

## **OKLAHOMA SCHOLAR-LEADERSHIP ENRICHMENT PROGRAM CLASSES**

### **ISLAM AND THE WEST AFTER 9/11**

**On the Campus of  
Oklahoma Christian University (Oklahoma City, OK)**

**October 7-10, 2009**

#### **Course Syllabus**

Faculty Resource Instructor: Dr. Bob Carpenter, Professor of Ministry and Missions, Oklahoma Christian University (robert.carpenter@oc.edu)

Special Guest Lecturer: Dr. Charles Kimball, Presidential Religious Studies Professor and Director of the Religious Studies Program, University of Oklahoma (kimball@ou.edu)

#### **Course Description**

The multifaceted role that Islam plays in today's globalized and religiously pluralistic world is of crucial importance for many reasons. Unquestionably, the attacks carried out on U.S. soil by Islamist terrorists on September 11, 2001, and subsequent developments have served to focus the attention of scholars and world leaders on the interaction between religion and politics in the Middle East and its broader implications, particularly for the West. This course will challenge students to apply their background and training in a variety of disciplines to this timely topic. Carefully selected readings, faculty lectures, class discussions, a research paper, a panel discussion involving religious leaders representing different traditions, and a field trip to Oklahoma City's largest mosque will all help the course participants to deepen their understanding of a complex array of issues.

A special feature of this course will be the participation of Dr. Charles Kimball, Presidential Religious Studies Professor and Director of the Religious Studies Program at the University of Oklahoma, as Special Guest Lecturer. Dr. Kimball's more than three decades of research, teaching, and personal involvement in key events in the Middle East provide students with a rare opportunity to hear an insider's perspective regarding this crucial subject matter.

#### **General Requirements for all OSLEP seminars:**

Prepared attendance is crucial to the success of the course. You should come to each class session ready to analyze the material, pose questions, try out new ideas, and listen to and challenge the ideas of your classmates and teachers. The grades "S" and "U" (satisfactory/unsatisfactory) will be used for this seminar. Your grade in the class will be based on your preparation for the class, your participation in the discussions (both quality and quantity), your written work both before and after the class meetings, and your participation in all class activities. Your participation in the seminar discussions will constitute 50% of your grade. OSLEP classes are kept small in order to encourage discussion. Your contribution is essential to the success of the seminar.

Students taking the seminar for graduate credit will be required to do additional research and to write an analytical paper, approximately 30-40% longer than that required for

undergraduates. How much additional reading and how long the paper will be determined by the faculty resource instructor and the student.

### **Required Textbooks**

Juan Cole. *Engaging the Muslim World*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

Graham Fuller. *The New Turkish Republic: Turkey as a Pivotal State in the Muslim World*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Institute of Peace Press, 2008.

Charles Kimball. *When Religion Becomes Evil*. Revised and expanded edition. New York: HarperOne, 2008.

Ray Takeyh. *Hidden Iran: Paradox and Power in the Islamic Republic*. Council on Foreign Relations. New York: Holt Paperbacks, 2007.

### **Course Requirements**

1. **Book Reviews:** Each student is required to submit two (2) critical book reviews of at least 2000 words (each review must include a **word count**) prior to the beginning of the course. All reviews must be submitted electronically to the proper Desire 2 Learn drop box no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30. Five points will be deducted from the grade for each day late that a review is submitted, up to a maximum of 20 points. Each book review will count 10% towards the final grade in the course, for a total of 20%.

All students must review Dr. Charles Kimball's book *When Religion Becomes Evil* from the required textbook list. For the second review, students may select any of the other three required textbooks listed above. Specific prompts for each of the reviews, related to the overall course content, will be posted on Desire 2 Learn.

