Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
Students who have verification from Disability Services are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. The Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall; 614.292.3307; 614.292.0901) verifies the need for accommodations and assists in the development of accommodation strategies.

Course Description
Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the world’s Muslim population has been scrutinized and often branded as anti-American. At the same time, there have been calls for tolerance, insisting that not all Muslims are threats. Muslim Americans, existing at the juncture of “Muslim” and “American,” have also attempted to reconcile these supposedly divisive categories. This course explores how American popular culture generates and articulates our understandings of Muslims, particularly Muslim Americans, with these three viewpoints in mind. We will examine the origin of popular stereotypes of Muslims, mainstream media’s rejection of these stereotypes, and Muslim American self-representations that respond to mainstream media. In looking at these representations, we will consider how religion intersects with race, class, gender, and sexuality. Critically examining these groups of representations, we will try to understand what makes Muslims “other” and how they might escape this damning categorization.

Required Texts
- All other reading assignments are available on Carmen. Please bring these readings to class.

Course Policies
Attendance: **You have three “free” absences to be used for any reason.** After you have used these excused absences, **regardless of reason**, your participation grade will go down one-third of a grade for each day missed after the free absences were used (for example, a B would become a B-). **If you have a serious emergency that requires you to miss class for more than three days, please contact the instructor immediately or as soon as possible to discuss a plan**
of action. Please note that for your attendance to be counted, you must attend the whole class, not a portion of it. If you are absent from a class, you are responsible for speaking to classmates about what you missed. I will only respond to emails about what was missed in class under extenuating circumstances.

Technology: No email or internet usage during class. Your instructor will call you out if you appear to be paying more attention to your computer than to class. Cell phones are to be put on silent/vibrate when class begins. Absolutely no texting or irrelevant internet usage during class.

Tardiness: Please do not be late to class. If you have a class before/after this one and it is hard to make it to/from class on time, please let me know so that we can arrange an undistruptive mode of entry/exit. If you are accidentally late to class, please be as quiet and undistruptive as possible.

Class Cancellation Policy: If class is cancelled due to emergency, I will contact you via email. In addition, I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancellation to let you know what will be expected of you for our next class meeting.

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another person. It is a serious academic offense that can result in referral to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and failure for the course. Faculty Rule 3335-5-487 states, “It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term ‘academic misconduct’ includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee.” In addition, it is a violation of the student code of conduct to submit without the permission of the instructors work for one course that has also been submitted in fulfillment of the requirements of another course. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct.

Class Requirements and Grade Breakdown
1. Student Participation (15%)
   What makes a representation-based class truly dynamic is the quality of its discussions. Though there will be some small lectures during the quarter, most classes will be discussion based, with an emphasis on dialogue and sharing of perspectives, ideas, and interpretations. It is expected that you will be an active and informed participant in all class discussions and that you will have read assigned texts by the dates indicated on the syllabus. Students are expected to engage in respectful intellectual dialogue in the classroom. Participation grades will be given with a participation rubric, available for viewing on Carmen.

2. Critical Writing and Reading Quizzes (10%)
On five occasions in the semester, you will be given a pop quiz to ensure that you are coming to class prepared and having read and understood the material. You will receive no notice about these quizzes in advance. Your lowest quiz grade, including zeros due to absence, will be dropped before averaging final grades.

3. **Current Media Analysis and Presentation (10%)**
   Each student will sign up for a date to present on a current media artifact. You will find an example from the media that addresses a perspective on Muslim Americans and write up one page analysis (due on the day of your presentation) of how that media example presents the issue at hand. An article from a magazine or newspaper, a clip from a film, an episode of a television show, a music video, a print or TV interview are all acceptable forms of media to analyze. Your analysis should:
   - Include a description of what the media piece say/does/perform/argues
   - Address why you chose the piece – how does this piece demonstrate or complicate something we have discussed in class?
   You will present your findings in a five-minute presentation to the class.

4. **Response Papers (30%)**
   You will be asked to write two reflection essays over the course of the term. Each essay must be 3-4 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). In order to receive full credit, you must engage all aspects of the paper prompt, relating your assertions to course materials. The prompts will be provided in class and posted on Carmen.

5. **Final Paper (35%)**
   The final paper (6-8 pages) will be on a topic of your choice. The compiled grade for the paper includes:
   - 25%: A grade based on the submitted paper
   - 10%: A ten-minute presentation on your paper topic
   Further details will be distributed in class.

**Grade Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 – 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources**

*Your Instructor*: Please feel free to contact me at any time over the course of the quarter if you are struggling with papers, course work, etc. I am willing to work with you. **Email is the best way to contact me.** I will do my best to respond to your email within 24 hours on weekdays, and by Sunday evening at the latest on weekends (beginning Friday evening). Also, I encourage you to use my office hours.

*The OSU Writing Center*: OSU Writing Center consultants are an excellent resource for writers at any level or stage in the writing process. Take advantage of the free individual tutoring that
you can receive there. The Writing Center is located in 485 Mendenhall Laboratory, on the south side of the oval. Phone Number: 614-688-4291. Website: ctsw.osu.edu.

Class Schedule
The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule at any time, if the need arises.

