

HIST 262
MWF 12-12:50

Gender in Classical Islamic Society

This course investigates the history of gender roles, images, and experiences in the social, political, economic, and legal contexts of classical Muslim societies. Through a topical approach, emphasis is placed on the variety of Muslim women's experience. The reading material includes translations of primary sources which will be at the center of class discussions.

Assignments: Two short papers (40%), midterm (20%), final 8-10 page paper (30%), class participation (10%)

Books:

Murata, Sachiko. *The Tao of Islam* (1992)

Peirce, Leslie. *The Imperial Harem* (1993)

Stowasser, Barbara. *Women in the Qur'an, Traditions, and Interpretation* (1994)

Tucker, Judith. *In the House of the Law: Gender and Islamic Law in Ottoman Syria and Palestine* (1998)

Course Packet

Week 1: Introduction: Women on the eve of Islam

Course Packet: Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam*, chapters 1-2

Part I: Women in the Qur'an, Hadith, and Sira

Week 2: Women in the Qur'an (1): From Eve to Mary

Stowasser, *Women in the Qur'an*, pp. 3-82

Week 3: Women in the Qur'an (2): Wives of the Prophet and other Companions

Stowasser, *Women in the Qur'an*, Chapter 8

The Qur'an, Sura 33; Sura 60

Week 4: Women in the Hadith

Course Packet: Mernissi, *The Veil and the Male Elite*, pp. 49-81

Abou El-Fadl, *Speaking in God's Name*, 209-63

Week 5: Women in the Sira

Course Packet: Ibn Sa'd, *The Women of Madina* (excerpts)

Ibn Hisham, *The Life of Muhammad* (excerpts)

FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE

Part II: Women in Classical Islamic Law

Week 6: Marriage

Course packet: Spectorsky, *Chapters of Marriage and Divorce*, pp. 8-27

Ibn Abi Zayd, *The Risala*, pp.115-22

Keller, *Reliance of the Traveller*, pp.506-53

Gribetz, *Strange Bedfellow: Mut'at al-nisa' and Mut'at al-hajj*, pp. 6-21, 78-105, 130-46

The Qur'an, Sura 2:221; Sura 4:1-3, 23-5, 34; Sura 5:5

Week 7: Divorce (1): *talaq*, *'idda*, *khul'*

Course packet: Spectorsky, *Chapters of Marriage and Divorce*, pp.27-59

'Allamat al-Hilli, *Nahj al-haqq wa kashf al-sidq*, pp. 528-42

The Qur'an, Sura 2:226-237; Sura 4:35; Sura 65

Week 8: Divorce (2): *zihar*, *li'an*, *takhyir*, adultery

Course Packet: Ibn Abi Zayd, *The Risala*, pp.123-35

Keller, *The Reliance of the Traveller*, pp.554-77

The Qur'an: Sura 24:1-9; Sura 33:28-9; Sura 58-2-4;

MIDTERM

Week 9: Dress and seclusion

Course Packet: "Shafi'i on seclusion" (from *Kitab ikhtilaf al-hadith*)

The Qur'an: Sura 24:30-1; Sura 33:59

Week 10: Law in practice: Women in Ottoman courts

Course Packet: Sonbol, "Rethinking Women and Islam"

Tucker, *In the House of the Law*, Chaps. 1, 2, 5

Part III: Women and Gender in Classical Islamic societies

Week 11: Political women (1): Early Islam

a) 'A'isha

Course Packet: Spellberg, "Political Action and Public Example: 'A'isha and the Battle of the Camel"

b) 'Abbasid and Sulayhid Queens

Course Packet: Abbott, *Two Queens of Baghdad*, pp. 77-169, 236-64

Mernissi, *The Forgotten Queens of Islam* (excerpts)

SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE

Week 12: Political women (2): The Ottoman Harem

Pierce, *The Imperial Harem*, pp. 3-149

Week 13: Early Muslim Sufis

Course Packet: "Rabi'a the Mystic"

Sulami, *Early Sufi Women* (excerpts)

Week 14: The Masculine and Feminine in classical Sufi thought

Murata, *The Tao of Islam*, Intro, Chaps. 1, 5, 6, 9