2. **General Class Participation:** Given the specialized nature of this course, the participation grade will be based not just upon a student's required presence at every class session both inside and outside the classroom (which will be duly verified) but, more importantly, upon the quality of his or her participation. Each student's participation grade will count **30%** towards the final grade in the course.
3. **Student-Led Facilitation of Class Discussions:** In order to encourage maximum student ownership of class discussions, each student will team up with fellow students to share the responsibility for facilitating the class discussion of one of the four required textbooks. (The number of students on a team will be proportional to the total enrollment in the course.) To this end, each student will be asked via the course Desire 2 Learn site to rank his or her preferences regarding which of the textbooks to discuss no later than 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30. Every effort will be made to honor each student's first or second preference. Dr. Carpenter will notify the students to which group they have been assigned by 12 noon on Thursday, October 1, in order to allow ample time for intragroup communication and planning prior to the beginning of the on-site class sessions.

Students will be assessed a numerical grade based on instructor and peer assessment of their performance in formulating cogent and stimulating questions and responding to questions and comments from the rest of the class. This grade will count 20% towards the final course grade.

4. **Research Paper:** Each undergraduate student in the course must write a 3500-4000 word research paper with complete bibliographical apparatus (bibliography plus footnotes or endnotes and bibliography) over a topic germane to this course, selected in consultation with and approved by the course instructors. The topics may focus on either national or international expressions of Islam, but they must explicitly address the impact that Islam and Islamic institutions either have already had or can be anticipated to have upon individual Western societies. Students will submit a preliminary declaration of their paper topic at the first on-site class session on Wednesday, October 7, to allow for direct consultation with the instructors. A full proposal of the topic, complete with a statement of the thesis (250-word maximum) must be submitted to the proper Desire 2 Learn drop box by 10 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14.

The final research paper must include at least one meaningful citation of at least one of the four required textbooks used in this course. The final paper must be submitted to the proper Desire 2 Learn drop box by 10 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1. Five points will be deducted from the grade for each day after the deadline that the paper is submitted, up to a maximum of 20 points. The grade on the research paper will count 30% towards the final course grade.

### Course Schedule

#### • Prior to the On-Site Sessions

1. Book Reviews: The two book reviews must be submitted to the proper Desire 2 Learn drop box no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 30.
2. Sign-ups for Student-Led Discussion Facilitation Teams: Students must rank their preferences one through four as to which class discussion facilitation team they prefer to be a part of by 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30. Dr. Carpenter will then organize the groups in accordance with these preferences, and notify the students concerning which group they have been assigned to no later than 12 noon on Thursday, Oct. 1.

### On-site Sessions (Oct. 7-10)

\*\* Indicates student-led sessions

#### **Day 1: Wednesday, Oct. 7**

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| 9:00-9:45 a.m.   | OSLEP administrative comments, Introductions and Course Overview (Carpenter and Kimball) |
| 9:45-10:45 a.m.  | Lecture and Discussion: "Islamic Distinctives: Pertinent Considerations" (Carpenter)     |
| 10:45-11:00 a.m. | Break  |
| 11:00-12:00 noon | Lecture and Discussion: "Islam and the West Prior to the Twentieth Century" (Kimball)    |
- Corresponding reading: R.W. Southern, "The Age of Ignorance," chap. in Southern, *Western Views of Islam in the Middle Ages* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1962, 1978)

