

# Learning about Islam and the Arab World, 2017

## Class Agenda

### Saturday, October 14, 2017: Room 815

- 8:00 – 8:30 am **Check In** --- Leave parking tickets in the basket at the Registration Table.
- 8:30 – 8:35 am **Review Resources; Course Introduction: Overview, Expectations, & Homework Assignments** – Rosa Melendez and Rola Karam
- 8:35 – 9:20 am **Session 1: Introduction to the Arab World** – Rola Karam  
Define the Arab World using the Rethinking Schools Map. Geography, Culture, and Language of the Arab World. Identify and differentiate the Arab World from the Muslim World.
- 9:20 – 9:30 am **Break**
- 9:30 – 10:45 am **Session 2: Introduction to Islam** – Shakeel Syed  
Introduction to Islam. What is Islam? Its history and development as a major world religion.
- 10:45 – 11:00 am **Break**
- 11:00 am – 12:00pm **Session 3: Arab Americans: Then and Now** – Dany Doueiri  
Participants will gain first-hand knowledge about Arab Americans: who they are; when they came to the U.S.; what roles they have played in the American cultural, civic, and economic experience; why the Arab American community is particularly important to Southern California; and what opportunities and resources exist for educators and students to benefit from.
- 12:00 – 12:30 pm **Lunch (Middle Eastern cuisine)**
- 12:30 – 2:00 pm **Session 4: Muslim Americans and Islamophobia** – Shakeel Syed  
Are Muslim Americans strangers in our midst? Or have they been part of the American experience from the start? Islamophobia: America's Irrational Fear. This session will examine the root causes of fear against Islam and Muslims through real life examples from varied facets of life and also offer tips and techniques to overcome the irrational fear of the newest "Other."
- 2:00 – 2:10 pm **Break**
- 2:10 – 3:10 pm **Session 5: Women in Islam** – Laila Al-Marayati  
A presentation addressing current misconceptions about Muslim women, the rights of women in Islam; and also, major female figures in Islamic history.
- 3:10 – 3:20 pm **Break**
- 3:20 – 4:15 pm **Session 6: Young Muslim Americans and Arab Americans** –  
*Moderator:* Vicki Tamoush  
*Panelists:* Jinan Al-Marayati, Amr Eissa, Ubaida Qureshi, and Wafaa Zekeria  
Muslim and Arab American students discuss issues that arise for them in school such as reactions to the hijab (headscarf), Ramadan (month of fasting and prayer), dating, daily prayer, peer pressure, family pressure, and Islamophobic and Arabophobic remarks or actions by teachers or students. Discussion and questions follow the presentations.
- 4:15 – 4:30 pm **Closing Announcements and Homework Assignment** – Richard Jessel

# Learning about Islam and the Arab World, 2017

## Class Agenda

**Saturday, October 21, 2017:    Room 815**

- 8:00 – 8:30 am    **Check In [hand in Parking Validation ticket & written homework assignment]**
- 8:30 – 8:35 am    **Review Resources**
- 8:35 – 9:50 am    **Session 7a: Palestine/Israel** – Jeff Cooper  
Speaker will model a student-centered approach to teaching this controversial subject by engaging participants in a “Socratic seminar.” Participants will read and discuss the “Primer” distributed as a homework option on Day 1. They will be guided by the speaker to think historically by analyzing and interpreting information, and supporting their own positions.
- 9:50 – 10:35 am    **Session 7b: Palestine Today: No Way to Treat a Child** – Rola Karam  
A look at current life in Palestine, with a focus on the situation of children.
- 10:35 – 10:45 am    **Break**
- 10:45 am – 12:15 pm    **Session 8: The Changing Arab World: Overview of Politics, Society, and Refugees** – Wisam Alshaibi and Nihal Kaylai  
Starting with the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, we will explain the creation of modern state borders by colonial powers in the Middle East. We will then trace the dynamics of ethnicity, sect, religion, and language within modern Middle Eastern nation-states, correcting common misconceptions about the salience of various identities within states throughout the 20th century. We will then discuss September 11<sup>th</sup> as a paradigm shift in the way Americans conceptualize the Middle East and discuss the occupation of Iraq, the Arab Spring, and the subsequent unrest in Iraq and Syria. Case studies will be drawn from Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, and Syria.
- 12:15 – 12:45 pm    **Lunch (Middle Eastern cuisine)**
- 12:45 – 2:15 pm    **Session 9: *Refugees from the Arab World*** – Lilian Alba, Nihal Kaylai, Rola Karam, and Karin Pally  
Review of the legal obligations of the United States toward refugees under international law—granting asylum to, and resettling refugees—followed by a discussion on where teaching about refugees fits into the curriculum and ideas about how to teach about refugees.
- 2:15 – 2:30 pm    **Break**
- 2:30 – 4:00 pm    **Session 10: Music of the Arab Near East** – Sami Asmar with Turath  
The Turath organization (turath.org) will present an overview of the musical traditions of Arabic speaking people in the Eastern Mediterranean region (Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine) through live and recorded examples. The presentation will cover: 1) Musical theory and structure; 2) Rhythms; 3) Traditional instruments; 4) Sung poetry; and 5) Current and future trends.
- 4:00 – 4:30 pm    **Course wrap-up: Effective Teaching Methods, Homework Assignments, and Course Evaluation** – Richard Jessel