Wed, Aug 27: Introduction

Studying Representation
Fri, Aug 29: Why Study Pop Culture?
• David Wong, “5 Ways You Don’t Realize Movies are Controlling Your Brain”
• Douglas Kellner, “Cultural Studies, Multiculturalism, and Media Culture”

Wed, Sep 3: Hegemony
• James Lull, “Hegemony”
• Nina Shen Rastogi, “Please Submit All Ethnicities”

Muslim American Histories
Fri, Sep 5: Orientalism
• Edward Said, Excerpt from Orientalism

Mon, Sep 8: Islam’s History in America
• “Islam in America”

Wed, Sep 10: The Good, the Bad, and the Muslim
• Mahmood Mamdani, “Modernity and Violence”

Fri, Sep 12: Orientalism and Islamophobia

Mon, Sep 15: Muslims in America Today
• John Borelli and Drew Christiansen, “America’s Muslims: Mainstream and Middle Class”

Muslims in Mainstream Media: Stereotypes
Wed, Sep 17: Class Canceled
• Please watch The West Wing, “Isaac and Ishmael” (S3 E1). The show is available on Netflix and Amazon Instant Video.

Fri, Sep 19: Histories of Mainstream Representations
• Jack Shaheen, “The Making of the ‘Green Menace’”
• Screening: Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People
Mon, Sep 22: Histories, continued
  • Screening: *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People*

Wed, Sep 24: Mainstream Representations Today
  • Diane Watt, “The Urgency of Visual Media Literacy in Our Post-9/11 World: Reading Images of Muslim Women in the Print News Media”

Fri, Sep 26 – Wed, Oct 1: **Class Canceled**
  • Work on your response papers.

Fri, Oct 3: Mainstream Representations, continued
  • **Response Paper One Due**
  • Evelyn Alsultany, *Arabs and Muslims in the Media* [Introduction]

Mon, Oct 6: TERRORISTS!
  • Screening: 24

Wed, Oct 8: TERRORISTS!, continued
  • Evelyn Alsultany, *Arabs and Muslims in the Media* [Chapter 1]
  • Screening: 24

**Muslims in Mainstream Media: Complicating the Terrorist**
Fri, Oct 10: Muslims Are Not Terrorists
  • Evelyn Alsultany, *Arabs and Muslims in the Media* [Chapter 2]
  • Screening: *All-American Muslim*

Mon, Oct 13: Muslims Are Not Terrorists, continued
  • Evelyn Alsultany, *Arabs and Muslims in the Media* [Chapter 2]
  • Screening: *All-American Muslim*

Wed, Oct 15: Intersectional Muslims?: Considering Race
  • Jamillah Karim, “Ethnic Borders in American Muslim Communities”

Fri, Oct 17: Considering Race, cont.
  • Zareena Grewal, “Lights, Camera, Suspension: Freezing the Frame on the Mahmood Abdul-Rauf Anthem Controversy”

Mon, Oct 20: Intersectional Muslims?: Considering Sexuality
  • Shelina Janmohamed, “What Muslim Women Really Want in the Bedroom”
  • Eren Arruna Cervantes, “Pink Burqas, Gagas and Madonnas”

• Jay Aaminah Khan, “Muslim, Queer, Feminist: It's as Complicated as it Sounds”
• Screening: Shameless

Fri, Oct 24: Resisting Stereotypes: Muslim American Responses
• Evelyn Alsultany, Arabs and Muslims in the Media [Chapter 5]

Mon, Oct 27: Resisting Stereotypes, continued
• Faheem Younous, “Why (and How) Should Muslim Americans ‘Celebrate’ Christmas?”

Self-Representations
Wed, Oct 29: Muslim American Self-Understanding
• Nadine Naber, “Muslim First, Arab Second: A Strategic Politics of Race and Gender”

Fri, Oct 31: Second-Generation Immigrant Narratives
• Farha Shariff, “Straddling the Cultural Divide: Second Generation South Asian Identity and The Namesake”

Mon, Nov 3: Second-Generation Muslims
• Response Paper Two Due
• Screening: Mooz-ium

Wed, Nov 5: Second-Generation Muslims
• Screening: Mooz-ium

Fri, Nov 7: Writing the Self: Autobiography
• Sarah Husain, Introduction to Voices of Resistance: Muslim Women on War, Faith, and Sexuality

Mon, Nov 10: Writing the Self: Autobiography and Sexuality
• Zahra Noorbakhsh, “The Birds, the Bees, and My Hole”
• TBD

Wed, Nov 12 – Wed, Nov 19: Class Canceled
• Work on your final papers.

Fri, Nov 21: Muslim American Comedy
• Amarnath Amarsingam, “Laughter is the Best Medicine: Muslim Comedians and Social Criticism in Post-9/11 America”

Mon, Nov 24: #mipsterz
• Sana Saeed, “Seeking a Happy Medium: Pop Culture and the Conundrum of Islam”
Wed, Nov 26 – Fri, Nov 28: **Class Canceled – Happy Thanksgiving!**

Mon, Dec 1: Punk and Islam?
  - Anthony T. Fiscella, “From Muslim Punks to Taqwacore: An Incomplete History of Punk Islam”
  - Screening: *The Taqwacores*

Wed, Dec 3: Punk and Islam?
  - Screening: *The Taqwacores*

Fri, Dec 5: **Student Presentations**

Mon, Dec 8: **Student Presentations**