Wednesday, October 4, 2017:

7:30 – 8:00 am  Check In/Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 8:30 am  Course Introduction: Overview and Expectations, Materials, Introduction to the Arab World – Vicki Tamoush and Rola Karam
Define the Arab World using the Rethinking Schools Map.

8:30 – 8:35 am  Stretch/Transition

8:35 – 9:55 am  Session 1: Overview of Arab World – Dr. Dany Doueiri
During this session, participants will embark on an exploratory journey to discover the Arab World. We will answer questions such as who are the Arab people, are they a homogeneous group, linguistically, culturally, religiously? What role did their civilization play in bridging Western and Eastern traditions? What are the Arab peoples’ current challenges, aspirations, and opportunities?

9:55 – 10:10 am  Break

10:10 – 11:30 pm  Session 2: Palestine/Israel – Dr. Mahmood Ibrahim
How and when did the Israel/Palestine conflict start? What has been the course of this conflict and how did the U.S. get involved? What has been the cost and what are the consequences of this involvement? What solutions have been suggested through international and U.S. diplomacy? Why is the conflict still on-going?

11:30 am – 12:00 pm  Lunch (Middle Eastern cuisine)

12:00 – 1:15 pm  Session 3: Arab Americans – Dany Doueiri
During this session, participants will gain first-hand knowledge about Arab Americans. Who are they and when did they come to the U.S.? What roles have they played in the American cultural, civic and economic experience? Why is the Arab American community particularly important to Southern California and what opportunities and resources are there to benefit for educators and students?

1:15 – 1:30 pm  Break

1:30 – 2:45 pm  Session 4: 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. How does this music differ from western music in structure and style? What instruments are used to produce this music? The presentation will cover: 1) Musical theory and structure; 2) Rhythms; 3) Traditional instruments; 4) Sung poetry; and 5) Current and future trends.

2:45 – 3:00 pm  Closing Announcements
Learning about Islam and the Arab World, 2017
Class Agenda

Wednesday, October 25, 2017:

7:30 – 8:00 am  Check In/Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 9:45 am  Session 6: Introduction to Islam – Hussam Ayloush
What is Islam? Where is this faith practiced around the world? What is sharia law? What is the history of Islam and how did it develop as a major world religion?

9:45 – 10:00 am  Break

10:00 – 11:00 am  Session 7: Muslim Americans and Islamophobia: America’s Irrational Fear – Shakeel Syed
Are Muslim Americans strangers in our midst? Or have they been part of the American experience from the start? This session will examine the root causes of fear of 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.”

11:00 – 11:30 am  Lunch (Middle Eastern cuisine)

11:30 am – 1:00 pm  Session 8: Women in Islam – Duaa Alwan and Farrah Khan
How are women viewed in Islam, in the Qur’an? Do Muslim women have leadership roles? What are their lives like here in Orange County? Hear from two Muslim women about what they believe, how their faith informs their lives, and what it’s like to be a Muslim woman in our community.

1:00 – 1:15 pm  Break

1:15 – 2:45 pm  Session 9: Young Muslim Americans and Arab Americans –
Moderator: Vicki Tamoush
Panelists: Yusef Abd-Allah, Zara Hamid, Ubaida Qureshi, Bayan Sbeini, and Zaina Shaik
What is it like to be a Muslim (and, for some, also Arab) student in our community? When and why do Muslim girls choose to start covering their hair? How do Muslim students handle fasting during Ramadan? Do they date? Where can they pray at school? What family pressures do they experience? Five students speak candidly about their lives.

2:45 – 3:00 pm  Course wrap-up: Course Evaluation and Closing Remarks