men the passive victims, or "women are created of and for the men"?

About the Instructor

Ezzat Goushegir earned her M.F.A in Playwriting from the University of Iowa. She has published 4 books in Persian including *The WOMAN, THE ROOM, AND LOVE-...AND SUDDENLY THE LEOPARD CRIED: WOMAN*, two collections of short stories, *METAMORPHOSIS* and *MARYAM'S PREGNANCY*, A collection of two plays and *MIGRATION IN THE SUN* a book of poetry. She is a regular contributor to literary journals and her plays have been produced by variety of theater companies.

Competencies Offered

A-1-X Can interpret the works of art within a historical, political and social

- Context and relate them to one's own experience.
- A-3-X Can examine the social and theological issues from a secular Perspective.
- H-1-X Can explain how different cultures, race, ethnicity and nationality will Be interpret from a new perspective, by analyzing International films and Literature.
- H-5 Can analyze issues and problems from a global perspective.

The Learning experience

This course is an exposure to the analysis of historical, political, social, feminist view points and literary texts about sexuality of women in Islamic societies, to bring a better understanding of women who articulate their identities in these societies in the diverse ways. Each class will begin with a brief introduction to the topic of focus, followed by class discussion of readings and screenings.

Required Readings

Fatima Mernissi, **Beyond the Veil**, Schenkman Pub Co, Cambridge, MA, 1975
 Marjaneh Satrapi, **Embroideries**, Pantheon Books, N.Y , 2005
 Leila Ahmed, **Women and Gender in Islam**, Yale University Press, New Haven & London, 1992
 Haroon Saddiqui, **Being Muslim**, House of Anansi Press, Canada, 2006

Additional Readings:

- 1- Abdelwahab Bouhdib, **Sexuality in Islam**, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1985
- 2- Pinar Ilkcaracan, **Women, Sexuality, and Social Change in the Middle East and the Maghreb.**
- 3- Susan Muaddi Darraj, **Understanding the other sister: The case of Arab Feminism**, Monthly Review, Volume 53, No 10
- 4- Stephen Murray, **The Will Not To Know**, Murray and Roscoe.
- 5- Arno Schmitt, **Different Approaches to Male-Male Sexuality/ Eroticism from Morocco to Uzbekistan**, Schmitt and Sofer.
- 6- **The Arabian Nights**, Translated by: Richard F. Burton, Blue Ribbon Book, London

Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance and class participation is highly required. Students who miss more than two class sessions will not have the requirements for a passing grade. In the event of an absence it is imperative that (1) you let me know ahead of time and (2) contact a

classmate ahead of time to be your “tutor” for the missed session. Students are expected to be in the class on time, and remain until class ends.

Outcomes

Students are expected to learn from multi-disciplined texts, screenings, and discussions, how to shape their life in a creative sense.

Evidence to be submitted

Standards and Criteria

- 1- Writing a **Critical Essay** presenting an original perspective on a topic related to the competences. The minimum length of your essay will be 5 pages (word processed, double spaced).

The **Critical Essay** will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

Content: Detailed and insightful discussion of the chosen topic, using relevant examples and support from course readings, class discussion, personal experience, and outside research.

Organization: Clear thesis statement, logical development of main points, and strong conclusion.

The assignment will be due in **May 6, 2008**

- 2- Students are required to give **20 minutes critical analysis presentation** about a topic of choice, followed by class discussion.

3- Final Paper

Students will present a diary journal based on the daily experiences of your interaction with the recent events in the Muslim world. In this journal you will describe your view, analysis and interpretation of these events.

Plagiarism

The DePaul Student Handbook defines plagiarism as follows: “Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following: (a) The direct copying of any source, such as written and verbal material, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores, whether published or unpublished, in whole or in part, without proper acknowledgement that it is someone else’s. (b) Copying of any source in whole or in part with only minor changes in wording or syntax even with acknowledgement. (c) Submitting as one’s own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else. This includes research papers purchased from any other person or agency. (d) The paraphrasing of another’s work or ideas without proper

acknowledgement.” Plagiarism will result in a failure of the assignment or possibly of the course. If you are unsure of how to cite a source, ask!

