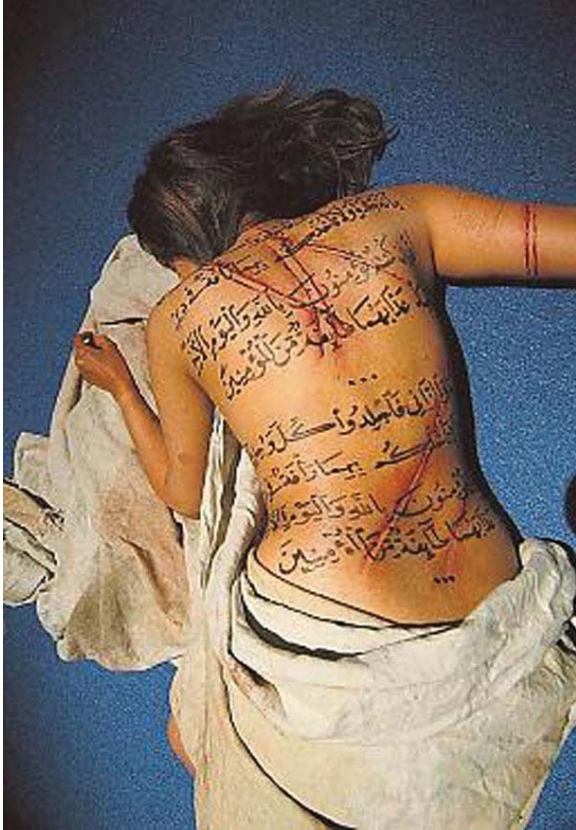


ISLAM AND THE WEST: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON EUROPEAN LITERATURE



GERMAN 460
MEETS WITH
ENGLISH 475 & COMPLIT 376

WINTER 2010
WF 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM
PROF. KADER KONUK

Although Islam represents the second largest religion in Europe today, Islam and the West are generally regarded as mutually exclusive. Against this background, this course allows students to examine the idea of Islam in European literature. In the first half of the semester, we will read literature by Europeans who traveled to predominantly Muslim countries, inquire into the relationship between the European literary imagination and the colonization of the Middle East and North Africa, and investigate the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century fascination with the Orient. Students will read excerpts from the first eighteenth-century translation of the Arabian Nights and ask what attracted Goethe to Persian poetry.

The second half of the course is dedicated to the place of Islam in contemporary Europe. The course examines the impact of Turkish migration to Germany and discusses Turkey's relationship with the European Union. Islam and the West takes up some of the controversial and thought-provoking debates on Islam in Europe at the turn of the millennium. Among them is the fatwa following the publication of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*, the headscarf-debate in France and Germany, and the murder of a Dutch director by a Muslim fundamentalist. The syllabus incorporates texts that capture cross-cultural exchange processes between Judeo-Christian and Muslim worlds, including conversion narratives and literature concerning the practice of "going native" among European travelers in the Middle East. A selection of German and British films will afford the opportunity to discuss honor killings, blasphemy, and heresy within Muslim communities in Europe. This course offers students new pathways of thinking about the historical relationship between Islam and Europe and discusses the contemporary demand in Germany and the European Union for Muslims to Westernize, integrate, and assimilate.

The course counts towards a minor in Modern European Studies.

Prof. Kader Konuk
WF 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
LEC RM 2 MLB

German 460 meets with English 475 and CompLit 376

Islam and the West

Encounters in Western European Literatures

Although Islam represents the second largest religion in Europe today, Islam and the West are generally regarded as mutually exclusive. Against this background, this course allows students to examine the representation of Islam in European literature. In the first half of the semester, we will discuss the European literary imagination vis-à-vis Islam in early modern Europe and investigate the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century fascination with the Orient. Students will read excerpts from the first eighteenth-century translation of the *Arabian Nights* and ask what attracted Goethe to Persian poetry. The syllabus incorporates texts that capture cross-cultural exchange processes between Judeo-Christian and Muslim worlds, including conversion narratives and literature concerning the practice of “going native” among European travelers in the Middle East.

The second half of the course is dedicated to the place of Islam in contemporary Europe. The course examines the impact of Turkish migration to Germany and discusses Turkey’s relationship with the European Union. *Islam and the West* takes up some of the controversial and thought-provoking debates on Islam in Europe at the turn of the millennium. Among them is the Ayatollah’s fatwa following the publication of Salman Rushdie’s *Satanic Verses*, the headscarf-debate in France and Germany, and the murder of a Dutch director by a Muslim fundamentalist. A selection of German and British films will afford the opportunity to discuss honor killings, blasphemy, and heresy within Muslim communities in Europe. This course offers students new pathways of thinking about the historical relationship between Islam and Europe and discusses the contemporary demand in Germany and the European Union for Muslims to Westernize, integrate, and assimilate.

The course counts towards a minor in Modern European Studies.

Prof. Kader Konuk

Office 3120 MLB
Office hours Fridays 1:00-2:15 pm
Please set up appointments after class or via email.
Email konuk@umich.edu

Assessment

Participation	40%
2 Tests	10%
2 Essays	25%
Research paper	25%

Marks will be *deducted* for more than *three* absences.

