# Islamic Encounters

**Religious Studies 61S**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term</strong></td>
<td>Summer 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Times</strong></td>
<td>Tues, Thurs: 10-11:50 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>70-72A1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instructor</strong></td>
<td>Ariela Marcus-Sells</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ArielaMS@Stanford.edu">ArielaMS@Stanford.edu</a></td>
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<td><strong>Office Hours</strong></td>
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**Description**

No religious tradition forms or exists in a vacuum and throughout history Muslims have lived and interacted with non-Muslims, whether Christian, Jews, or Hindus. This course will explore those encounters by looking at the social and political effects of five encounters between Muslims and non-Muslims across the world.

The class will begin with two examples from the contemporary period: political debates over Islamic clothing in Europe and shared devotion between Muslims and Hindus in modern Indian as the class examines how politics and cultural affect and are affected by religious identity. We will then turn to the example of Muslims living under non-Muslim rule in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century West Africa. As we examine how these communities decided to shift from religious accommodation to religious warfare and Muslim statehood we will question the role of religious conflict in driving large historical changes. In the fourth section of this class will examine the relationship between racial and religious identity by looking at Muslims in the Americas, and specifically at the participation of Muslims in the 1835 slave uprising in Brazil. Finally, the last section of the class will focus on the development of the first Muslim community in the Arabian peninsula as we look at the relationship between the formation of religious identity and the formation of a religion itself.

While historically and geographically distinct, all these moments bring to light the fundamental issue of contact and encounter and examine how those encounters shape religious traditions and identity.

**Requirements**

1. Class Participation 35%
2. Short Writing Assignment #1 15%
3. Short Writing Assignment #2 15%
4. Final Paper 35%

Donner, *Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam*
Fleuckiger, *In Amma’s Healing Room: Gender and Vernacular Islam in Southern India*
Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Babia*
Scott, *Politics of the Veil*
Syllabus

6/24
Introduction

Veiling in Europe

6/26
Scott, Politics of the Veil: 1-41

7/1
Scott, Politics of the Veil: 90-150

7/3
Scott, Politics of the Veil: 151-183
Bruce B. Lawrence, “Modernity,” In Key Themes for the Study of Islam: 245-262.

Shared Devotion in India

7/8
Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger, In Amma's Healing Room: 1-63

7/10
Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger, In Amma's Healing Room: 136-167
Devin DeWeese, “Authority,” In Key Themes for the Study of Islam: 26-52

7/15
Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger, In Amma's Healing Room: 168-200
Michael Cooperson, “Culture,” In Key Themes for the Study of Islam: 104-122

Muslim and non-Muslim rule in West Africa

7/17

First Short Paper Due

7/22
David Robinson, Muslim Societies in African History, Ch. 9: “Sokoto and Hausaland: Jihad within the Dar al-Islam”: 139-152.
Murray Last, “Reform in West Africa: the Jihâd Movements of the Nineteenth Century,” In History of West Africa, vol 2.: 1-29.

7/24

In-class Writing Workshop

Religion and Race in the Americas

7/29
João José Reis, Slave Rebellion in Brazil: 73-138

8/31
João José Reis, Slave Rebellion in Brazil: 139-174

8/5
Documentary: Hosay Trinidad

Second Short Paper Due
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/7</td>
<td>Donner, <em>Muhammad and the Believers</em>: 1-38&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;In-class Writing Workshop&lt;/b&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/12</td>
<td>Donner, <em>Muhammad and the Believers</em>: 39-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/14</td>
<td>Qur’an: Sura Yusuf&lt;br&gt;Genesis, story of Joseph</td>
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<td>8/16</td>
<td>&lt;b&gt;Final Paper Due (11:59pm) – No Class&lt;/b&gt;</td>
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