



REL 3938/EUS 3930: Islam in Europe

Jep Stockmans

Email: stockmansjep@ufl.edu

Description

The course Islam in Europe is an introductory course that aims to provide the students with a basic knowledge on the presence of Muslims in Europe and all the issues that surround this presence. The course starts out with a thorough historical background, looking at early encounters and the early presence of Islam in Europe. Hereafter the course moves on to discuss more contemporary issues such as: marginalization, secularism, public space, and orientalism. The emphasis will be on depicting the obstacles with which Muslims in the West are confronted. However, the socio-political situation of Europe will also be discussed in order to frame these obstacles within the broader European context. Centrally this course will concern itself with how these issues create polemical and practical divides in Europe between white Europeans and Muslims as well as the practical consequences of these divides. Muslims have lived in Europe for centuries and are still treated as outsiders while they have just as much heritage as the white European. This course aims to unravel why Islam in Europe is so problematic.

Readings

Among others:

Talal Asad, *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity*, Stanford, Stanford University Press, 2003.

Said, Edward, *Orientalism*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd, 1978.

Findlay, Ronald & O'Rourke, Kevin, "*Power and Plenty: Trade, War and World Economy in the second millennium*", Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2007.

Hussein, Ali, "*The Media's Role in a Clash of Misconceptions: The Case of the Danish Muhammad Cartoons*", in: *Journal of Press/Politics*, Vol. 12, No. 4, 2007, pp. 112-130.