Tests

Students will be expected to take two tests (in class). The tests will mainly cover factual information related to the readings and in-class discussions.

Essays

Students are required to write two essays (5 pages, double spaced) about a given topic (due on Feb 15 and March 27).

Research Paper

After prior consultation with the professor, students choose a topic for their research papers. An abstract for the paper, including a bibliography of secondary sources, should be handed in by April 4, 2010. The research paper (10 pages, double spaced, plus bibliography) is due on April 23, 2010.

Islam in Early Modern Europe

Week 1

Wednesday, January 6

- Introduction

Friday, January 8

- Dante Alighieri. *The Divine Comedy. Inferno*. (3-31 Canto 1-5; 151-157 Canto 28)

Supplemental

- Schildgen, Brenda Deen. *Dante and the Orient*. (1-13, 45-61)
- Tolan, John. *Son of Ishmael: Muslims through European Eyes in the Middle Ages*. Ch: Mirror of Chivalry. Saladin in the Medieval European Imagination. (79-100).

Week 2

Wednesday, January 13th

- Shakespeare, William: *Othello*.

Friday, January 15th

- Shakespeare, William: *Othello*.

Supplemental

- D'Amico, Jack. *The Moor in English Renaissance Drama*. 75-132.
- Hall, Kim. *Othello, the Moor of Venice: Texts and Contexts / William Shakespeare*.
- Dimmock, Matthew. *New Turkes: Dramatizing Islam and Ottomans in Early Modern England*. (Introduction and Conclusion).
- Shakespeare, William, and David M Bevington. *Othello*. Toronto: Bantam, 1988.
- Fuchs, Barbara. *Mimesis and Empire: The New World, Islam, and European Identities*. (1-63)

Week 3

Wednesday, January 20th

- Lewis, Bernard. *The Muslim Discovery of Europe*. (17-57)

Friday, January 22th

- Zemon-Davis, Natalie: *Trickster Travels*. (3-13)

Supplemental

- Evliya Çelebi. *Book of Travels*.
- Euben, Roxanne. *Journeys to the Other Shore: Muslim and Western Travelers in Search of Knowledge*. University of Minnesota Press, 2006.
- Maalouf, Amin: *Leo Africanus*. (1986)

Oriental Fantasies in the Eighteenth Century

Week 4

Wednesday, January 27th

- *Thousand and One Nights*. (excerpt)

Friday, January 29th

- Maria Edgeworth: Murad the Unlucky (1804). *Oriental Tales*. Ed. Robert Mack. Oxford, 1992. 215-256.
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. (1-28)

Supplemental

- Mohd, Jamal. Images of Islam and Muslims in British Fiction. In *Stranger than Fiction* ed. by A.R. Kidwai. (1-13)
- al-Musawi, Muhsin. *The Islamic Context of the Thousand and One Nights*. (1-51)
- Makdisi, Saree and Nussbaum, Felicity. *The Arabian Nights in Historical Context: Between East and West*. (1-81)

Week 5

Wednesday, February 3rd

- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. (1-28)
- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. Poems of the west and the East: West-Eastern Divan = West-östlicher Divan. (excerpt)

Friday, February 5th

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. Poems of the west and the East: West-Eastern Divan = West-östlicher Divan. (excerpt)
- Hāfiz. *The Dīvān*. Translated by H. Wilberforce Clarke. (excerpt)

Supplemental

- Makdisi, Saree and Nussbaum, Felicity. *The Arabian Nights in Historical Context: Between East and West*. 1-23.
- Dobie, Madeleine. Translation in the Contact Zone: Antoine Galland's Mille et une nuits. In *The Arabian Nights in Historical Context: Between East and West*, ed. by Saree Makdisi and Felicity Nussbaum. 25-49.
- al-Musawi, Mushin J. *The Islamic Context of the Thousand and One Nights*.
- Ballaster, Rosalind. *Fabulous Orient: Fictions of the East in England 1662-1785*. 59-192.
- Sharpe, Lesley. *The Cambridge Companion to Goethe*.
- A.S. Byatt. *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye*.

First Essay Question will be posted on Feb 5th

Music and Islam

Week 6

Wednesday, February 10th

- Mozart, Amadeus: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

Friday, February 12th

- Beethoven, Ludwig von: *Ninth Symphony*.
- MacKenzie, John M. **Orientalism: History, Theory, and the Arts.** Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1995. Ch: **Orientalism in Music. (138-175)**

Supplemental

- Daniel Barenboim and Edward W. Said: *Parallels and Paradoxes: Explorations in Music and Society*. Vintage, 2004.
- Pirker, Michael. "Janissary Music." Grove Music Online.
- Locke, Ralph. *Musical Exoticism: Images and Reflections*. Cambridge 2008.
- Bellman, Jonathan. *The Exotic in Western Music*. North Eastern UP 1997.