Grading and Evaluation

<i>Attendance</i>	<i>10 Points</i>
<i>Class participation and Reading Materials</i>	<i>20 Points</i>
<i>Critical Essay</i>	<i>20 Points</i>
<i>Oral Presentation</i>	<i>20 Points</i>
<i>Creative Work</i>	<i>30 Points</i>

Criteria for Assessment

Written Work Will be Evaluated As Follows:

A= designates work of high quality; reflects thorough and comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand; reflects a clearly identifiable thesis and argument that demonstrates cogent and creative development and support of idea.

B= designates work of good quality; reflects clearly organized and comprehensive understanding of issues at hand; presents substantive thesis and argument with evident development and support of ideas.

C= designates work which minimally meets requirements set forward in assignment; reflects some organization and development of ideas but develops argument in superficial or simplistic manner; may only address part of the assignment or be otherwise incomplete.

D= designates work of poor quality which does not meet minimum requirements set forth in the assignment; demonstrates poor organization of ideas and/or inattention to development of ideas, grammar, and spelling; treatment of material is superficial and/or simplistic; may indicate that student has not done reading assignments thoroughly.

Unfinished work or work requiring revision will be given an Incomplete (IN) grade. In order to qualify for the IN, students must have regularly attended class, and must have completed two thirds of assignments.

Work not submitted by the due date must be submitted within 2 weeks, and will be assessed on a P/F basis only.

Class Schedule

DATE	TOPICS	Assignment for this week	Film Screening
4/01/08	Introduction- A Brief History of Islam		TBA
4/08/08	Women & the Rise of Islam	Women & Gender in Islam (Chapter 2&3 PP 25-78)	
4/15/08	The Power of Scheherazade The thousand and one nights	Arabian Nights	Arabian Nights
4/22/08	The traditional Muslim view of Women	Beyond the Veil(P 25-64)	TBA
4/29/08	Puberty, Virginity, Husband and Wife	Beyond the Veil (P 97-120)	The Day I became A Woman
5/06/08	Veil	Understanding the other Sisters	TBA
5/13/08	Marriage, Divorce	Embroideries	Divorce Iranian Style
5/20/08	Western Image of the Muslim Women	Being Muslim (Chapter 4- Pp 96-125)	Perfumed Garden
5/27/08	Homosexuality in Islam	TBA	TBA
6/03/08	Women, Sexuality and Social Change in Muslim countries	Pinar Ilkkaracan's Essay	TBA
6/10/08	Conclusion	Beyond the Veil (P 165-177)	TBA

Oral Presentation starts from 4/15/08
Due Date for Critical Essay is 5/06/08
Due Date for Diary Journal is 6/10/08

DePaul University Academic Integrity Policy

DePaul University is a learning community that fosters the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas within a context that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others and for society at large. Violations of academic integrity, in any of their forms, are, therefore, detrimental to the values of DePaul, to the students' own development as responsible members of society, and to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Violations include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or misuse of the university's academic resources; alteration or falsification of academic records; and academic misconduct. Conduct that is punishable under the Academic Integrity Policy could result in additional disciplinary actions by other university officials and possible civil or criminal prosecution. Please refer to your Student Handbook or visit <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/homehandbook.html> for further details.

DePaul University Incomplete Policy

Undergraduate and graduate students have two quarters to complete an incomplete. At the end of the second quarter (excluding summer) following the term in which the incomplete grade was assigned, remaining incompletes will automatically convert to "F" grades. In the case of the Law School incompletes must be completed by the end of the semester following the one in which the incomplete was assigned. Ordinarily no incomplete grade may be completed after the grace period has expired. Instructors may not change incomplete grades after the end of the grace period without the permission of a college-based Exceptions Committee. This policy applies to undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. NOTE: In the case of a student who has applied for graduation and who has been approved for an Incomplete in his or her final term, the incomplete must be resolved within the four week grace period before final degree certification.

n.b. The SNL student who wishes to receive the grade of IN must formally request in writing that the instructor issue this grade. This request must be made before the end of the quarter in which the student is enrolled in a course.