- 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 p.m. Lecture and Discussion: “Islam and the West in the Twentieth Century” (Kimball)
- 2:00-3:00 p.m. Planning session for class discussion facilitation teams
- 3:00-3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:15-4:15 p.m. Lecture and Discussion: “When Religion Becomes Evil” (Kimball)  
Corresponding reading: Kimball, *When Religion Becomes Evil*
- \*\*4:15-5:00 p.m. Student-led discussion of Charles Kimball, *When Religion Becomes Evil*
- 5:45-6:45 p.m. Informal dinner with remarks by Dr. Charles Kimball, “My Story in the Thirty Years since the Iranian Hostage Crisis”
- 7:00 p.m. Screening of the film *The Kite Runner* in the Judd Theater
- Day 2: Thursday, Oct. 8**
- 9:00-10:30 a.m. Lecture and Discussion: “The Rise of Islamism and the West” (Kimball)  
Corresponding reading: Cole, *Engaging the Muslim World*  
Peter R. Demant, “What Do the Islamists Want?” and “Causes of Islamism,” chapters in Demant, *Islam vs. Islamism: The Dilemma of the Muslim World* (Westport, Conn., and London: Praeger Publishers, 2006), 177-199
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45-11:45 a.m. Lecture and Discussion: “Jihad and Globalized Religion” (Carpenter)
- 12:00 -1:30 p.m. Luncheon with Dr. Charles Kimball and Oklahoma Christian Honors students
- 2:00-3:30 p.m. “Religious Pluralism and Interdependence: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”  
Interfaith panel discussion with religious leaders and scholars, moderated by Dr. Bob Carpenter
- 3:30-4:00 p.m. Refreshments with panel session participants and attendees
- 4:00-4:30 p.m. Class debriefing session regarding Interreligious Panel discussion
- \*\*4:30-5:15 p.m. Student-led discussion of Juan Cole, *Engaging the Muslim World*

5:30 p.m. Dinner

**Day 3: Friday, Oct. 9**

9:00-9:45 a.m. Lecture and Discussion: “Case Study: Turkey as a Pivotal State between the Muslim World and the West” (Carpenter)

Corresponding reading: Fuller. *The New Turkish Republic*:

9:45-10:00 a.m. Break

\*\*10:00-10:45 a.m. Student-led discussion of Graham Fuller, *The New Turkish Republic*

11:00-11:30 a.m. Oklahoma Christian University Convocation: Dr. Charles Kimball, speaker

12:00-1:00 p.m. Luncheon (Mediterranean menu — location TBD)

1:30-4:00 p.m. Visit to the Friday prayer service at the Masjid An-Nasr (the mosque for the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City, located at 3815 N. St. Clair Avenue in Oklahoma City) followed by a Q & A session with Imam Dr. Imad Enchassi

5:30-7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30-9:00 p.m. 2009 McBride Lecture on Faith and Literature: Dr. Charles Kimball, “Reading *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* in the Context of Global Islam”

**Day 4: Saturday, Oct. 10**

9:00-10:00 a.m. Lecture and Discussion: “Case Study: The Iranian Islamic Republic — 30 Years on the World Stage (Part 1)” (Kimball)

10:00-10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 -11:15 a.m. Lecture and Discussion: “Case Study: The Iranian Islamic Republic — 30 Years on the World Stage (Part 2)” (Kimball)

\*\*11:15 a.m.-  
12 noon Student-led discussion of Ray Takeyh, *Hidden Iran*

12:00 noon-  
1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00-2:00 p.m. Lecture and Discussion: “Case Study: The Iranian Islamic Republic — The 2009 Presidential Election and Its Aftermath” (Kimball)

2:00-3:00 p.m. Lecture and Discussion: “The Growing Muslim Presence in the West” (Carpenter)

3:00-3:15 p.m. Break

3:15-5:00 p.m. Class Discussion: "Overview: Implications for Present and Future Relations between the West and the Muslim World" (Carpenter and Kimball)

- **Post-Class Assignment**

**Research Paper:** A full proposal of the paper topic, complete with a statement of the thesis (250-word maximum) must be submitted to the proper Desire 2 Learn drop box by **10 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14.**

The final research paper (3500-4000 words in length) must be submitted to the proper Desire 2 Learn drop box by **10 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1.**

### **POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Cheating on an examination or an assignment undermines the ethics of the academy. One particular form of cheating is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the transmission of another's ideas, words, or materials as one's own and/or the failure to credit accurately the ideas, words, or materials of another. Plagiarism also includes passing off another's work (whether it be that of a friend, a parent, or a website) as one's own. Any student who engages in plagiarism in a book review or research paper submitted in this course will receive a 0 (zero) grade for that assignment.