First Essay due on Feb 15

Converting, Cross-Dressing, and Masquerading

Week 7

Wednesday, February 17th

- Montagu, Mary Wortley. *The Turkish Embassy Letters*. (excerpt)

Friday, February 19th

- Özyurek: **Convert Alert: German Muslims and Turkish Christians as Threats to Security in the New Europe.** In *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. Vol. 51, Issue 01, January 2009, 91-116.

Supplemental

- Eberhardt, Isabelle. *The Nomad: The Diaries of Isabelle Eberhardt*. Summersdale Travel, 2002.
- Lasker-Schüler, Else. *Poems*.
- Joseph Boone: Vacation Cruises; or, The Homoerotics of Orientalism, in: *Feminist Postcolonial Theory*. Eds. Reina Lewis and Sara Mills. London and New York: Routledge 2003, 460-488.
- Kader Konuk. "Ethnomasquerade in Ottoman-European Encounters: Re-enacting Lady Mary Wortley Montagu," *Criticism* 46, no. 3 (2005): 393-414.

Colonialism

Week 8

Wednesday, February 24th

- Screening of *Passage to India*, based on E.M. Forster's 1924 novel

Friday, February 26th no class

- Library session with librarian Beau Case. Location TBA

NO CLASS MARCH 1-5 DUE TO SPRING BREAK

Heresy

Week 9

Wednesday, March 10th

- Salman Rushdie. *The Satanic Verses*. Viking, 1988. (excerpt)

Friday, March 12th

- Pipes, Daniel. *The Rushdie Affair: The Novel, the Ayatollah, and the West*. Transaction, 2003. (excerpt)

Supplemental

- Pamuk, Orhan. *My Name is Red*. Vintage, 2002.
- *Muslim Narratives and the Discourse of English*. Chapter: The Polemics of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*. (91-111)
- Erickson, John. *Islam and Postcolonial Narrative*. Chapter on Salman Rushdie, 129-160.

Secularism

Week 10

Wednesday, March 17th

- Cesari, Jocelyne and Seán McLoughlin. *European Muslims and the Secular State*. Ashgate 2005. (excerpt)
- Possibly: Class Visit by the Dutch writer Kader Abdolah

Friday, March 19th

- Ramadan, Tariq. *What I Believe*. (1-19, 41-45)
- Asad, Talal. Muslims and European Identity. Can Europe Represent Islam? In Elizabeth Hallam and Brian Street. *Cultural Encounters: Representing 'Otherness'*. (11-25)

Supplemental

- Karahasan, Dževad and Slobodan Drakulic. *Sarajevo, Exodus of a City*. Kodansha International, 1994.

Second Essay Question will be posted on March 19

Migration

Week 11

Wednesday, March 24th

- ***Kebab Connection*, Fatih Akın. 2005.**

Friday, March 26th

- ***Kebab Connection*, Fatih Akın. 2005.**

Supplemental

- Stoll, Georg: Immigrant Muslim Writers in Germany. *The Postcolonial Crescent: Islam's Impact on Contemporary Literature*. Ed. John Hawley. (266-284)

Second Essay Question dues on March 27th

Gender and Sexuality

Week 12

Wednesday, March 31st

- **screening: *40 qm Deutschland (Forty Square Meters of Germany, 1986)* by Tevfik Başer**

Friday, April 2nd

- **Mandel, Ruth. *Cosmopolitan Anxieties: Turkish Challenges to Citizenship and Belonging in Germany*. Duke 2008. Chapters: Reimagining Islams in Berlin. Veiling Modernities. 248-310.**
- **Ramadan, Tariq. *What I Believe*. Chapter: The Issue of Women. 62-66.**

Supplemental

- Mandel, Ruth: Turkish Headscarves and the "Foreigner Problem": Constructing Difference through Emblems of Identity. *New German Critique*, No. 46, (Winter, 1989), 27-46
- Özdamar, Emine Sevgi. *The Bridge of the Golden Horn*. Serpent's Tail, 2007.
- Gauch, Suzanne. *Liberating Shahrazad: Feminism, Postcolonialism, and Islam*.
- *The Stranger (Die Fremde)*, Feo Aladağ. 2010.

Hand in the abstract for your research paper by April 4th

Week 13

Wednesday, April 7th

- ***Submission* (10-minute film in English directed by Theo van Gogh and written by Ayaan Hirsi Ali)**
- **Hirsi Ali, Ayaan. *Infidel*. Simon and Schuster 2007. (excerpt)**

Friday, April 9th

- **Hirsi Ali, Ayaan. *Infidel*. Simon and Schuster 2007. (excerpt)**

Supplemental

- *Islam in Europa: Eine internationale Debatte*. Ed. by Thierry Chevrel and Anja Seeliger.

Islamic Fundamentalism and Anti-Islamism

Week 14

Wednesday, April 14th

- Buruma, Ian. *Murder in Amsterdam: The Death of Theo Van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance*. Penguin Press 2006. (excerpt)

Friday, April 16th

- Pargeter, Alison. *The New Frontiers of Jihad: Radical Islam in Europe*. University of Pennsylvania Press 2008. (excerpt)

SEMINAR PAPER DUE APRIL 23